

By: _____ .B. No. _____

Substitute the following for .B. No. _____:

By: _____ C.S..B. No. _____

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the governance of public institutions of higher
3 education, including review of curriculum and certain degree and
4 certificate programs, a faculty council or senate, training for
5 members of the governing board, and the establishment, powers, and
6 duties of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Office of
7 the Ombudsman.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

9 ARTICLE 1. CURRICULUM AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

10 SECTION 1.01. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
11 amended by adding Section 51.315 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 51.315. GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM REVIEW. (a) In
13 this section:

14 (1) "General education curriculum" means a core
15 curriculum, as that term is defined by Section 61.821, and any other
16 curriculum or competency all undergraduate students of an
17 institution of higher education are required to complete before
18 receiving an undergraduate degree.

19 (2) "Governing board" and "institution of higher
20 education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

21 (b) At least once every five years, the governing board of
22 each institution of higher education shall conduct a comprehensive
23 review of the general education curriculum established by the
24 institution. In reviewing an institution's general education

1 curriculum, the governing board shall ensure courses in the
2 curriculum:

3 (1) are foundational and fundamental to a sound
4 postsecondary education;

5 (2) are necessary to prepare students for civic and
6 professional life;

7 (3) equip students for participation in the workforce
8 and in the betterment of society;

9 (4) ensure a breadth of knowledge in compliance with
10 applicable accreditation standards; and

11 (5) do not advocate or promote the idea that any race,
12 sex, or ethnicity or any religious belief is inherently superior to
13 any other race, sex, or ethnicity or any other religious belief.

14 (c) In reviewing the general education curriculum of an
15 institution of higher education under Subsection (b), the governing
16 board of the institution shall consider the potential costs the
17 curriculum may impose on students, including for additional
18 tuition, fees, and time a student must spend to complete an
19 undergraduate degree program at the institution.

20 (d) Each institution of higher education shall annually
21 submit to the governing board of the institution an update
22 regarding any changes to the general education curriculum offered
23 at the institution. The governing board may reserve the right to
24 overturn any decision made by the institution regarding any changes
25 to the general education curriculum offered at the institution.

26 (e) The governing board of an institution of higher
27 education may appoint a committee to assist the governing board in

1 carrying out its duties under this section, including by making
2 recommendations to the governing board. Members of the committee
3 may include:

- 4 (1) faculty employed full time by the institution;
- 5 (2) institution administrators;
- 6 (3) community leaders;
- 7 (4) industry representatives; and
- 8 (5) other individuals selected by the governing board.

9 (f) Not later than January 1 of each year a review is
10 conducted under this section, the governing board of each
11 institution of higher education shall certify the governing board's
12 compliance with this section to the Texas Higher Education
13 Coordinating Board and each standing legislative committee and
14 subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over higher education.

15 SECTION 1.02. Section 51.354, Education Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 51.354. INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

18 (a) The final decision-making authority on matters regarding an
19 institution of higher education's degree programs and curricula
20 belongs to the institution. The institution shall make the
21 decisions on those matters under the direction of the institution's
22 governing board.

23 (b) In addition to specific responsibilities imposed by
24 this code or other law, each institution of higher education has the
25 general responsibility to serve the public and, within the
26 institution's role and mission, to:

- 27 (1) transmit culture through general education;

- 1 (2) extend knowledge;
- 2 (3) teach and train students for professions;
- 3 (4) provide for scientific, engineering, medical, and
4 other academic research;
- 5 (5) protect intellectual exploration and academic
6 freedom;
- 7 (6) strive for intellectual excellence;
- 8 (7) provide educational opportunity for all who can
9 benefit from postsecondary education and training; and
- 10 (8) provide continuing education opportunities.

11 SECTION 1.03. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
12 amended by adding Section 51.989 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 51.989. REVIEW OF MINOR DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE
14 PROGRAMS. (a) In this section, "governing board" and "institution
15 of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

16 (b) The president or chief executive officer of an
17 institution of higher education shall adopt and implement a process
18 for reviewing minor degree and certificate programs offered by the
19 institution to identify programs with low enrollment that may
20 require consolidation or elimination.

21 (c) The criteria for review under Subsection (b) must
22 require that minor degree and certificate programs have specific
23 industry data to substantiate workforce demand to avoid
24 consideration for consolidation or elimination.

