

Draft

SUMMARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION

85th TEXAS LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
2017





Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

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AGENCY MISSION

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system and to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency through 60x30TX, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.

AGENCY VISION

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

AGENCY PHILOSOPHY

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.



SUMMARY OF
HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION
85th TEXAS LEGISLATURE

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SUMMARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION

INTRODUCTION

The 85th Texas Legislature was the first to convene during the timeframe of *60x30TX*, the state's strategic plan for higher education through 2030. The goals of *60x30TX*, to have a more educated population, increase degree and certificate completion, embed marketable skills in educational programs, and limit student debt, are ambitious. If Texas is to meet these goals, it will require the sustained, concerted effort of all stakeholders including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), institutions of higher education, policymakers, the business community and others.

During its Regular Session, the 85th Texas Legislature made some important policy and funding decisions that will impact our ability to deliver on the promise of *60x30TX*. This document summarizes all the higher education legislation that was ultimately passed by the Legislature. It also includes a summary of Senate Bill (SB) 1, the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19, which provides funding for institutions of higher education and the THECB for the coming biennium. Among the key outcomes of the Regular Session are:

- A significant increase to the TEXAS Grant program, which provides need-based financial assistance to Texas students enrolled at public universities. The THECB estimates that we will be able to provide assistance to 92 percent of eligible students during the next fiscal biennium.
- A near doubling of funding for Graduate Medical Education Expansion Grants, which provide funding to create and sustain additional first-year residency positions in Texas. This will help our state retain our medical school graduates rather than losing them to other states.
- Adoption of legislation to strengthen THECB oversight of career colleges and to create an academic records repository for students at these schools. This will help ensure that students at those institutions are protected against an unexpected closure and are able to complete their education.
- Authorization for community colleges, should they meet certain criteria, to apply to the THECB to offer bachelor's degree programs in nursing, applied science, and applied technology. This will create a new pathway for some students to earn a baccalaureate degree, while keeping the cost to the student low.

This summary includes only the actions of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session. The First Called Session which began on July 18, 2017, is still in progress as of this writing. Should legislation impacting higher education be adopted during the First Called Session or any subsequent called session, this document will be updated.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION

85th TEXAS LEGISLATURE
2018 - 2019 BIENNIUM

This summary describes funds appropriated via the General Appropriations Act for FY 18-19 (SB 1, 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session). This summary highlights significant changes in the THECB's budget including major rider changes and additions. To review the complete higher education budget as approved by the 85th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, visit: <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/>.

SUMMARY BY SECTOR

The All Funds appropriation for higher education totals \$20.5 billion for FY18-19, an increase of 1.2 percent over the FY16-17 funding level. This amount represents about 9.5 percent of the total state All Funds budget. Within this amount, higher education received \$14.9 billion in state General Revenue for FY18-19, an increase of 1.6 percent over the previous biennium.

The **general academic institutions (GAI)** Instruction and Operations (I&O) formula rate increased from \$55.39 to \$55.82, and the **Lamar State Colleges (LSC)** I&O formula 2016–17 biennial rate was maintained at level funding. The **Texas State Technical Colleges (TSTC)** I&O formula level of General Revenue Funds was maintained at the 2016–17 biennial funding level. Hold harmless funding of \$145.5 million in General Revenue Funds was also included for the GAIs, LSCs, and TSTCs. Additionally, formula appropriations include infrastructure support for two new TSTCs established by the 84th Legislature: Texas State Technical College-North Texas and Texas State Technical College-Fort Bend County.

The **health-related institutions (HRI)** formula appropriations included the addition of new medical schools at The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Although all HRI formulas either received an increase in General Revenue Funds or maintained 2016–17 biennial levels, each formula rate decreased from the 2016–17 biennial level. Hold harmless funding of \$35.3 million in General Revenue Funds is also included in HRI appropriations.

Formula funding for the **public community and junior colleges** includes an additional \$18.0 million in General Revenue Funds for core operations and an additional \$10.8

million in General Revenue Funds for success points funding. The contact hour rate increased to \$2.70 from the 2016–17 biennial rate of \$2.69.

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD BUDGET

The THECB is appropriated \$1.57 billion in All Funds for FY18-19, a decrease of \$131 million or 7.7 percent from the FY16-17 funding level. Several of the THECB's budget strategies were decreased in the FY18-19 biennium.

- SB 1 includes a decrease of approximately \$1.15 million to THECB administrative budget strategies. These include:
 - The College Readiness and Success division was reduced by \$208,000 for a total of \$5 million in FY18-19.
 - The Academic Quality and Workforce division was reduced by \$237,000 for a total of \$3.5 million in FY18-19.
 - The Strategic Planning and Funding division was reduced by \$358,000 for a total of \$5 million in FY18-19.
 - Central Administration was reduced by \$344,000.
- The Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP), which provides matching grants to emerging research universities for the private research donations that they raise, was reduced from \$138 million in FY16-17 to \$35 million in FY18-19.
- The Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Program, which provides funding to institutions to increase both enrollment in nursing programs as well as the number of graduates produced by professional nursing programs, was reduced from \$33.7 million in FY16-17 to \$20 million in FY18-19.
- The Family Practice Residency Program provides financial support to community and medical school-based residency programs to increase the number of physicians choosing family practice as their specialty and to encourage them to work in rural and underserved areas. Funding was reduced from \$16.8 million in FY16-17 to \$10 million in FY18-19.
- Finally, several programs had their funding eliminated entirely in SB 1, and will cease operations during the coming biennium:
 - Accelerate Texas Community College Grants
 - Border Faculty Loan Repayment Program
 - Engineering Recruitment Program
 - Centers for Teacher Education

- Texas Teacher Residency Program
- Primary Care Innovation Grant Program
- Dental Education Loan Repayment Program

Despite these reductions, the agency's budget did include important investments in specific areas.

Financial Aid

The TEXAS Grant Program, which provides need-based assistance to students at public universities, was funded at \$786.5 million for FY18-19, an increase of \$71.5 million over the current biennium. It is estimated that this funding will serve 92 percent of initially eligible students in each year of the biennium.

Funding for the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) serving students at public community colleges saw a slight increase, up \$2 million over the FY16-17 level, to \$88.5 million for the coming biennium. TEOG funding for state and technical colleges was kept level, as was funding for Texas College Work-Study.

The Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program to fund financial aid at Independent Colleges and Universities in Texas (ICUTs) was reduced \$20.5 million, to \$171.8 million for the biennium.

The Texas B-On-Time Loan Repayment Program and the Top 10 Percent Scholarship Program were funded sufficiently to serve renewal students only, as these two programs were slated for gradual elimination by the 84th Legislature.

The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program was reduced by 50 percent to \$2.67 million for the biennium. The stated legislative intent is that the program will continue to serve both new and continuing recipients each year of the biennium.

Graduate Medical Education

Graduate Medical Education Expansion Grants, which help fund additional residency positions, were funded at \$97.05 million for FY18-19, an increase of \$44 million over the FY16-17 amount.

However, as mentioned, the Family Practice Residency Program, which seeks to increase the numbers of physicians selecting family practice as their medical specialty and to encourage those physicians to establish their practices in rural and underserved communities, was reduced from \$16.8 million in FY16-17 to \$10 million in FY18-19.

New Funding Items

SB 1 included several new items in the THECB's budget. The agency received \$500,000 for the oversight of for-profit career schools and colleges and for the creation of an electronic repository to store academic records of students at these institutions. This will fund implementation of SB 1781, which was a THECB recommendation passed by the Legislature.

The agency also received \$376,000 to fund the creation of additional Fields of Study (FOS). Fields of Study bring together two-year and four-year faculty to identify a set of core lower-division courses within a major. Institutions must accept those courses from any transfer student and apply them toward the major. During the FY18-19 biennium, the THECB will focus on developing FOS for the 25 most popular majors among transfer students.

The THECB also received \$440,000 for cybersecurity upgrades. This funding will allow the agency to implement the final remaining recommendations of the Gartner report on addressing vulnerabilities to agency data and information systems.

The agency was appropriated \$1.5 million for the Bilingual Education Program. This program, previously funded through unexpended balances, supports seven institutions in the Metroplex to encourage students who enroll in educator preparation programs to become certified to teach bilingual education, English as a Second Language, or Spanish in school districts with critical needs.

The THECB also received \$300,000 for the implementation of SB 810, relating to open educational resources. This funding will support grants to faculty members to employ open educational resources, as well as a study to determine the feasibility of creating a state repository for such resources.

RIDERS

SB 1 includes several modifications to existing riders and additional riders that impact the THECB and higher education in general. Additionally, several riders that required duplicative reporting were eliminated.

Modified Riders

Developmental Education Funding (Rider 43, III-57): Previously, rider language required the THECB to transfer \$2.4 million per biennium from developmental education programs to The University of Texas at Austin's Dana Center for the New Mathways

Project. SB 1 continues but reduces this diversion from \$2.4 million to \$400,000 during the FY18-19 biennium.

New Riders

Evaluation Report on Advise TX (Rider 53, III-58): This rider requires the THECB to report information regarding the effectiveness of the Advise TX program to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Office of the Governor by October 1 of each year.

Non-Formula Support Items and Formula Study (Special Provisions, Sec. 62, III-274): This rider creates a special joint interim committee comprised of five members appointed by the lieutenant governor and five members appointed by the speaker of the house. The committee shall review the purpose, goal, and effectiveness of all non-formula support items within Article III.

The members of the committee shall be appointed no later than September 15, 2017. The joint interim committee shall prepare recommendations for realignment and/or possible elimination of non-formula support items and improvements of formula funding for institutions of higher education. The joint select committee shall report their recommendations to the presiding officers of both chambers no later than April 15, 2018.

