By: Raney H.B. No. 3367

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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- 2 relating to the establishment of state authorization reciprocity
- 3 agreements for postsecondary distance learning courses.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
- 5 SECTION 1. Section 61.401(2), Education Code, is amended to
- 6 read as follows:
- 7 (2) "Coordinating \underline{board} [\underline{Board}]" means the \underline{Texas}
- 8 <u>Higher Education</u> Coordinating Board[, Texas College and University
- 9 System].
- SECTION 2. Section 61.402, Education Code, is amended to
- 11 read as follows:
- 12 Sec. 61.402. REQUISITE APPROVAL. (a) Public institutions
- 13 of higher education established outside the boundaries of the State
- 14 of Texas must have the approval of the coordinating board before
- 15 offering a course or a grouping of courses within the State of
- 16 Texas.
- 17 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a public institution of
- 18 higher education may offer a course within this state without the
- 19 approval of the coordinating board if the course is provided in
- 20 accordance with a state authorization reciprocity agreement
- 21 <u>established under Section 61.406.</u>
- SECTION 3. Section 61.404, Education Code, is amended to
- 23 read as follows:
- Sec. 61.404. PROCEDURES IN CASE OF VIOLATION. If the

- 1 coordinating board obtains evidence that a public institution of
- 2 higher education established outside the boundaries of the State of
- 3 Texas is in apparent violation of this subchapter or of rules and
- 4 regulations adopted pursuant to this subchapter, the coordinating
- 5 board shall take appropriate action to terminate its operation
- 6 within the boundaries of the State of Texas regardless of whether
- 7 the institution participates in a state authorization reciprocity
- 8 agreement established under Section 61.406.
- 9 SECTION 4. Subchapter H, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
- 10 amended by adding Section 61.406 to read as follows:
- 11 Sec. 61.406. STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT.
- 12 (a) The coordinating board on behalf of the state may enter into a
- 13 state authorization reciprocity agreement among states, districts,
- 14 and territories regarding the delivery of postsecondary distance
- 15 education that establishes comparable standards for the provision
- 16 of distance education by degree-granting postsecondary educational
- 17 <u>institutions</u> in each of the states, districts, or territories
- 18 covered by the agreement to students of the other states,
- 19 districts, or territories covered under the agreement. The board
- 20 shall apply to an appropriate regional organization for that
- 21 <u>purpose.</u>
- (b) The coordinating board shall administer an agreement
- 23 <u>entered into under this section, including by establishing:</u>
- 24 <u>(1) an application and approval process for a</u>
- 25 <u>degree-granting postsecondary educational institution with its</u>
- 26 principal campus located in this state to participate under the
- 27 agreement; and

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- 1 (2) a dispute resolution procedure for complaints
- 2 regarding participating postsecondary educational institutions
- 3 <u>located in this state.</u>
- 4 SECTION 5. Not later than September 1, 2016, the Texas
- 5 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall develop and submit to the
- 6 Southern Regional Education Board or other appropriate regional
- 7 organization a plan and application for entering into a state
- 8 authorization reciprocity agreement.
- 9 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
- 10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
- 11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
- 12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 13 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.