25 (d) A minor degree or certificate program that has operated
26 less than five years at the time the president or chief executive
27 officer of an institution of higher education conducts the review

1 under this section is exempt from that review.

2 (e) The governing board of an institution of higher
3 education shall approve or deny any decision made by the president
4 or chief executive officer of the institution to consolidate or
5 eliminate a minor degree or certificate program as a result of the
6 review conducted under this section.

7 (f) The president or chief executive officer of an
8 institution of higher education shall conduct a review under this
9 section once every five years.

10 SECTION 1.04. Section 61.052, Education Code, is amended by
11 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

12 (a-1) A governing board may exclude from the comprehensive
13 list of courses submitted under Subsection (a) courses that were
14 not taught as an organized class or provided through individual
15 instruction for the preceding two academic years.

16 SECTION 1.05. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
17 amended by adding Section 61.0522 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 61.0522. GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM ADVISORY
19 COMMITTEE. (a) In this section:

20 (1) "Advisory committee" means the general education
21 curriculum advisory committee established under this section.

22 (2) "General education curriculum" has the meaning
23 assigned by Section 51.315.

24 (b) The board shall establish an advisory committee to
25 review the general education curriculum requirements of
26 institutions of higher education.

27 (c) The board shall call for nominations from presidents or

1 chief executive officers, chancellors, and chief academic officers
2 at all institutions of higher education for representatives to
3 serve on the advisory committee. The board shall select a number of
4 representatives determined by the board from those nominated with
5 nominees drawn equally from two-year and four-year institutions.

6 (d) The advisory committee shall consider methods for
7 determining general education curriculum component courses and for
8 condensing the number of general education curriculum courses
9 required at institutions of higher education.

10 (e) Not later than November 1, 2026, the advisory committee
11 shall produce a report regarding the advisory committee's findings
12 and recommendations under this section and provide the report to
13 the board.

14 (f) Not later than December 31, 2026, the board shall review
15 the advisory committee's report and submit to the legislature the
16 board's recommendations for legislative or other action necessary
17 to implement the findings of the report.

18 (g) The advisory committee is abolished and this section
19 expires September 1, 2027.

20 SECTION 1.06. Not later than January 1, 2027, the governing
21 board of each public institution of higher education shall:

22 (1) complete the governing board's initial review in
23 accordance with Section 51.315, Education Code, as added by this
24 Act; and

25 (2) certify compliance with Section 51.315, Education
26 Code, as added by this Act, as required by Subsection (f) of that
27 section.

1 ARTICLE 2. INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

2 SECTION 2.01. Section 51.352, Education Code, is amended by
3 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read
4 as follows:

5 (d) In addition to powers and duties specifically granted by
6 this code or other law, each governing board shall:

7 (1) establish, for each institution under its control
8 and management, goals consistent with the role and mission of the
9 institution;

10 (2) appoint the chancellor or other chief executive
11 officer of the system, if the board governs a university system;

12 (3) appoint the president or other chief executive
13 officer of each institution under the board's control and
14 management and evaluate the chief executive officer of each
15 component institution and assist the officer in the achievement of
16 performance goals;

17 (4) approve or deny the hiring of an individual for the
18 position of provost by each institution under the board's control
19 and management;

20 (5) collaborate with institutions under its control
21 and management to set campus admission standards consistent with
22 the role and mission of the institution and considering the
23 admission standards of similar institutions nationwide having a
24 similar role and mission, as determined by the coordinating board;
25 and

26 (6) [~~5~~] ensure that its formal position on matters
27 of importance to the institutions under its governance is made

1 clear to the coordinating board when such matters are under
2 consideration by the coordinating board.

3 (g) The governing board of an institution of higher
4 education may overturn any hiring decision for the position of vice
5 president or dean made by the administration of a campus under the
6 board's control and management. Action by the governing board
7 under this subsection shall be implemented by the institution
8 through appropriate action with respect to the relevant hiring
9 decision at issue, including rescission of an employment offer,
10 termination of employment, or termination of an employment
11 agreement.

12 (h) The governing board of each institution of higher
13 education shall annually submit to the governor, the lieutenant
14 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each
15 member of the legislature a report regarding decisions made by the
16 governing board for the applicable academic year on any hiring of
17 administration in which the board approved or denied the hiring
18 decision or took action under Subsection (g).

