

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1776

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the exemption from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative for students who successfully complete certain college preparatory courses.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.3062(q-2), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(q-2) A student who successfully completes a college preparatory course under Section 28.014 is exempt from the requirements of this section with respect to the content area of the course. The exemption is effective for the two-year period following the date the student graduates from high school, and the student must enroll in the student's first college-level course in the exempted content area in the student's first year of enrollment in an institution of higher education. If the student earns less than a C in the student's first college-level course in the exempted content area, the institution shall advise the student of non-course-based options for becoming college ready, such as tutoring or accelerated learning. ~~[The commissioner of higher education by rule shall establish the period for which an exemption under this subsection is valid.]~~ The exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide the course, except that the commissioner by rule may determine the manner in

1 which the exemption may be applied to institutions of higher
2 education other than the partnering institution. The Texas Higher
3 Education Coordinating Board shall collect and analyze data
4 regarding the effectiveness of college preparatory courses as
5 measured by students' successful completion of the first
6 college-level course in the exempted content area. The board shall
7 report its findings to all partnering institutions of higher
8 education and independent school districts of each college
9 preparatory course evaluated, as well as the governor, lieutenant
10 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and the members
11 of the House and Senate Committees on Higher Education.

12 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies
13 beginning with the assessment of entering undergraduate students at
14 public institutions of higher education for the 2015 fall semester.
15 The assessment of an entering undergraduate student for an academic
16 term before that semester is covered by the law in effect before the
17 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for
18 that purpose.

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