Vetoed Riders

Collaborative Dual Credit Program Evaluation (Rider 55, III-58): This rider would have appropriated \$72,131 per year and one full-time equivalent to the THECB to conduct, in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency, a study of dual credit in Texas. It would have required the agencies to identify existing capabilities, limitations and costs of dual credit, develop a statewide dual credit outcome reporting and evaluation tool, and report findings to the Governor, LBB and Legislature.

Governor Abbott line-item vetoed this rider, stating that neither participating state agency requested funding for this item and that the rider is duplicative of an existing dual credit study currently being commissioned by the THECB.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HB 553 **RELATING TO A STUDY OF ACADEMIC CREDIT AND INDUSTRY RECOGNITION FOR INMATES OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Author: White

Sponsor: Miles

House Bill (HB) 553 requires the Windham School District, in consultation with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), to create a Task Force on Academic Credit and Industry Recognition. The task force will examine the work and other productive activities of inmates to identify opportunities for the awarding of high school or college credit or the awarding of industry-recognized credentials or certificates.

The task-force will be composed of 10 members, including one representative from the THECB, who must be designated by the commissioner of higher education by December 1, 2017. No later than September 1, 2021, the task-force shall submit a report summarizing its review and the Windham District's actions regarding obtaining award of academic credit or industry recognition.

Code Reference: Education Code 19.012

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 655 **RELATING TO FILING OF A DEGREE PLAN BY STUDENTS AT PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGES**

Author: Clardy

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 655 requires a student enrolled in an associate's or bachelor's degree program at a public junior college to file a degree plan no later than the second semester or term after the student has earned 30 semester credit hours. If the student earned 30 semester credit hours prior to enrolling, they are required to file a degree plan no later than the end of their second semester or term at the college. This applies to students first enrolling in fall 2018 or later.

Code Reference: Education Code 51.9685
Effective Date: May 29, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 1407 **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Author: Sheffield

Sponsor: Seliger

HB 1407 creates a new emergency medical services assistance program within the Department of State Health Services (DSHC) to provide financial and educational assistance to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers. The legislation allows DSHS to contract with up to three institutions of higher education to develop and offer a distance-learning emergency medical services curriculum that provides remote courses of instruction to EMS providers in rural areas.

Code Reference: Health and Safety Code 773.251
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 810 **PURCHASE AND USE OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

Author: Kolkhorst

Sponsor: Howard

SB 810 establishes a grant program to encourage the use of open educational resources at Texas public institutions of higher education and makes a variety of statutory changes related to course listings and textbooks.

Requirements of Institutions of Higher Education

Specifically, SB 810 requires institutions of higher education to list on the course schedule, beginning in the Spring 2018 semester, whether the required course textbook is an open educational resource. An institution of higher education or a college bookstore that publishes a textbook list with a course schedule on the Internet with a search function shall ensure the system permits a search based on whether a course or section of a course requires or recommends only open educational resources or provide a searchable list of courses and sections of courses that require or recommend open educational resources. Institutions of higher education are required to make reasonable efforts to disseminate information regarding courses that require or recommend only open educational resources to students.

Grant Program

SB 810 also directs the THECB to establish a grant program to encourage faculty at institutions of higher education to adopt, modify, redesign, or develop courses that use only open educational resources. Faculty members may apply for the grant but forfeit any grant awarded if no longer employed by an institution of higher education.

Faculty members who receive a grant shall ensure that any open educational resource used is provided to a student at no cost other than the cost of printing.

The THECB shall submit a report by December 1 of each even-numbered year, to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house and each standing legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education. The report must include the total number of grants distributed, the number of students who completed a course adopted, modified, redesigned, or developed under the grant program, any money saved by students, a list of any subject areas that would benefit from having open educational resources available, and recommendations on future steps for expanding the use of open educational resources.

SB 810 limits the THECB to using \$200,000 for the grant program in the fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2019.

State Repository of Open Educational Resources

The bill further requires the THECB to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of creating a state repository of open educational resources. The THECB is required to collaborate with relevant state agencies, textbook publishers, representatives of the open educational resource community and other stakeholders, including the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and representatives of public institutions of higher education. The THECB is

limited to using \$100,000 for purposes of the study. The report is due to the Legislature by September 1, 2018.

SB 810 makes a variety of changes applicable to instructional materials used by public secondary schools. Those changes are not summarized.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 51.452(a), 51.453, 51.454(a) of the Texas Education Code
Adds Sections 51.451, 51.452(d), 61.0668, 61.0669 and Subdivision (4-a) to the Texas Education Code
(Only statutory changes related to higher education are noted)

Effective Date: June 9, 2017

Appropriation: SB 1 appropriates \$100,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium, 2018-19 and \$100,000 in fiscal year 2018 for the feasibility study. Adds one full-time employee in fiscal year 2018 and one full-time employee in fiscal year 2019.

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead THECB Division: Innovation and Policy Development

SB 1782 **ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN FORMULA FUNDING AND DROPPED COURSE RESTRICTIONS FOR RETURNING ADULT STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TO THE TUITION RATE THAT MAY BE CHARGED TO THOSE STUDENTS FOR CERTAIN EXCESSIVE UNDERGRADUATE HOURS**

Author: West

Sponsor: Clardy

SB 1782 requires the THECB to adopt rules to require a public institution of higher education to permit a student who has reenrolled in an institution following a break in enrollment, subject to certain conditions, to drop one additional course beyond the maximum number of courses permitted to be dropped under state law without penalty. In addition, the bill prohibits the THECB from excluding semester credit hours for any course taken up to three times by such a student from the number of semester credit hours reported to the LBB for formula funding purposes. The bill also excludes the first additional 15 semester credit hours earned by these returning adult students from being counted as excess undergraduate credit hours.

Code Reference: Amends Section 61.0595(d) of the Texas Education Code
Adds Sections 51.907(e-1) and 61.059(r) to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Innovation and Policy Development

DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

HB 2223 **RELATING TO DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION COURSEWORK**

Author: Giddings

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 2223 provides that a certain percentage of the developmental education coursework (not including adult basic education or basic academic skills education) offered by institutions of higher education must be provided through co-requisite models under which a student concurrently enrolls in developmental education coursework and a freshman-level course in the same subject area. Specifically, the legislation establishes a timetable whereby:

- For the 2018-19 academic year, at least 25 percent of each institution's developmental education students must be enrolled in co-requisite courses
- For the 2019-20 academic year, at least 50 percent of each institution's developmental education students must be enrolled in co-requisite courses
- For the 2020-21 academic year, at least 75 percent of each institution's developmental education students must be enrolled in co-requisite courses

This legislation requires, should a student fail to complete a co-requisite course, the institution to review the student's individualized plan and work with the student to assist the student and if necessary revise the plan. Finally, the legislation lowers the number of semester credit hours of developmental coursework for which a student may generate state funding from 18 to 9 for public universities and from 27 to 18 at public junior colleges.

Code Reference: Education Code Chapter F-1

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Appropriation: None

CB Rulemaking: Yes

CB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead CB Division: College Readiness and Success

DUAL CREDIT

HB 1638 **RELATING TO STATEWIDE GOALS FOR DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS**

Author: Guillen

Sponsor: West

HB 1638 requires the TEA and the THECB to collaboratively develop statewide goals for dual credit programs by August 31, 2018. These goals must address these programs' role in enrollment and acceleration through higher education, impact on performance in college-level coursework, and the development of an effective bridge between secondary and post-secondary education.

Any dual credit program agreement between a school district and institution of higher education established or renewed after August 31, 2018, must include specific program goals aligned with the state goals. The agreement must also establish the course credits that may be earned under the agreement, describe the academic supports and guidance that will be provided to students, establish roles for ensuring quality and rigor in the program, and state the sources of funding for course offered under the program.

Code Reference: Education Code 28.009(b)

Effective Date: May 23, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 2937 **RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM UNDER WHICH A LICENSED HOSPITAL MAY OFFER DUAL CREDIT COURSES**

Author: Canales

Sponsor: Lucio

HB 2937 allows the THECB to choose one licensed hospital, in a county that borders Mexico and has a population between 700,000 and 800,000, to establish a pilot program in which high school students are enrolled in dual credit courses. The hospital must be accredited to offer degree programs by a recognized accrediting agency or operate in partnership with an institution of higher education.

This legislation requires that a students' school district cover the cost of tuition, fees, textbooks and other instructional materials for the courses through the Foundation School Program.

Code Reference: Adds Section 61.0764 to the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: June 9, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 1091 **LIMITATIONS ON COURSES THAT MAY BE OFFERED FOR DUAL CREDIT BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Seliger

Sponsor: Howard

SB 1091 limits the courses that may be offered as dual credit courses under the college credit program implemented by a public school district, and for which a public institution of higher education may grant course credit to the following:

- A course in the core curriculum of the applicable institution of higher education;
- A career and technical education course; or
- A foreign language course.

The bill exempts from the limitation a dual credit course offered as part of an early college program that assists a student in earning a certificate or associate degree while in high school.

Under current law, each institution of higher education is required to implement a policy to grant course credit to entering freshman students who have successfully completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, who have achieved required scores on one or more Advanced Placement (AP) exams or the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or who have successfully completed one or more courses offered through concurrent enrollment in high school and at an institution of higher education. SB 1091 specifies that the policy adopted may only grant course credit for a dual credit course that is in the core curriculum, a career and technical education course, or a foreign language course.

The TEA and the THECB shall coordinate and consult with relevant stakeholders to engage in negotiated rulemaking to develop rules for the implementation of the bill.

Code Reference: Amends Section 51.968(b) and (c) of the Texas Education Code
Adds Sections 28.009(a-4), (a-5) and (b-1), 51.968(d), (d-1) and (d-2),
130.008(a-1), (a-2), and (a-3) to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: June 12, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

HB 2039 **RELATING TO AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION**

Author: Huberty

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 2039 requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to establish an early childhood teacher certificate with a focus on pre-kindergarten through grade three (PK-3). SBEC is required to develop criteria for a course of instruction for the PK-3 certificate in consultation with educator preparation faculty members who currently provide instruction for an early childhood through grade six (EC-6) certificate. SBEC is also granted rulemaking authority to develop an examination for the PK-3 certificate and establish standards for the approval and renewal of educator programs for early childhood certification.

