

**H.B. No. 2504**

**AN ACT**

**relating to requiring a public institution of higher education to establish uniform standards for publishing cost of attendance information, to conduct student course evaluations of faculty, and to make certain information available on the Internet.**

- 1- 9        Sec. 51.974. INTERNET ACCESS TO COURSE INFORMATION. (a)  
1-10 Each institution of higher education, other than a medical and  
1-11 dental unit, as defined by Section 61.003, shall make available to  
1-12 the public on the institution's Internet website the following  
1-13 information for each undergraduate classroom course offered for  
1-14 credit by the institution:  
1-15            (1) a syllabus that:  
1-16                (A) satisfies any standards adopted by the  
1-17 institution;  
1-18                (B) provides a brief description of each major  
1-19 course requirement, including each major assignment and  
1-20 examination;  
1-21                (C) lists any required or recommended reading;  
1-22 and  
1-23                (D) provides a general description of the subject  
1-24 matter of each lecture or discussion;  
2- 1            (2) a curriculum vitae of each regular instructor that  
2- 2 lists the instructor's:  
2- 3                (A) postsecondary education;  
2- 4                (B) teaching experience; and  
2- 5                (C) significant professional publications; and  
2- 6            (3) if available, a departmental budget report of the  
2- 7 department under which the course is offered, from the most recent  
2- 8 semester or other academic term during which the institution  
2- 9 offered the course.  
2-10            (a-1) A curriculum vitae made available on the  
2-11 institution's Internet website under Subsection (a) may not include  
2-12 any personal information, including the instructor's home address  
2-13 or home telephone number.  
2-14            (b) The information required by Subsection (a) must be:  
2-15                (1) accessible from the institution's Internet website  
2-16 home page by use of not more than three links;  
2-17                (2) searchable by keywords and phrases; and  
2-18                (3) accessible to the public without requiring  
2-19 registration or use of a user name, a password, or another user  
2-20 identification.  
  
2-21            (c) The institution shall make the information required by

2-22 Subsection (a) available not later than the seventh day after the  
2-23 first day of classes for the semester or other academic term during  
2-24 which the course is offered. The institution shall continue to make  
2-25 the information available on the institution's Internet website  
2-26 until at least the second anniversary of the date on which the  
2-27 institution initially posted the information.

3- 1 (d) The institution shall update the information required  
3- 2 by Subsection (a) as soon as practicable after the information  
3- 3 changes.

3- 4 (e) The governing body of the institution shall designate an  
3- 5 administrator to be responsible for ensuring implementation of this  
3- 6 section. The administrator may assign duties under this section to  
3- 7 one or more administrative employees.

3- 8 (f) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, each  
3- 9 institution of higher education shall submit a written report  
3-10 regarding the institution's compliance with this section to the  
3-11 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
3-12 representatives, and the presiding officer of each legislative  
3-13 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher  
3-14 education.

3-15 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt  
3-16 rules necessary to administer this section.

3-17 (h) Institutions of higher education included in this  
3-18 section shall conduct end-of-course student evaluations of faculty  
3-19 and develop a plan to make evaluations available on the  
3-20 institution's website.

3-21 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 56, Education Code, is  
3-22 amended by adding Section 56.080 to read as follows:

3-23 Sec. 56.080. ONLINE LIST OF WORK-STUDY EMPLOYMENT  
3-24 OPPORTUNITIES. Each institution of higher education shall:

3-25 (1) establish and maintain an online list of  
3-26 work-study employment opportunities, sorted by department as  
3-27 appropriate, available to students on the institution's campus; and

4- 1 (2) ensure that the list is easily accessible to the  
4- 2 public through a clearly identifiable link that appears in a  
4- 3 prominent place on the financial aid page of the institution's  
4- 4 Internet website.

4- 5 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
4- 6 amended by adding Section 61.0777 to read as follows:

4- 7 Sec. 61.0777. UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR PUBLICATION OF COST OF  
4- 8 ATTENDANCE INFORMATION. (a) The board shall prescribe uniform

4- 9 standards intended to ensure that information regarding the cost of  
4-10 attendance at institutions of higher education is available to the  
4-11 public in a manner that is consumer-friendly and readily  
4-12 understandable to prospective students and their families. In  
4-13 developing the standards, the board shall examine common and

4-14 recommended practices regarding the publication of such  
4-15 information and shall solicit recommendations and comments from  
4-16 institutions of higher education and interested private or  
4-17 independent institutions of higher education.

4-18 (b) The uniform standards must:

4-19 (1) address all of the elements that constitute the  
4-20 total cost of attendance, including tuition and fees, room and  
4-21 board costs, book and supply costs, transportation costs, and other  
4-22 personal expenses; and

4-23 (2) prescribe model language to be used to describe  
4-24 each element of the cost of attendance.

4-25 (c) Each institution of higher education that offers an  
4-26 undergraduate degree or certificate program shall:

4-27 (1) prominently display on the institution's Internet  
5- 1 website in accordance with the uniform standards prescribed under  
5- 2 this section information regarding the cost of attendance at the  
5- 3 institution by a full-time entering first-year student; and

5- 4 (2) conform to the uniform standards in any electronic  
5- 5 or printed materials intended to provide to prospective  
5- 6 undergraduate students information regarding the cost of  
5- 7 attendance at the institution.

5- 8 (d) Each institution of higher education shall consider the  
5- 9 uniform standards prescribed under this section when providing  
5-10 information to the public or to prospective students regarding the  
5-11 cost of attendance at the institution by nonresident students,  
5-12 graduate students, or students enrolled in professional programs.

5-13 (e) The board shall prescribe requirements for an  
5-14 institution of higher education to provide on the institution's  
5-15 Internet website consumer-friendly and readily understandable  
5-16 information regarding student financial aid opportunities. The  
5-17 required information must be provided in connection with the  
5-18 information displayed under Subsection (c)(1) and must include a  
5-19 link to the primary federal student financial aid Internet website  
5-20 intended to assist persons applying for student financial aid.

5-21 (f) The board shall provide on the board's Internet website  
5-22 a program or similar tool that will compute for a person accessing  
5-23 the website the estimated net cost of attendance for a full-time  
5-24 entering first-year student attending an institution of higher  
5-25 education. The board shall require each institution to provide the  
5-26 board with the information the board requires to administer this  
5-27 subsection.

6- 1 (g) The board shall prescribe the initial standards and  
6- 2 requirements under this section not later than January 1, 2010.  
6- 3 Institutions of higher education shall comply with the standards  
6- 4 and requirements not later than April 1, 2010. This subsection  
6- 5 expires January 1, 2011.