19 SECTION 2.02. Subchapter G, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
20 amended by adding Sections 51.3522, 51.3523, and 51.3541 to read as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 51.3522. FACULTY COUNCIL OR SENATE. (a) In this
23 section, "faculty council or senate" means a representative faculty
24 organization.

25 (b) Only the governing board of an institution of higher
26 education may establish a faculty council or senate at the
27 institution. Before establishing the faculty council or senate,

1 the governing board must adopt a policy governing the selection of
2 the faculty council's or senate's members that:

3 (1) ensures adequate representation of each college
4 and school of the institution;

5 (2) requires the members to be faculty members; and

6 (3) except as otherwise provided by the governing
7 board, limits the number of members to not more than 60 with at
8 least two representatives from each college or school, including:

9 (A) one member appointed by the president or
10 chief executive officer of the institution; and

11 (B) the remaining members elected by a vote of
12 the faculty of the member's respective college or school.

13 (c) A faculty council or senate is advisory only and may not
14 be delegated the final decision-making authority on any matter. A
15 faculty council or senate shall represent the entire faculty of the
16 institution of higher education and advise the institution
17 administration and any system administration regarding matters
18 related to the general welfare of the institution.

19 (d) Service on the faculty council or senate is an
20 additional duty of the faculty member's employment. Members of the
21 faculty council or senate are not entitled to compensation or
22 reimbursement of expenses for their role as members of the faculty
23 council or senate unless the expense is on behalf of and approved by
24 the institution of higher education.

25 (e) A member of the faculty council or senate appointed by
26 the president or chief executive officer of the institution of
27 higher education in accordance with Subsection (b)(3)(A) may serve

1 up to six consecutive one-year terms and then may only be
2 reappointed after the second anniversary of the last day of the
3 member's most recent term. A member of the faculty council or
4 senate elected by a vote of the faculty of the member's respective
5 college or school serves a two-year term, staggered in a manner that
6 allows approximately one-half of the elected members to be elected
7 each year, and may only be reelected after the second anniversary of
8 the last day of the member's most recent term.

9 (f) A faculty member serving on the faculty council or
10 senate may be immediately removed from the council or senate for
11 failure to conduct the member's responsibilities within the
12 council's or senate's parameters, including by using the member's
13 position for political advocacy, failing to attend council or
14 senate meetings, or engaging in other similar misconduct. A member
15 of a faculty council or senate may be removed on recommendation of
16 the institution's provost and approval by the institution's
17 president or chief executive officer.

18 (g) The president or chief executive officer of the
19 institution of higher education shall appoint a presiding officer,
20 associate presiding officer, and secretary from the members of the
21 faculty council or senate.

22 (h) The presiding officer appointed under Subsection (g)
23 shall preside over meetings of the faculty council or senate and
24 represent the council or senate in official communications with the
25 institution administration and any system administration.

26 (i) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to a
27 faculty council or senate.

1 (j) The faculty council or senate shall conduct meetings at
2 which a quorum is present in a manner that is open to the public and
3 in accordance with procedures prescribed by the president or chief
4 executive officer of the institution of higher education.

5 (k) The faculty council or senate shall broadcast over the
6 Internet live video and audio, as applicable, of each open meeting
7 of the council or senate if more than 50 percent of the members of
8 the council or senate are in attendance.

9 (l) The faculty council or senate shall adopt rules for
10 establishing a quorum.

11 (m) The following shall be made available to the public on
12 the institution of higher education's Internet website not later
13 than the seventh day before a meeting of the faculty council or
14 senate:

15 (1) an agenda for the meeting with sufficient detail
16 to indicate the items that are to be discussed or that will be
17 subject to a vote; and

18 (2) any curriculum proposals reviewed by the council
19 or senate that will be discussed or voted on at the meeting.

20 (n) The names of the members in attendance must be recorded
21 at a meeting in which the faculty council or senate conducts
22 business related to:

23 (1) a vote of no confidence regarding an institution
24 or system administrator; or

25 (2) policies related to curriculum and academic
26 standards.

27 (o) This section may not be construed to limit a faculty

1 member of an institution of higher education from exercising the
2 faculty member's right to freedom of association protected by the
3 United States Constitution or Texas Constitution.