Code Reference: Education Code 21.0489

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS

HCR 102 **EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRIORITIZING A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Author: Lozano

Sponsor: Schwertner

House Concurrent Resolution 102 expresses the position of the Legislature that the state should prioritize a substantial increase in funding for graduate medical education (GME) before it considers the authorization and creation of additional medical schools in the state. The resolution also charges the THECB to work with institutions of higher education and the medical community to achieve the statewide goal of having a 1.1 to 1 ratio of GME residency positions to medical school graduates.

Code Reference: N/A
Effective Date: N/A
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 491 **RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE PRECEPTORSHIP PROGRAM IN FAMILY MEDICINE**

Author: Watson

Sponsor: Lozano

The Statewide Preceptorship Program in family medicine provides medical students with a stipend to work in family practice to encourage them to pursue a career in primary care. The THECB is authorized to contract with organizations to operate the statewide preceptorship programs in general internal medicine and in general pediatrics for medical students enrolled in Texas medical schools. SB 491 specifies that the THECB may include preceptorship programs in family medicine.

SB 491 also makes students from the School of Osteopathic Medicine at The University of Incarnate Word eligible for the Statewide Preceptorship Program.

Code Reference: Amends Section 58.006(a) and (b) of the Texas Education Code
Adds 58.006(d) of the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: June 9, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 1066 **MEETING GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION NEEDS OF NEW MEDICAL DEGREE
PROGRAMS OFFERED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Schwertner

Sponsor: Lozano

SB 1066 requires a public institution of higher education, as soon as practicable after the institution completes preliminary planning for a new doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree program, to provide promptly to the THECB a specific plan regarding the addition of first-year residency positions for the graduate medical education program to be offered.

The plan must propose an increase in the number of first-year residency positions that, when combined with the total number of existing first-year residency positions in this state, will be sufficient to reasonably accommodate the number of anticipated graduates from all M.D. or D.O. programs offered in the state and to provide adequate opportunity for graduates to remain in this state for the clinical portion of their education.

The submission of the plan is required as a prerequisite for the approval of the proposed degree program by the Board of the THECB.

Code Reference: Adds Section 61.05122 to the Texas Education Code and Section
312.007 to the Health and Safety Code
Amends Section 312.003 of the Health and Safety Code
Effective Date: June 12, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

TRANSFER

SB 802 **STUDY AND REPORT REGARDING BEST PRACTICES IN THE TRANSFER OF COURSE CREDIT BETWEEN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Seliger

Sponsor: Howard

SB 802 directs the Coordinating Board to conduct a study to identify best practices in ensuring that courses transferred to an institution of higher education for course credit, including courses offered for dual credit, apply toward a degree program at the institution.

The study must evaluate existing articulation agreements that govern the transfer of course credit between institutions of higher education and identify those institutions of higher education that are implementing best practices to ensure applicability of course credit to a student's degree.

The Coordinating Board is required to submit to the Legislature the results of its study and recommendations for legislative or other action not later than November 1, 2018.

Code Reference: Adds Section 61.0667 to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: May 29, 2017

Appropriation: None

CB Rulemaking: No

CB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead CB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

HB 22

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

Author: Huberty

Sponsor: Taylor, Larry

HB 22 amends the public school accountability indicators, changing the number of domains from five to three and amending provisions specific to ratings assigned to each district and campus. The student achievement domain, which evaluates performance on assessments and for high school grades, incorporates graduation rates and other measures of postsecondary readiness. The legislation adds the percentage of students who successfully complete and OnRamps dual enrollment course to the performance indicators under the student achievement domain.

Code Reference: Education Code 11.252, 11.253, 12.1013, 29.062, Chapter 39

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

ADMISSIONS

SB 1813 **ADOPTION OF COMMON ADMISSION APPLICATION FORMS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Buckingham

Sponsor: Turner

SB 1813 includes representatives of private or independent institutions of higher education as formal members of the THECB's Apply Texas Advisory Committee. The bill also adds high school counselors as stakeholders that shall assist the THECB regarding matters relating to the common admission application.

Code Reference: Amends Section 51.762(a) of the Texas Education Code
 Adds Section 57.011 to the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: June 15, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

CAREER SCHOOLS

HB 2413 **RELATING TO CERTAIN IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REGARDING CAREER SCHOOL OR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Author: Burkett

Sponsor: Lucio

HB 2413 includes student records that are in the possession of a career school or college in the definition of "student information" under Education Code 132.024 regarding Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) oversight of career schools and colleges. Previously, such records were defined as student information only if they were in the possession of TWC. The legislation also provides that a person commits an offense should they solicit, disclose, receive, use, or participate in another person's use of student information, unless such use is permitted under statute.

Code Reference: Education Code 132.024(a)

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 1781 **REGULATION OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION THECB**

Author: West

Sponsor: González, Mary

SB 1781 amends the statute relating to the THECB's regulation of private postsecondary educational institutions operating under a Certificate of Authorization or Certificate of Authority.

The THECB is authorized to require certain private postsecondary educational institutions to maintain reserves, line of credit or surety instruments that, when combined with tuition and fee receipts, are sufficient to allow the institution to fulfill its educational obligations to its students if the institution is unable to continue to provide instruction. In addition, the Board is authorized to revoke or place conditions on institutions that do not comply

with the rules after providing written notice of the impending action with the grounds for that action. If action is taken, the Board could reexamine the applicable institution or person at least twice annually following the date the notice was provided, until the Board removed the conditions

Under provisions of the bill, the THECB could maintain a repository for academic records from closed institutions that were exempt or were authorized to operate under a Certificate of Authorization or Certificate of Authority. The Board may discontinue its maintenance of the repository if adequate funding was not provided.

The bill also requires the THECB, in consultation with the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Veterans Commission, and institutions of higher education, to develop standardized, transferable curricula within degree and certificate programs commonly offered by public institutions of higher education to promote the College Credit for Heroes program.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 61.303 and 61.315 of the Texas Education Code
Adds Sections 61.3025, 61.3075, 61.316(e-1), and 61.835 to the Education Code

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: SB 1 appropriates \$250,000 in each fiscal year

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

COMMUNITY, STATE AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

HB 29

RELATING TO PROSTITUTION AND THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS

Author: Thompson

Sponsor: Huffman

HB 29 makes several changes to government and criminal statutes related to human trafficking. Relevant to higher education, the legislation requires that each public community college offering a commercial driver's license (CDL) training program include as a part of that program education and training on the recognition and prevention of human trafficking. The THECB, in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General, is required to establish the content of the education and training required.

Code Reference: Education Code 130.1015, 132.006

Effective Date: June 12, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 108

RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE RECRUIT TEXAS PROGRAM

Author: Alvarado

Sponsor: Taylor, Larry

HB 108 authorizes the usage of Skills Development Funds to facilitate the relocation or expansion of employers in the state offering complex or high-skilled work opportunities. The TWC Commissioner could award grants to public community college and public technical institutes to provide workforce training and related support services to employers who commit to establish or expand business operations in the state.

Code Reference: Labor Code 303.0031

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 2431 **RELATING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF STATE COLLEGES IN THE JOBS AND EDUCATION
FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT PROGRAM**

Author: Deshotel

Sponsor: Creighton

HB 2431 expands eligibility for JET Grant funds to public state colleges. As a result of this change, JET grants may be used for the development of new career and technical education courses or programs at public community colleges, public technical institutes, public state colleges and independent school districts.

Code Reference: Education Code 134.004
Effective Date: June 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 2994 **RELATING TO WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERED BY PUBLIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

Author: Ashby

Sponsor: Hinojosa

HB 2994 creates a new subchapter to define and make provisions regarding the funding of workforce continuing education offered by public community colleges. Among its provisions, the legislation defines an adult as a person who has complete their sophomore year of high school, is seventeen years of age with a high school diploma or equivalent, or is eighteen year of age under any circumstance. Workforce continuing education is defined as a program of instruction intended for adults and designed to prepare a student for an employment offer or a job upgrade within a specific occupational category or to bring their knowledge or skills up to date on new developments in an occupation or profession.

The legislation authorizes formula funding for workforce continuing education courses offered under these parameters, and allows a public community college to enter into agreement with a school district to offer workforce continuing education to eligible high school students. Institutions may waive all or part of the tuition or fees charged to these students.

Code Reference: Adds Subchapter L and Sections 130.301 – 130.305 to
Education Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 286 **GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TRINITY VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Author: Nichols

Sponsor: Gooden

SB 286 allows the governing board of the Trinity Valley Community College District by resolution or order of the governing board increase the number of board members to 11. A resolution or order by the board must establish transition terms of office to conform to elections held in even-numbered years and staggered six-year terms and require the initial board members to draw lots to determine the members' terms. Five members shall serve two year terms, three members shall serve four year terms, and three members shall serve six year terms.

Code Reference: Adds Section 130.0828 to the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 2118 **AUTHORIZATION BY THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION THECB FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO OFFER BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Author: Seliger

Sponsor: Davis, Sarah

SB 2118 authorizes public community colleges that meet specific criteria to offer baccalaureate programs in applied science, applied technology, and nursing upon approval by the THECB.

Limitation

Community colleges offering a baccalaureate may not offer more than three baccalaureate programs at any time. Community colleges previously authorized to offer baccalaureates (Brazosport College, Midland College, South Texas College, and Tyler Community College) are eligible to offer a maximum of five baccalaureate programs at any time.

