

By: White of Tyler

H.B. No. 2446

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report on online law schools and on the licensing of attorneys who obtain degrees through online or correspondence law schools or who become licensed through other nontraditional methods.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0908 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0908. STUDY AND REPORT ON ONLINE LAW SCHOOLS AND LICENSING OF ATTORNEYS. (a) The board, in collaboration with the Board of Law Examiners, shall conduct a study regarding the future of online law schools and the licensing of attorneys in this state who obtain law degrees through online or correspondence law schools or who become licensed in other states through apprenticeship programs.

(b) The study must include an evaluation of:

(1) online or correspondence law schools in other states;

(2) legal apprenticeship programs in other states;

(3) alternative methods of accreditation of law schools in other states; and

(4) alternative methods of licensing an attorney who:

(A) obtained a law degree through a law school unapproved by this state; or

1                    (B) was licensed in another state through a legal  
2 apprenticeship program.

3                    (c) The board shall include the results of the study and any  
4 recommendations for legislative or administrative action in a  
5 report submitted to the governor and the legislature before  
6 December 31, 2016.

7                    (d) This section expires September 1, 2017.

8                    SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Texas Higher  
9 Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules necessary to  
10 implement Section 61.0908, Education Code, as added by this Act.

11                    SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.