4 Sec. 51.3523. SHARED GOVERNANCE. (a) In this section,
5 "governing board" and "institution of higher education" have the
6 meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

7 (b) Institutions of higher education in this state shall be
8 governed by a principle of shared governance, which refers to a
9 structured decision-making process in which the governing board of
10 the institution exercises ultimate authority and responsibility
11 for institutional oversight, financial stewardship, and policy
12 implementation, while allowing for appropriate consultation with
13 faculty, administrators, and other stakeholders on matters related
14 to academic policy and institutional operations. The principle of
15 shared governance may not be construed to diminish the authority of
16 the governing board to make final decisions in the best interest of
17 the institution, students, and taxpayers.

18 (c) Administrators at institutions of higher education must
19 make decisions in a manner that promotes efficiency,
20 accountability, and responsiveness to state priorities, workforce
21 needs, and the institution's institutional mission. Faculty and
22 staff may provide recommendations on academic matters, but that
23 input is only advisory in nature, ensuring that governing boards
24 and institutional leadership retain clear and ultimate
25 decision-making authority. Shared governance structures may not be
26 used to obstruct, delay, or undermine necessary institutional
27 reforms or serve as a mechanism for advancing ideological or

1 political agendas.

2 Sec. 51.3541. RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT OR CHIEF
3 EXECUTIVE OFFICER. (a) In this section, "governing board" and
4 "institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by
5 Section 61.003.

6 (b) The president or chief executive officer of an
7 institution of higher education shall conduct annual evaluations
8 for individuals who hold the positions of vice president, provost,
9 dean, or a similar leadership position that oversees curriculum or
10 student affairs for the institution and report to the institution's
11 governing board regarding any decision to remove an individual from
12 a position described by this subsection.

13 SECTION 2.03. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 51.9431 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 51.9431. GRIEVANCE, HIRING, AND DISCIPLINE
16 DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY. (a) In this section, "governing
17 board," "institution of higher education," and "university system"
18 have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

19 (b) Only the president or chief executive officer or provost
20 of an institution of higher education, university system
21 administration, or the president's or chief executive officer's,
22 provost's, or administration's designee may be involved in
23 decision-making regarding review of a faculty grievance, including
24 under Section 51.960, or the faculty discipline process.

25 (c) A faculty member of an institution of higher education
26 who does not serve in an administrative leadership position may not
27 have final decision-making authority on the hiring of an individual

1 for any faculty or administrative leadership position at the
2 institution.

3 SECTION 2.04. (a) A faculty council or senate established
4 at a public institution of higher education before the effective
5 date of this Act is abolished on October 1, 2025, unless:

6 (1) the faculty council or senate was established in
7 the manner prescribed by Section 51.3522, Education Code, as added
8 by this Act; or

9 (2) the faculty council's or senate's continuation is
10 ratified by the institution's governing board before that date
11 based on a finding by the governing board that the faculty council
12 or senate meets the requirements of any policy adopted by the
13 governing board under that section.

14 (b) A faculty council or senate authorized but not yet
15 established at a public institution of higher education before the
16 effective date of this Act may be established only in the manner
17 prescribed by Section 51.3522, Education Code, as added by this
18 Act.

19 ARTICLE 3. COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
20 EDUCATION

21 SECTION 3.01. Section 61.031, Education Code, is reenacted
22 and amended to read as follows:

23 Sec. 61.031. OFFICE OF OMBUDSMAN [~~PUBLIC INFORMATION AND~~
24 ~~COMPLAINTS~~]. (a) In this section:

25 (1) "Office" means the Texas Higher Education
26 Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman established under this
27 section.

1 (2) "Ombudsman" means the individual serving as
2 ombudsman for the office.

3 (b) The board shall establish the Texas Higher Education
4 Coordinating Board Office of the Ombudsman to serve as an
5 intermediary between the legislature and the public and
6 institutions of higher education, including by answering questions
7 from the legislature and the public regarding the obligations of an
8 institution of higher education to students, faculty, employees,
9 and the public. The office shall perform the functions described by
10 this section and coordinate the board's compliance monitoring
11 functions under Section 61.035. The ombudsman shall serve as the
12 director of compliance and monitoring.