Community College Baccalaureate Degree Requirements

The THECB is required to apply the same criteria and standards used to approve baccalaureate programs at general academic teaching institutions and medical and dental units when considering community college proposals for baccalaureates. Additionally, the THECB shall consider the following factors:

- Workforce need for the degree program in the region
- Success of current programs
- Program duplication
- Ability of the college to support the degree program with student enrollment and the adequacy of facilities, faculty, libraries, administration, and other resources.

To be eligible to apply to offer a baccalaureate, a community college district must have a taxable property valuation amount of not less than \$6 billion in the preceding year and have received a positive assessment of the overall financial health of the district as reported by the THECB.

Before a college could be authorized to offer a baccalaureate program the college would have to submit a report to the THECB outlining the long-term financial plan for receiving accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC), a long-term plan for faculty recruitment, information on course delivery, and detailed information regarding existing articulation agreements with general academic institutions or medical and dental units. Each college must submit at least three articulation agreements with general academic teaching institutions or medical and dental

units, or explain why agreements are not available, or provide evidence that established articulation agreements are at capacity. The THECB is specifically prohibited from approving new programs if existing programs have capacity to meet the needs of the field.

Community colleges must enter into an articulation agreement for the first five years of offering a baccalaureate degree with one or more general academic teaching institutions or medical and dental units to ensure students have an opportunity to complete the degree if the community college ceases to offer the degree. The THECB shall prescribe procedures to guide community colleges in informing each student who enrolls in the baccalaureate degree of the articulation agreements with other colleges where students may complete their program of study.

Funding

Community college baccalaureate programs authorized may be funded solely by a college's proportionate share of state appropriations, local funds, and private sources. Funding for community-level and senior-level courses shall be weighed in the same manner as lower division courses in a corresponding field.

Community colleges previously authorized to offer baccalaureates, including Tyler Community College, are authorized to receive substantially the same formula funding for upper-level courses as a general academic institution receives for similar courses.

The bill prohibits community colleges from charging students enrolled in baccalaureate programs higher tuition and fees than a student in a similar associate degree program. Colleges previously authorized to offer baccalaureates are exempt from this limitation.

Each biennium colleges offering a baccalaureate shall conduct a review of each program offered and prepare a report on the operation, quality, and effectiveness of the program. A copy of the report shall be delivered to the THECB as prescribed by the agency.

Nursing Programs

SB 2118 imposes additional requirements for community college baccalaureate programs in nursing. Specifically, the bill states community college baccalaureate programs in nursing are Bachelor of Science degrees. Nursing programs are required to secure adequate long-term clinical space and provide letters from each clinical site attesting to this availability of clinical space. Additionally, a community college must demonstrate the proposed baccalaureate degree in nursing is viable based on the historical job placement and licensing pass rate of their existing associate degree nursing program. Also, the proposed nursing program must meet all the requirements of the Texas Board of Nursing,

be accredited by a national nursing accreditor and maintain or exceed its current level of enrollment in their associate degree nursing program until academic year 2021-2022.

Baccalaureate in Dental Hygiene

SB 2118 removes the pilot status of the baccalaureate in dental hygiene offered by Tyler Community College and extends its authorization to January 1, 2020.

Code Reference: Transfers and amends various sections of Chapter 130 of the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: June 12, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

FEES

SB 537 **REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF SPECIAL COURSE FEES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Hinojosa

Sponsor: Lozano

SB 537 requires public institutions of higher education to include in its online course catalog, for each course listed in the catalog, a description and amount of any special course fee, including an online access fee or lab fee, to be charged specifically for the course. If the institution publishes a paper course catalog, the institution is authorized to publish any fees specifically charged in the most recent academic year. These changes apply beginning with course catalogs published for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Code Reference: Adds Sections 54.0051 to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: June 9, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Strategic Planning and Funding

FINANCIAL AID AND STUDENT DEBT

HB 66 **RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF STUDENTS TO RECEIVE A TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP**

Author: Guillen

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 66 provides that, should a student appointed to receive a Texas Armed Services Scholarship fail to meet continuing eligibility requirements, the officeholder who appointed the student may appoint another recipient to serve out the balance of the original student's eligibility. Funding is limited to whatever funds had been designated to, but not utilized by, the original student. The THECB will determine when a student has failed to maintain eligibility, and funding for the newly named student will start in the year following the THECB's determination.

Code Reference: Education Code 61.9772

Effective Date: September 1, 2018

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Rules due September 1, 2018

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

HB 1117 **RELATING TO THE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Author: Wray

Sponsor: Zaffirini

HB 1117 amends the requirement that recipients of the Texas Armed Services Scholarship enroll in a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. Specifically, the legislation broadens this requirement to include other undergraduate officer commissioning programs such as the United States Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class.

Code Reference: Education Code 61.9772(a)

Effective Date: May 29, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

HB 2537 **PROVIDING INFORMATION REGARDING HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

Author: Guerra

Sponsor: West

HB 2537 requires high school counselors to provide students currently or previously under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services with information regarding any education and training vouchers and tuition and fee waivers for which they may be eligible to attend an institution of higher education.

Code Reference: Education Code 33.007(b)
Effective Date: June 9, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

HB 3083 **RELATING TO REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
LOANS**

Author: Price

Sponsor: Hinojosa

HB 3083 adds chemical dependency counselors to the list of eligible recipients under the Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals. The maximum aggregate amount that a licensed chemical dependency counselor may receive through the program is \$10,000, if the recipient has received an associate's degree relevant to chemical dependency counseling or behavioral science.

Additionally, HB 3083 requires that the Coordinating Board apply for any available federal funds under the National Health Service Corps State Loan Repayment Program

Code Reference: Amends Sections 61.601, 61.604, 61.607(b), 61.608, and 61.609 of Education Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

HB 3808 **RELATING TO STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

Author: Clardy

Sponsor: Menéndez

HB 3808 adds marriage and family therapists to the professions eligible for loan repayment assistance under the Loan Repayment Program for Mental Health Professionals. However, these professionals may receive loan repayment assistance only if funds remain available after consideration has been given to the other eligible provider types.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 61.601, 61.604, 61.607 (b), and 61.608 of Education Code
Amends Section 501.003 of Occupations Code
Effective Date: June 15, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

SB 49 **RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT BY CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS OF STUDENTS TO RECEIVE A TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Guillen

SB 49 allows the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives and members of the Texas Legislature to name an alternate annually at the time of making

an initial nomination to the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP). If the elected official's initial appointment fails to fulfill the initial eligibility requirements for TASSP, the alternate shall be notified of the opportunity to participate in the program.

Code Reference: Amends Section 61.9772(b) of the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

SB 331 **RELATING TO THE TEMPORARY APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE OR INDEPENDENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TUITION EQUALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM**

Author: West

Sponsor: Rose

SB 331 allows the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to renew twice, rather than once, the two-year approval for an independent or private institution of higher education to participate in the Tuition Equalization Grant program.

Code Reference: Amends Section 61.222(c) of the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

SB 887**REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE LOAN DEBT
INFORMATION TO STUDENTS***Author: Seliger**Sponsor: Clardy*

SB 887 requires institutions of higher education that receive state financial aid administered by the Coordinating Board to annually provide students an electronic communication with their loan information including:

- An estimate of the total amount of state and federal education loans incurred by the student;
- An estimate of the total payoff amount, or a range for that amount including principal and interest; and
- An estimate of the monthly repayment amount that the student may incur;

Institutions are only required to disclose loan information to students that the institution receives or otherwise obtains from the United State Department of Education's central database for student aid and may reasonably collect from its own records.

SB 887 also requires the disclosure to identify the types of education loans included in the institution's estimates, a statement that the disclosure is not a complete and official record of the student's education loan debt, and a statement that the institution's estimates are general in nature and are not intended as a guarantee.

The provisions of the bill apply beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year.

Code Reference: Adds Section 52.335 to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: May 27, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

SB 1119 **ANNUAL REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS PROVIDED THROUGH THE TEXAS COLLEGE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Howard

SB 1119 revises statute relating to the report on Texas College Work-Study Program. The bill requires the report to be submitted by the THECB to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, and the standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over higher education, annually as opposed to biennially. The bill also expands the categories by which the number of students employed through the program are disaggregated. The initial report is due by September 1, 2018.

Code Reference: Amends Section 56.082 of the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: June 15, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

SB 1123 **CONDITIONS ON THE RECEIPT OF TUITION AND FEE EXEMPTIONS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ADOPTED STUDENTS FORMERLY IN FOSTER OR OTHER RESIDENTIAL CARE**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Clardy

SB 1123 exempts the tuition and fee exemption at public institutions of higher education for adopted students formerly in foster or other residential care from having to meet satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements for continued eligibility.

Code Reference: Amends Section 54.2001(g) of the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: June 12, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

SB 1220 **ENSURING CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION, CAREER INFORMATION, AND SKILLS CERTIFICATION FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH AND FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH**

Author: Miles

Sponsor: Vo

SB 1220 requires the TEA to assist students who are homeless or in substitute care, transition from one school to another by developing procedures to ensure that a new school relied on the previous school's course placement decisions in an effort to place students in comparable courses or educational programs at the new school, if those courses or programs were available. The bill also requires school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools to provide comparable services to a student during the referral process or until the new school developed an individualized education program for the student.

The commissioner of education may establish rules to implement these provisions and to facilitate a student's transition between schools. These provisions would apply beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

In addition, SB 1220 requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to collaborate with local workforce development boards, foster care transition centers, community and technical colleges, schools, and any other appropriate workforce industry resources to create a program for current and former foster youth that:

- Assists with obtaining a high school diploma or GED and industry certifications necessary for high-demand occupations;
- Provides career guidance; and
- Informs youth about the state's higher education tuition and fee waiver program.

The DFPS and the Texas Education Agency are required to submit a report on the program to the Legislature by September 1, 2018.

