

By: Nevárez, Alvarado, Villalba, et al.

H.B. No. 699

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring public institutions of higher education to establish a policy on campus sexual assault.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9363 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9363. CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a policy on campus sexual assault. The policy must:

(1) include:

(A) definitions of prohibited behavior;

(B) sanctions for violations; and

(C) the protocol for reporting and responding to reports of campus sexual assault; and

(2) be approved by the institution's governing board before final adoption by the institution.

(c) Each institution of higher education shall make the institution's campus sexual assault policy available to students, faculty, and staff members by:

(1) including the policy in the institution's student handbook and personnel handbook; and

(2) creating and maintaining a web page on the

1 institution's Internet website dedicated solely to the policy.

2 (d) Each institution of higher education shall require each
3 entering freshman or undergraduate transfer student to attend an
4 orientation on the institution's campus sexual assault policy
5 before or during the first semester or term in which the student is
6 enrolled at the institution. The institution shall establish the
7 format and content of the orientation.

8 (e) Each biennium, each institution of higher education
9 shall review the institution's campus sexual assault policy and,
10 with approval of the institution's governing board, revise the
11 policy as necessary.

12 SECTION 2. Section 51.9363, Education Code, as added by
13 this Act, applies beginning with the 2015 fall semester.

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