13 (c) The office shall receive and, if necessary, investigate
14 complaints submitted in accordance with Subsection (d) regarding an
15 institution of higher education's failure to comply with:

16 (1) Section 51.315;

17 (2) Section 51.3522;

18 (3) Section 51.3525;

19 (4) Section 51.3541;

20 (5) Section 51.9431; and

21 (6) Section 61.0522.

22 (d) A student or other individual who is a party in an
23 internal administrative proceeding at an institution of higher
24 education and who has reason to believe an institution of higher
25 education has failed to comply with a provision listed under
26 Subsection (c) may submit a notarized, written complaint to the
27 office that:

1 (1) provides the individual's name and contact
2 information;

3 (2) states the specific statute the individual
4 believes has been violated; and

5 (3) includes specific facts supporting the
6 allegation, including:

7 (A) relevant dates;

8 (B) identifying information regarding the
9 individuals involved; and

10 (C) any supporting evidence in the individual's
11 possession.

12 (d-1) An individual is not eligible to file a complaint
13 under Subsection (d) if the individual has filed with another state
14 agency, a federal agency, or a court, as applicable, one of the
15 following against the institution of higher education that is the
16 subject of the complaint:

17 (1) a lawsuit that makes the same or similar
18 allegations or arises out of the same factual situation; or

19 (2) an administrative complaint that makes the same or
20 similar allegations or arises out of the same factual situation.

21 (d-2) The office shall dismiss any complaint that the office
22 determines was filed in violation of Subsection (d-1).

23 (d-3) An individual who knowingly submits a false complaint
24 under Subsection (d) shall be held responsible for any costs
25 incurred by the office in conducting an investigation resulting
26 from the false complaint. The office may refuse to investigate a
27 future complaint filed by an individual who is found to have

1 knowingly filed a false complaint.

2 (e) The office [~~board~~] shall maintain a file on each written
3 complaint filed with the board. The file must include:

4 (1) the name of the individual [~~person~~] who filed the
5 complaint;

6 (2) the date the complaint is received by the board;

7 (3) the subject matter of the complaint;

8 (4) the name of each individual [~~person~~] contacted in
9 relation to the complaint;

10 (5) a summary of the results of the review or
11 investigation of the complaint; and

12 (6) an explanation of the reason the file was closed,
13 if the office [~~board~~] closed the file without taking action other
14 than to investigate the complaint.

15 (f) [~~(b)~~] The office [~~board~~] shall provide to the
16 individual [~~person~~] filing the complaint and to each individual
17 alleged to be involved in the failure to comply [~~person who is a~~
18 ~~subject of the complaint~~] a copy of the office's [~~board's~~] policies
19 and procedures relating to complaint investigation and resolution.

20 (g) The office shall notify the governing board of the
21 institution of higher education that is the subject of a complaint
22 of noncompliance that meets the requirements under Subsection (d)
23 not later than the fifth day after the date the office receives the
24 complaint. The governing board of the institution shall respond to
25 the complaint not later than the 175th day after the date the
26 governing board receives the notice unless the office has granted
27 an extension for good cause.

1 (h) In investigating a complaint of noncompliance regarding
2 an institution of higher education received under this section, the
3 office may request information from the institution. The governing
4 board of the institution shall respond in writing to the office's
5 written request for information not later than the 30th day after
6 the date the institution receives the request. This subsection may
7 not be construed to require an institution to provide privileged
8 information to the office.

9 (i) Based on findings related to an investigation under this
10 section, the office shall submit to the governing board of the
11 institution of higher education that is the subject of an
12 investigation under this section a report on the investigation that
13 includes the office's final determination regarding the
14 investigation and recommendations based on the conclusions of the
15 investigation.

16 (j) [~~(c)~~] The office [~~board~~], at least quarterly until
17 final disposition of the complaint, shall notify the individual
18 [~~person~~] filing the complaint and each individual alleged to be
19 involved in the failure to comply [~~person who is a subject of the~~
20 ~~complaint~~] of the status of the investigation unless the notice
21 would jeopardize an undercover investigation.

22 (k) If, not later than the 180th day after the date the
23 office submits the report under Subsection (i) to the governing
24 board of an institution of higher education that is the subject of
25 an investigation under this section, the office determines the
26 governing board has not resolved any noncompliance issues
27 identified in the report, the office shall submit to the ombudsman

1 and state auditor a report on the noncompliance that includes the
2 office's recommendations.