Code Reference: Amends Section 25.007(b)(4) and (b)(9) of the Texas Education Code
 Adds Section 25.007(c) to the Texas Education Code and Section
 264.1211 to the Texas Family Code

Effective Date: June 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

SB 1799 **RELATING TO THE STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT PREVENTION AND FINANCIAL AID LITERACY PILOT PROGRAM**

Author: West

Sponsor: Clardy

SB 1799 modifies the student loan default prevention and financial aid literacy pilot program to allow the program to align with the new financial literacy initiative for which Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG) recently received approval from the U.S. Department of Education. The bill removes the Coordinating Board's involvement, other than the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding, removes career schools from the pilot, and amends the selection of institutions to focus on minority-serving institutions, rather than on default rates.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 61.0763(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Texas Education Code
 Adds Section 57.011 to the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: June 15, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

SB 2082 **RELATING TO THE WORK-STUDY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

Author: Taylor, Larry

Sponsor: Clardy

SB 2082 expands the scope of the Texas College Work-Study Mentorship program to include the support of student interventions aimed at increasing the completion of degrees or certificates at participating institutions.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 56.079(b),(c),(d),(e),(f), and (i) of the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: May 26, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

INSTITUTIONAL/GOVERNANCE CHANGES

HB 355 **RELATING TO PROHIBITING CERTAIN SEX OFFENDERS FROM RESIDING ON CAMPUS**

Author: Raney

Sponsor: Buckingham

HB 355 bans registered sex offenders from residing on the campus of a public or private institution of higher education, unless the person is classified as a Level 1 offender and the institution approves the person to reside on the institution's campus. The legislation amends sex offender notification procedures to reflect this change.

Code Reference: Education Code 28.015

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: General Counsel

HB 1913 **RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH**

Author: Geren

Sponsor: Nelson

HB 1913 repeals a statutory requirement that the University of North Texas Health Science Center may only offer a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree, allowing the institution to submit a proposal for a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree program to the Coordinating Board. The legislation also removes the requirement that that president of that institution must hold a DO degree.

Code Reference: Education Code 105.102(b), 105.402

Effective Date: May 29, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 2194 **RELATING TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEATHERFORD JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Author: King

Sponsor: Estes

HB 2194 authorizes the commissioner's court of each county where Weatherford Junior College District collects a branch campus maintenance tax to appoint one member to serve on the district's board of trustees for a two-year term. These members would not be counted for the purposes of establishing a quorum or be allowed to serve as officers on the board. They would also not be allowed to participate in decisions related to the imposition of a tax or on matters that only affects a campus in the district. This provision will expire December 1, 2027, unless continued by the Legislature.

Code Reference: Education Code 130.0828

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 81 **RELATING TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS; AUTHORIZING A TRUST COMPANY TO CHARGE THE INSTITUTE AN INVESTMENT FEE**

Author: Nelson

Sponsor: Davis, Sarah

SB 81 amends Texas Government Code to add the board members of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to the list of agencies whose members are considered an "appointed officer of a major state agency" under the Government Code.

The bill also extends the abolishment date, if not continued, to September 1, 2023. Further, the bill authorizes CPRIT's oversight committee to conduct closed meetings to discuss issues related to managing, acquiring, or selling securities or other revenue-sharing obligations.

SB 81 removes the requirement that the CPRIT's oversight committee file a disclosure of each political contribution to a candidate for a state or federal office over \$1,000 made

by the person in the five years preceding the person's appointment and each year after the person's appointment until the person's term ends.

The bill also sets a limit of 10 percent of the appropriated funding that may be expended in a given fiscal year.

Code Reference: Amends Section 572.003(c) of the Texas Government Code, Sections 102.003, 102.107, 102.203(e), and 102.254 of the Health and Safety Code
Adds Section 102.256(c) and (d) to the Health and Safety Code
Repeals Section 102.101(f) of the Health and Safety Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THETHECB Rulemaking: No
THETHECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

P-16 INITIATIVES

HB 264 **RELATING TO PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS TO FOSTER AWARENESS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

Author: Hernandez

Sponsor: Garcia

HB 264 extends, until September 1, 2020, existing statutory requirements that school district provide parents and students information regarding: the career and college readiness components of each curriculum endorsement; the curriculum requirements to gain automatic admissions to an institution; and the course and endorsement requirements to be eligible for state financial aid. This information must be available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. The legislation also removes a requirement that students be informed regarding eligibility requirements for the Texas B-on-Time loan program.

Code Reference: Education Code 28.015

Effective Date: June 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

HB 1553 **PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN A SCHOOL DISTRICT FAILING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Lozano

Sponsor: Hinojosa

HB 1553 allows the commissioner of education to authorize a school district which has failed to satisfy accreditation criteria, academic performance standards, or financial accountability standards (as determined by the commissioner) to enter into a memorandum of understanding with an institution of higher education to assist in improving the district's performance.

Code Reference: Education Code 39.102(a)

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking:	No
THECB Reporting Requirement:	No
Lead THECB Division:	College Readiness and Success

SB 22 **ESTABLISHMENT OF A PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (P-TECH) PROGRAM AND TO THE REPEAL OF THE TECH-PREP PROGRAM**

Author: Taylor, Larry

Sponsor: Lucio III

SB 22 establishes the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program, a work-based education program for high school students. The commissioner of education must collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop and implement a plan for the P-TECH program that addresses regional workforce needs, credit transfer policies between institutions of higher education, and internships, apprenticeships, and other work-based education programs. The P-TECH program must be open enrollment, provide for a course of study that combines high school courses with postsecondary courses, allow a student six years to receive a high school diploma and an associate degree, a two-year postsecondary certificate, or industry certification, and shall require students to complete work-based training through an internship, apprenticeship, or other job-training program. The program is at no cost to participating students.

The P-TECH program requires articulation agreements between school districts or open-enrollment charter schools and institutions of higher education to address curriculum alignment, instructional materials, instructional calendar, courses of study, student enrollment and attendance, grading periods and policies, and administration of statewide assessment instruments. The program also requires MOU with regional industry or business partners to provide participating students access to work-based training and education. Each MOU must include an agreement that the regional industry or business partner would give students who complete the P-TECH program first priority in interviewing for available jobs for which the students were qualified.

SB 22 requires the commissioner of education to establish a grant program to help school districts and charter schools designated as P-TECH campuses to implement the program. The total amount of grants awarded cannot exceed \$5 million for FY 2018-19. This limit expires December 1, 2019.

For a campus to be designated as a P-TECH school and to participate in the grant program, the district must enter into an articulation agreement only with accredited institutions of higher education, review and, as necessary, update each MOU at least

once every two years, and explain how the district's or school's P-TECH program would address regional workforce needs. The Commissioner of education is required to consult with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in administering the program.

SB 22 creates the P-TECH Advisory Council to provide recommendations to the Commissioner of education on the establishment and administration of the P-TECH program and the criteria for a campus's designation as a P-TECH campus. The advisory council is composed of three members representing school districts and open-enrollment charter schools, three members representing higher education institutions, and six members representing industry or business partners that participate in the P-TECH program. The council membership is appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House.

The governing board of a school district or charter school is authorized to obtain accident medical expense, liability, or automobile insurance coverage to protect students and business or entity partners.

The bill applies beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

Code Reference: Adds Subchapter N, Chapter 29 to the Texas Education Code
Amends Section 28.009(d)(2), 39.301(c), and 42.154(a) of the Texas Education Code
Repeals Section 29.185(b) and Subchapter T, Chapter 61 of the Education Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: SB 1 appropriates \$2,500,000 in each fiscal year of the 2018-19 biennium

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 463 **RELATING TO THE USE OF INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION COMMITTEES TO SATISFY CERTAIN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE METHODS TO SATISFY CERTAIN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Author: Seliger

Sponsor: Huberty

SB 463 extends the expiration date that allows high school students that fail two end-of-course (EOC) exams to be considered for graduation by an individual graduation committee. Specifically, the bill continues the requirement for school districts and charter

schools to establish individual graduation committees for students who fail to pass one or two required EOC exams to September 1, 2019. The bill also extends until September 1, 2019, a provision allowing a student who twice failed to pass an EOC exam for Algebra I or English II to satisfy exam requirements by reaching a proficient score on the Texas Success Initiative Assessment for the corresponding subject.

The bill also extends the applicability of the individual graduation committee provisions to students who entered the ninth grade before the 2011-12 school year if the students have:

- Successfully completed the curriculum requirements for high school graduation;
- Have not performed satisfactorily on an assessment or a part of an assessment required for high school graduation; and
- Has been administered the assessment or part of the assessment the student has not performed satisfactorily on at least three times.

The Commissioner of education shall establish a procedure to determine whether an eligible student may qualify to graduate and receive a high school diploma. The commissioner is required to establish criteria for school districts to develop recommendations for alternative requirements for a student to qualify to graduate. For students who entered the ninth grade before the 2011-2012 school year, the commissioner may authorize as an alternative requirement:

- An alternative assessment instrument and performance standard for that instrument;
- Work experience; or
- Military or other relevant life experience.

A school district's decision regarding whether a student qualifies to graduate is final and may not be appealed.

The THECB, in coordination with the TEA, is required to collect longitudinal data relating to the post-graduation pursuits of each student who is awarded a diploma based on the determination of an individual graduation committee including whether the student:

- Enters the workforce;
- Enrolls in an associate degree, certificate program, or a bachelor's degree at a public or private institution of higher education; or
- Enlists in the armed forces of the United States or the Texas National Guard.

The THECB is required to submit a report to the Legislature not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year that includes a summary compilation of the data collected.

