

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 2537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring public schools to provide information to certain students on the availability of financial assistance for postsecondary education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.007(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) During the first school year a student is enrolled in a high school or at the high school level in an open-enrollment charter school, and again during each year of a student's enrollment in high school or at the high school level, a school counselor shall provide information about postsecondary education to the student and the student's parent or guardian. The information must include information regarding:

(1) the importance of postsecondary education;

(2) the advantages of earning an endorsement and a performance acknowledgment and completing the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program under Section 28.025;

(3) the disadvantages of taking courses to prepare for a high school equivalency examination relative to the benefits of taking courses leading to a high school diploma;

(4) financial aid eligibility;

(5) instruction on how to apply for federal financial

1 aid;

2 (6) the center for financial aid information
3 established under Section 61.0776;

4 (7) the automatic admission of certain students to
5 general academic teaching institutions as provided by Section
6 51.803;

7 (8) the eligibility and academic performance
8 requirements for the TEXAS Grant as provided by Subchapter M,
9 Chapter 56; ~~and~~

10 (9) the availability of programs in the district under
11 which a student may earn college credit, including advanced
12 placement programs, dual credit programs, joint high school and
13 college credit programs, and international baccalaureate programs;
14 and

15 (10) the availability of education and training
16 vouchers and tuition and fee waivers to attend an institution of
17 higher education as provided by Section 54.366 for a student who is
18 or was previously in the conservatorship of the Department of
19 Family and Protective Services.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.