3 (l) On receipt of a report under Subsection (k), the
4 ombudsman may recommend to the legislature that the institution of
5 higher education not be allowed to spend money appropriated to the
6 institution for a state fiscal year until the institution's
7 governing board certifies compliance and the state auditor confirms
8 the institution's compliance.

9 (m) [~~(d)~~] Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
10 information that relates to a current, former, or prospective
11 applicant or student of an educational institution and that is
12 obtained, received, or held by the office [~~board~~] for the purpose of
13 providing assistance with access to postsecondary education is
14 confidential and excepted from disclosure under Chapter 552,
15 Government Code, and may only be released in conformity with the
16 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C.
17 Section 1232g). The office [~~board~~] may withhold information
18 prohibited from being disclosed under this subsection without
19 requesting a decision from the attorney general under Subchapter G,
20 Chapter 552, Government Code.

21 (n) The office may require cooperation from an institution
22 of higher education in an investigation under this section if the
23 office determines a complaint of noncompliance with a provision
24 listed under Subsection (c) is credible.

25 (o) The office shall annually submit a report to the
26 governor, the lieutenant governor, the state auditor, and the chair
27 of each standing legislative committee with jurisdiction over

1 higher education regarding:

2 (1) the number of complaints of noncompliance with a
3 provision listed under Subsection (c) received by the office;

4 (2) the number of investigations conducted and
5 substantiated by the office; and

6 (3) a summary of the results of investigations
7 described by Subdivision (2).

8 SECTION 3.02. Section 61.0512(c), Education Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 (c) The board shall review each degree or certificate
11 program offered by an institution of higher education at the time
12 the institution requests to implement a new program to ensure that
13 the program:

14 (1) meets a national need or is needed by the state and
15 the local community, and does not unnecessarily duplicate programs
16 offered by other institutions of higher education or private or
17 independent institutions of higher education;

18 (2) has adequate financing from legislative
19 appropriation, funds allocated by the board, or funds from other
20 sources;

21 (3) has necessary faculty and other resources to
22 ensure student success; and

23 (4) meets academic standards specified by law or
24 prescribed by board rule, including rules adopted by the board for
25 purposes of this section, or workforce standards established by the
26 Texas Workforce Investment Council.

27 SECTION 3.03. Section 61.084, Education Code, is amended by

1 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (i) to read as
2 follows:

3 (d) The content of the instruction at the training program
4 shall focus on the official role and duties of the members of
5 governing boards and shall provide training in the areas of
6 budgeting, policy development, ethics, and governance. Topics
7 covered by the training program must include:

8 (1) auditing procedures and recent audits of
9 institutions of higher education;

10 (2) the enabling legislation that creates
11 institutions of higher education;

12 (3) the role of the governing board at institutions of
13 higher education and the relationship between the governing board
14 and an institution's administration, faculty and staff, and
15 students, including limitations on the authority of the governing
16 board;

17 (4) the mission statements of institutions of higher
18 education;

19 (5) disciplinary and investigative authority of the
20 governing board;

21 (6) the requirements of the open meetings law, Chapter
22 551, Government Code, and the open records law, Chapter 552,
23 Government Code;

24 (7) the requirements of conflict of interest laws and
25 other laws relating to public officials;

26 (8) any applicable ethics policies adopted by
27 institutions of higher education or the Texas Ethics Commission;

1 (9) the requirements of laws relating to the
2 protection of student information under the Family Educational
3 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g) or any
4 other federal or state law relating to the privacy of student
5 information; ~~and~~

6 (10) an overview of the legislature, the General
7 Appropriations Act, and the state budget as those topics relate to
8 the responsibilities of the governing board;

9 (11) an emphasis on the commitment the members of the
10 governing board are making to:

11 (A) the institutions of higher education under
12 the board's control and management and, if applicable, the
13 university system;

14 (B) this state; and

15 (C) taxpayers of this state; and

16 (12) any other topic relating to higher education the
17 board considers important.

18 (i) On completion of a training program under this section,
19 a member of a governing board shall provide a sworn statement
20 affirming the member's understanding of the member's duties and
21 responsibilities.

22 ARTICLE 4. APPLICABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE

23 SECTION 4.01. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
24 academic year.

25 SECTION 4.02. This Act takes effect immediately if it
26 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
27 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.

1 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
2 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.