SB 463 prohibits school districts from administering a Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) exam. The TAKS was eliminated by the Legislature in 2007 and replaced with the EOC exams.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 12.104(b-2), 28.025(c-6), 28.0258(e), 28.0282(l), 28.0259, 28.0259(e), 39.0259(a-2), 39.025(a-3), and 39.025(c-1) of the Texas Education Code
Adds Sections 12.104(b-3), 28.02541, 28.02591, and 39.025(c-2) to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: June 9, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead THECB Division: Strategic Planning and Funding

SB 671 **PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH**

Author: Campbell

Sponsor: Guillen

SB 671 grants high school students that have completed a dual-language immersion program in elementary school one foreign language credit in high school. Two credits in foreign language are currently required for high school graduation.

Code Reference: Adds Section 28.025(b-21) to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: May 22, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

SB 1005 **USE OF CERTAIN ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS TO ALLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

Author: Campbell

Sponsor: Deshotel

SB 1005 specifies that public high school students who repeated the ninth grade during the 2011- school year must be administered the exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assessment for graduation purposes. The bill also allows this group of students to meet the exit-level assessment requirement by demonstrating satisfactory performance on either the SAT, ACT, or the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA). The commissioner of education is required to establish the satisfactory performance levels for the SAT, ACT and the TSIA for purposes of satisfying high school graduation requirements.

Code Reference: Amends Section 39.025(f) of the Texas Education Code
Adds Section 39.025(f-1) and (f-2) to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: June 12, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

STUDENT INFORMATION

HB 2895 **RELATING TO POSTING MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES ON AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S WEBSITE**

Author: Price

Sponsor: Seliger

HB 2895 requires each public institution of higher education to create a web page on their main website dedicated solely to information regarding the mental health services available to students at the institution, regardless of whether the resources are provided by the institution. The page must include the address of the nearest mental health authority, and maintain a prominent link on the institution's home page.

By August 1 of each year, each institution's president or designee must certify their institution's compliance with the requirement to the THECB.

Code Reference: Education Code 133.002

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 719 **REQUIRING THE COORDINATING BOARD TO COLLECT AND STUDY DATA ON THE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN WORKFORCE EDUCATION**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Raney

SB 719 requires the THECB to collect data on students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who enroll in a workforce education program that is eligible for state-appropriated formula funding. The data collection must include data on retention, graduation, and professional licensing.

In addition, the THECB, in consultation with public community college districts, shall identify five community college districts representative of each of the peer groups as identified by the Board to participate in a pilot program to develop and recommend minimum reporting language for financial and instructional cost information, including

information relating to instruction of persons with IDD. The Legislative Budget Board and the community colleges participating in the program shall study best practices for the reporting of such information.

Not later than June 1, 2018, the THECB and the participating community colleges shall report to the Legislative Budget Board the findings from the study including best practices in reporting, methodologies in reporting, and a template for reporting. Each participating community college district is required to report to the Coordinating Board the district's financial and instructional costs using the reporting template by September 1, 2019 and 2020 for each state fiscal year.

Code Reference: Amends Section 61.0664(a) of the Texas Education Code
Adds Section 61.0664(f),(g),(h) and (i) to the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division: Strategic Planning and Funding

VETERAN'S BENEFITS

HB 846 **RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Author: Raney

Sponsor: Menendez

HB 846 requires that a public or private institution of higher education may not impose additional fees, obligations or burdens on a student eligible for military-related student financial assistance, beyond those already required by those programs. However, the institution may require the student to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

The legislation also requires a public or private institution to provide for such a student to defer payment of tuition and fees if the receipt of military-related assistance is delayed, up to 60 days. The Texas Veterans Commission is to prescribe a standard deferment request form.

Code Reference: Education Code 56.0065

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

WORKFORCE TRAINING INITIATIVES

HB 2729 **RELATING TO AN INVENTORY OF CREDENTIALS OBTAINABLE BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Author: Lucio III

Sponsor: Miles

HB 2729 requires the TEA, the TEHCB, and the TWC to jointly develop and maintain an inventory of industry-recognized credentials and certificates available to public high school students through a career and technical education program. The credentials must be aligned with state and regional workforce needs and serve as an entry point to middle- and high-wage jobs.

The inventory must include information about the associated career cluster, the name of the awarding entity, level of education required, any fees associated with the credential and the average wage or salary for jobs that require or prefer the credential.

The inventory must be developed and posted on the agencies' websites by September 1, 2018, and updated annually.

Code Reference: Education Code 29.189

Effective Date: June 9, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 2790 **RELATING TO FUNDING FOR CERTAIN APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Author: White

Sponsor: Miles

HB 2790 amends state statute regarding apprenticeship training programs to include independent apprenticeship committees that operate apprenticeship training programs not sponsored by a public school district or state postsecondary institution. The legislation makes such independent apprenticeships eligible for state funding and subject to requirements regarding adequate facilities, personnel, and resources. The independent

apprenticeships are also subject to audit requirements of any other apprenticeship program receiving state funds.

Code Reference: Education Code 133.002
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 128 **RELATING TO THE INCLUSION OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING REGARDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE CURRICULUM OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TRAINING PROGRAMS OFFERED BY PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGES AND CAREER SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AND TO CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES**

Author: Garcia

Sponsor: Thompson, Senfronia

SB 128 directs the THECB and the TWC to adopt rules to require each public community college and career school offering a commercial driver's license training program to include education and training on the recognition and prevention of human trafficking. The THECB and the TWC, in collaboration with the Office of the Texas Attorney General, are required to establish the content of the education and training required.

Further, SB 128 directs the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS) to provide informational materials regarding the recognition and prevention of human trafficking for distribution to commercial driver's license applicants. The TDPS is authorized to coordinate with organizations that specialize in human trafficking to provide informational materials.

The THECB, TWC and TDPS must adopt rules no later than December 1, 2017.

Code Reference: Adds Sections 130.0105 and 130.006 to the Texas Education Code
Adds Section 522.035 to the Texas Transportation Code
Effective Date: May 18, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 634 **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND WORKFORCE
TRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDERS**

Author: Estes

Sponsor: Button

Current statute allows public community and technical colleges, the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, and community-based organizations to use funds from the Skills Development Fund to develop customized training programs for business and trade unions. Institutions and organizations using the funds are required to conduct a review of the training programs to determine the effectiveness of the programs in improving the wages of participants who complete the programs and identify strategies for improving the delivery of workforce training to more effectively impact economic development in the state. The institutions are required to submit the review to the TWC not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year. The TWC is then required to annually report the status of the program to the governor and Legislature.

SB 634 requires any institution or organization that fails to submit a required Skills Development Fund workforce training program report to TWC to refund the comptroller any state funds received in the biennium in which a report was due. Further, the bill prohibits the TWC from awarding additional grants to the institution that failed to submit a report until the entity has complied with the reporting requirement.

The changes to the statute apply beginning with reports due October 1, 2018.

Code Reference: Adds Section 303.004(c) to the Texas Labor Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

VETOED

HB 961 **RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT TRUSTEES BY PLURALITY VOTE**

Author: Rodriguez, Justin

Sponsor: Seliger

HB 961 would allow a Board of Trustees for a junior college district to pass a resolution, at least 180 days before an election, requiring that a candidate receive a majority of the votes cast in order to be elected. The resolution would remain in effect for all future elections, unless rescinded.

HB 1500 **RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY**

Author: Giddings

Sponsor: West

HB 1500 would add several indicators to the measures used by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to evaluate high schools and school districts. These include the percentage of students completing international baccalaureate (IB) courses, completing an OnRamps dual enrollment course, graduating early and completing an associate degree in high school.

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 493 **RELATING TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HEROES PROGRAM**

Author: Perez

Sponsor: Campbell

HB 493 requires the TWC, in consultation with the THECB, to include the number of academic or workforce education semester credit hours awarded under the College Credit for Heroes program in its annual report to the Legislature and the governor. The report must also include the number of transfer credit hours awarded through College Credit for Heroes and applies to a certificate or degree.

Code Reference: Labor Code 302.0031(g)

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 928 **RELATING TO ASSISTING CERTAIN CHILDREN WHO ARE IN FOSTER CARE**

Author: White

Sponsor: Uresti

HB 928 requires that students in foster care be provided certain information and assistance in applying for higher education. Specifically, it requires each school district, in coordination with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), to: assist foster children with applications for admission and financial aid; arrange and accompany the child on campus visits; assist the child in researching and applying for private scholarships; identify whether the child is eligible for appointment to a military academy; and assist the child in registering and preparing for college entrance examinations.

Code Reference: Family Code 264.1211

Effective Date: June 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

HB 1290 **RELATING TO THE REPEAL OF A STATE AGENCY RULE BEFORE ADOPTION OF A NEW RULE**

Author: Roberts

Sponsor: Kolkhorst

HB 1290 prohibits a state agency from adopting a proposed rule that imposes a cost on any person, including another state agency, special district or local government, unless the agency either repeals an existing rule whose cost is equal to or greater than the cost of the proposed rule, or amends an existing rule to decrease its cost by at least as much as the cost of the proposed rule. Several categories of rules are exempted from the requirement, including rules that are: related to agency procurement; necessary to receive federal funds or comply with federal law; necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Texans, or is necessary to implement legislation.

The legislation also requires an agency to prepare a government growth impact statement for a proposed rule, which must describe whether the proposed rule would create or eliminate a government program, require new employee positions, require an increase in future appropriations or fees paid to the agency, or creates, expands, limits or repeals regulations. The Comptroller is required to develop rules for implementing this requirement.

Code Reference: Government Code 2001.0045, 2001.0221
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: General Counsel

HB 2285 **RELATING TO THE TEXAS INSTITUTE FOR COASTAL PRAIRIE RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON**

Author: Thompson, Ed

Sponsor: Taylor, Larry

HB 2285 establishes the Texas Institute for Coastal Prairie Research and Education at the University of Houston and under the organization, control and management of the University of Houston System Board of Regents. The institute is charged to conduct environmental research and education on coastal prairie and prairie restoration, provide a setting for other entities to conduct such activities, and provide national leadership and education regarding the best methods to restore coastal prairie.

The University of Houston shall encourage other entities to participate in or support the operation of the institute, and the board of regents may solicit, accept and administer gifts and grants from any public or private source for the purposes of the institute.

Code Reference: Education Code Chapter 111 Subchapter J

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

HB 3593 **RELATING TO INSTRUCTION IN TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS, CYBERSECURITY AND
COMPUTER CODING**

Author: Bernal

Sponsor: Taylor, Larry

HB 3593 makes several changes to the Texas Education Code to promote instruction in technology applications, cybersecurity and computer coding in high school. It instructs the State Board of Education (SBOE) to approve courses in cybersecurity for credit for high school graduation as part of career and technical education (CTE). It also provides that school districts may offer a course in cybersecurity that is approved by the local board of trustees without approval by the SBOE, if the district partners with a public or private institution of higher education that offers an undergraduate degree program in cybersecurity to develop and provide the course.

The bill requires SBOE to adopt or select five technology application courses on cybersecurity to be included in a cybersecurity pathway in the STEM endorsement, and entitles a teacher to a subsidy if the teacher earns a certificate in cybersecurity.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 28.002, 28.025, 29.190, 39.053, 42.154 (b), and 42.158 of Education Code

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 11 **SERVICES AND OTHER HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES OR UNDER CONTRACT WITH A STATE AGENCY, INCLUDING FOSTER CARE, CHILD PROTECTIVE, RELATIVE AND KINSHIP CAREGIVER SUPPORT, PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION HEALTH CARE, AND ADOPTION SERVICES**

Author: Schwertner

Sponsor: Frank

SB 11 amends various sections of the Texas Family Code, Government Code, and Human Resources Code relating to the provisions of child protective services and other health and human services by certain state agencies or entities under contract with a state agency. Specifically related to higher education, SB 11 requires the Health and Human Services Commission, subject to the availability of funds, on behalf of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), to enter into agreements with institutions of higher education to conduct efficacy reviews of any prevention and early intervention programs that have not previously been evaluated for effectiveness through a scientific research evaluation process. The DFPS is required, subject to availability of funds, to collaborate with an institution of higher education to create and track indicators of child well-being to determine the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention services.

Further, the Health and Human Services Commission, in collaboration with the DFPS, shall contract with a vendor or enter into an agreement with an institution of higher education to develop performance quality metrics for family-based safety services and post-adoption support services providers.

Code Reference: Adds 265.0041 to the Texas Family Code and 40.0581 to the Texas Human Resources Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: College Readiness and Success

SB 59 **RELATING TO ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Kuempel

SB 59 removes the requirement that the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) assist a state agency in meeting conservation requirements currently required through Texas Government Code 447.002. The bill also removes the requirement that a state agency or institution of higher education develop a long-range plan for the delivery of reliable, cost effective utility services for the state agency or institution. Further, SB 59 requires the comprehensive energy and water management plans required of institutions of higher education to be included in the five-year construction and major repair rehabilitation plans submitted to the THECB.

Code Reference: Amends Section 447.009 of the Texas Government Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Strategic Planning and Funding

SB 968**RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY AT CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION***Author:* Watson*Sponsor:* Alvarado

SB 968 requires both public and private or independent institutions of higher education to adopt a policy on sexual assault that is applicable to each student enrolled at and each employee of the institution. The policy must be reviewed each biennium and approved by the institution's governing board. Each institution of higher education is required to implement a public awareness campaign to inform students and employees of the sexual assault policy. The campaign must include the protocol for reporting incidents of sexual assault. Institutions are required to share the information with students by email at the beginning of each semester or academic term and include the information as part of their student orientation.

Institutions of higher education are required to offer an alleged victim or an alleged perpetrator of an incident of sexual assault and any other person who reports such an incident, counseling services. The alleged victim or alleged perpetrator of a sexual assault shall be allowed to drop a course in which both parties are enrolled without any academic penalty.

SB 968 also requires public, private or independent institutions of higher education to provide an option for students and employees to electronically report an allegation of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking committed against or witnessed regardless of the location in which the alleged offense occurred. The online reporting system must allow reporting to be anonymous and must be easily accessible through the institution's Internet website home page.

The commissioner of higher education is required to establish an advisory committee to develop rules as necessary to administer the electronic reporting option for consideration by the board of the THECB. The advisory committee shall submit its recommendations to the board by December 1, 2017.

The changes made by this bill apply beginning with the 2017-18 academic year. Institutions of higher education have until January 1, 2018, to implement the electronic reporting option.

Code Reference: Amends Section 51.9363 of the Texas Education Code
 Adds Section 51.9365 to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: June 12, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 969 **REQUIRING CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE AMNESTY TO STUDENT WHO REPORT CERTAIN INCIDENTS, INCLUDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT, DATING VIOLENCE OF STALKING**

Author: Watson

Sponsor: Leach

SB 969 prohibits a public, private, or independent institution of higher education from taking any disciplinary action for a violation of the institution's code of conduct against a student enrolled at the institution who in good faith reports to the institution being the victim of or a witness to an incident of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, if the violation occurred at or near the time of the incident. The bill requires the commissioner of higher education to establish an advisory committee to recommend rules to implement and enforce these provisions. The rules must be submitted to the board of the THECB for consideration by December 1, 2017.

The changes made by this bill apply beginning with the 2018 spring semester.

Code Reference: Adds Section 51.9366 to the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: June 12, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: Yes
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 1367 **POLICIES AND TRAINING REGARDING THE USE OF EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Menéndez

Sponsor: Howard

SB 1367 allows institutions of higher education to adopt and implement a policy regarding the maintenance, storage, administration, and disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors on the institution's campus. The Commissioner of State Health Services, in collaboration with an advisory committee of stakeholders, shall adopt rules regarding the maintenance, storage, administration, and disposal of the epinephrine auto-injector.

If a policy is adopted, the policy must provide that personnel or volunteers who are authorized and trained may administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a person who is reasonably believed to be experiencing anaphylaxis on campus, at an off-campus event, or while in transit to or from an off-campus event sponsored by the institution of higher education. Institutions are required to train personnel or volunteers in the administration of the auto-injector.

The bill allows for a physician to prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of the institution of higher education, specifies reporting requirements after each administration of an epinephrine auto-injector, and includes information regarding immunity from civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action.

The provisions of this act apply beginning with the 2018 spring semester.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 38.202(a) and (b), and 38.207 to the Texas Education Code

Adds Sections 38.202(e) Chapter 51 Subchapter Y-1 to the Texas Education Code

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Academic Quality and Workforce

SB 1831 **RELATING TO AN ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE PROGRAMS NOT FUNDED BY APPROPRIATIONS**

Author: Buckingham

Sponsor: Capriglione

SB 1831 requires the comptroller of public accounts to submit to the Legislature an annual report based on information required to be provided by each state agency relating to

state programs not funded by appropriations in the preceding year. The initial report is due by December 31, 2017.

Code Reference: Adds Section 403.0147 to the Texas Government Code
Effective Date: June 15, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division: Financial Services

EMPLOYEE ISSUES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

HB 4035 **RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE STATE EMPLOYEE GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM AND HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS OFFERED BY CERTAIN UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS**

Author: Flynn

Sponsor: Huffman

HB 4035 allows eligible employees to combine their years of service credit in the group insurance program administered by the Employees Retirement System (ERS) with their years of service credit in the group insurance programs administered by UT System (UTS) and Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) for purposes of meeting the minimum 10 years of service credit required to enroll in retiree group insurance.

These employees would be eligible to enroll as a retiree in the program in which the employee has the most years of service. If the employee has five years of service in each program, the employee would be eligible to enroll in the program at the employee's last place of covered employment.

Code Reference: Adds Section 824.0071 to Government Code
 Amends Sections 1551.102, 1601.053, 1601.102 and adds sections
 1601.1065, 1601.2042, and 1601.211 to Insurance Code

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Human Resources

SB 73 **RELATING TO LEAVE POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES**

Author: Nelson

Sponsor: Geren

Agency Policy

SB 73 requires state agencies to adopt a policy governing leave for employees under Government Code, Chapter 661 including vacation leave, emergency leave and sick leave. The policy is required to have clear and objective guidelines to establish under what

circumstances a state employee may be entitled to or granted each type of leave. State agencies are required to post the policy on the agency's Internet website in a location easily accessible by the agency's employees and the public.

Emergency Leave

In addition, SB 73 grants the administrative head of a state agency authority to grant employees emergency leave if the employee has shown good cause. The administrative head must believe, in good faith, that the employee will be returning to the employee's position upon expiration of the period of the emergency leave. The administrative head of each state agency shall report to the comptroller not later than October 1 of each year, the name and position of each employee of the agency who is granted more than 32 hours of emergency leave during the previous state fiscal year, the reason for granting the emergency leave, and the total number of hours granted to the employee in that fiscal year.

Leave During Agency Investigation

Further, SB 73 specifies that an administrative head of a state agency may grant leave without a deduction in salary to a state employee who is the subject of an investigation being conducted by the agency or a victim of, or witness to, an act or event that is the subject of an investigation by the agency. State agencies are required to submit a report to the state auditor's office and the LBB not later than the last day of each quarter of the state fiscal year, that includes the name of each agency employee that is on leave during an agency investigation who has been granted 168 hours or more of leave during a fiscal quarter. The report must include a brief statement as to the reason the employee remains on leave.

Medical and Mental Health Care Leave for Certain Veterans

A state employee who is a veteran and eligible for health benefits under a program administered by the Veterans Health Administration of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs may be granted leave without a deduction in salary or loss of vacation time, sick leave, earned overtime credit, or state compensatory time to obtain medical or mental health care administered by the Veterans Health Administration, including physical rehabilitation. Leave granted to a veteran for this purpose may not exceed 15 days each fiscal year unless approved by the administrative head of a state agency.

Centralized Accounting and Payroll System

The comptroller is required to adopt a uniform system for state agencies to report each type of leave under the centralized accounting and payroll system or any successor system.

As part of the centralized accounting and payroll system or any successor system, the comptroller would be required to adopt a uniform system for state agencies to report each type of leave.

Code Reference: Adds Subchapter H, Chapter 661, Sections 661.923, 661.924, and 2101.042 to the Texas Government Code
Amends Section 661.902 of the Texas Government Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Human Resources

SB 1664 **CONTRIBUTIONS TO, BENEFITS FROM, MEMBERSHIP IN, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS**

Author: Huffman

Sponsor: Flynn

SB 1664 amends the statute relating to the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) to require the THECB to provide the comptroller with an estimate of the total (statewide) ORP state contributions that would be needed for the next biennium. The certification must be made by November 2 of the year before each session. The bill makes additional changes to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Code Reference: Amends Section 830.201(h) of the Texas Government Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes
Lead THECB Division: Human Resources

SB 1954 **PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAM
FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Author: Hughes

Sponsor: Lozano

SB 1954 extends the 90-day Optional Retirement Program (ORP) election period up to 90 days (depending on circumstances) when an ORP employer fails to provide notification of eligibility to an ORP-eligible employee on or before the initial ORP eligibility date. Affected employees are provided at least 30 days to make an election of ORP. The bill also provides remediation to a vested ORP participant who was mistakenly reported to the Texas Retirement System (TRS) by an employer by sending amounts to the ORP participant's account that should have been provided to the participant if the employee had timely resumed ORP participation rather than being placed in TRS in error, along with an amount representing an assumed annual rate of return of 4 percent.

Code Reference: Amends Section 830.102(c) of the Texas Government Code
 Adds Sections 830.102(c-1) and (c-2), and 830.108 to the Texas
 Government Code

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: Human Resources

OPEN MEETINGS/OPEN RECORDS

HB 3047 **RELATING TO THE MEETING OF A GOVERNMENTAL BODY HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE CALL**

Author: Dale

Sponsor: Schwertner

HB 3047 amends existing statute regarding the meeting of a governmental body via video teleconference. Specifically, the bill clarifies that a member of a governmental body who participates in a meeting by videoconference is considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which audio or video communication with the member is lost or disconnected. However, the meeting may continue if a quorum of the body remains present at the meeting location, or if a quorum continues to participate in the meeting via video teleconference pursuant to statutory requirements.

Code Reference: Amends Section 551.127 of Government Code

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: General Counsel

HB 3107 **RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION UNDER THE PUBLIC INFORMATION LAW**

Author: Ashby

Sponsor: Nichols

HB 3107 makes certain changes to provisions on the production of information under the Public Information Act, including establishing a timeline for request termination, revising procedures for subsequent requests by a person, and creating an additional option for requestors filing complaints.

Code Reference: Amends Sections 552.221, 552.261, 552.275, and 552.3215 (i)
of Government Code

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: General Counsel

SB 79 **RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE**

Author: Nelson

Sponsor: Capriglione

SB 79 allows state agencies to respond to public information requests with an Internet address if requested information already exists.

Code Reference: Amends Section 447.009 of the Texas Government Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: Strategic Planning and Funding

SB 705 **EXCEPTION FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE PUBLIC INFORMATION LAW FOR CERTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION OF AN APPLICANT FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR**

Author: Birdwell

Sponsor: Price

SB 705 makes the following information regarding a governor's appointee confidential:

- Home address;
- Telephone number;
- Social security number; and
- Information regarding applicant's family.

Code Reference: Adds Section 552.158 to the Texas Education Code
Effective Date: May 29, 2017
Appropriation: None

STATE AGENCY CONTRACTS

SB 255 **RELATING TO TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND VENDORS INCLUDING PURCHASING AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Simmons

SB 255 adds purchasing, contract management and contract negotiations training requirements for state agency employees. Specifically, the bill requires a state agency that spends more than \$5,000 on a training or education program for any individual administrator or employee to submit a report to the LBB that includes a list of the employees participating in the training or education program, the amount spent on each employee, and the certification earned by each employee through the program. The report is due annually by August 31.

State agencies are required to annually estimate the number of employees requiring purchasing or contract management training and report the anticipated training needs to the comptroller in the manner and form prescribed by the comptroller. The comptroller is required to develop training programs to meet the needs of state agencies, annually assess the number of employees requiring purchasing and contract management training, and maintain a regular schedule of classes to accommodate that number. The comptroller may use staff or contract with private or public entities, including state agencies, to conduct the training and may access a fee for the training program.

SB 255 also requires state agency personnel who are directly involved in contract negotiations for the purchase of information resources technologies to complete training developed by the Department of Information. SB 255 deletes prerequisite requirements for each level of certification and incorporates additional training for negotiation methods, writing specifications, criteria for determining which product or service offers the best value for the state, developing, evaluation criteria, formal and informal bidding methods, and complex negotiations. Further, the comptroller is required to adopt rules to monitor compliance with these provisions. A state agency employee must be certified by the comptroller as the agency purchases once the required training has been completed and a written examination has been passed. The comptroller shall develop an abbreviated version of the training program for state agency employees with contract management duties, other than contract managers. Institutions of higher education are exempt from the training requirements.

Code Reference: Amends Section 2056.002(b), 2252.908(c) and (e), 2262.101(a), and 2267.003 of the Texas Government Code
Adds Sections 656.047(c), 656.054, and 656.055 to the Texas Government Code
Redesignates Sections 2054.057, 2155.078, 2262.053, and 2262.0535 of the Texas Government Code to Subchapter C, Chapter 656 Government Code as Sections 656.050, 656.051, 656.052, and 656.053

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: Yes

Lead THECB Division: General Counsel

SB 262 **RELATING TO CERTAIN PURCHASING BY STATE AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Author: Zaffirini

Sponsor: Guillen

SB 262 amends the Government Code regarding state purchasing of automated information systems to require the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to periodically assess the risk to the state in the purchase of commodity items made by the agencies under DIR cooperative contracts. Additionally, the bill requires, based on that risk and as deemed appropriate, DIR to monitor and verify vendor's purchase transaction reports of the monthly sales of those commodity items.

The bill also authorizes a state agency or local government, with exceptions, to purchase goods or services directly from a vendor under a contract listed on a schedule developed under this subchapter (Multiple Award Contract Schedule). A state agency or local government contracting for the purchase of an automated information system under a Multiple Award Contract Schedule, shall comply with Section 2157.068(e-1) (relating to certain value amounts determining how a state agency contracts to purchase a commodity item). Provides that a purchase authorized by this section satisfies any requirement of state law relating to competitive bids or proposals. Deletes existing text providing that a purchase authorized by this section satisfies any requirement of state law relating to competitive bids or proposals and satisfies any applicable requirements of Chapter 2157 (Purchasing: Purchase of Automated Information Systems).

The changes made by this bill shall apply only to contacts that are proposed on or after the September 1, 2017 effective date.

Code Reference: Adds Section 2157.068(k) to the Texas Government Code
Amends Section 2155.504(e) of the Texas Government Code
Effective Date: September 1, 2017
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No
THECB Reporting Requirement: No
Lead THECB Division: General Counsel

SB 533 **RELATING TO GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT**

Author: Nelson

Sponsor: Geren

SB 533 revises the Texas Government Code relating to state agency contracting. Specifically, the bill restricts a former state officer or employee who participated on behalf of a state agency in the procurement or contract negotiations from accepting employment from a person before the second anniversary of the date that the applicable contract is executed or the procurement is terminated or withdrawn.

The bill also requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to provide additional oversight services for major information resource projects at the direction of the governor, lieutenant governor, or speaker of the House of Representatives. The legislation allows DIR to provide the required oversight through a vendor contract at DIR's direction.

SB 533 incorporates the comptroller, along with the state auditor, LBB and DIR tasked to create a quality assurance team to create a project review system. The quality assurance team is directed to provide annual training for state agency procurement and contract management staff on best practices and methodologies for information technology contracts. The state auditor is required to serve on the quality assurance team as an advisor.

Additionally, the comptroller is required to update a contract management guide to include policies on the interactions and communications between employees of the state agency and a vendor that contracts with the state agency or seeks to conduct business with the state agency.

The comptroller may enter into agreements to authorize state agencies and political subdivisions of other states to purchase goods or services through comptroller contracts. The bill also revises the thresholds used to trigger the number of requests for pricing that agencies would have to obtain from vendors on DIR's cooperative contract list. Requests for prices from at least three vendors would be required on contracts that were valued at more than \$50,000 through \$1 million, rather than up to \$150,000 under current law. The bill would require requests for prices from at least six vendors on contracts that were valued at more than \$1 million through \$5 million, rather than more than \$150,000 through \$1 million under current law. Agencies could continue to award contracts of \$50,000 or less to a vendor on DIR's list without asking for other bids.

A state agency employee or official is required to disclose any potential conflict of interest specified by state law or agency policy. A state agency is also required to redact any confidential information from contracts posted on the agency's website.

The bill also decreases the amounts that define governing board members of public institutions of higher education as having a substantial interest in a business entity.

Code Reference: Amends various sections of the Texas Education and Government Code

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

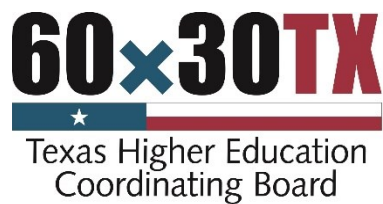
Appropriation: None

THECB Rulemaking: No

THECB Reporting Requirement: No

Lead THECB Division: General Counsel

THECB Rulemaking:	No
THECB Reporting Requirement:	No
Lead THECB Division:	General Counsel



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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