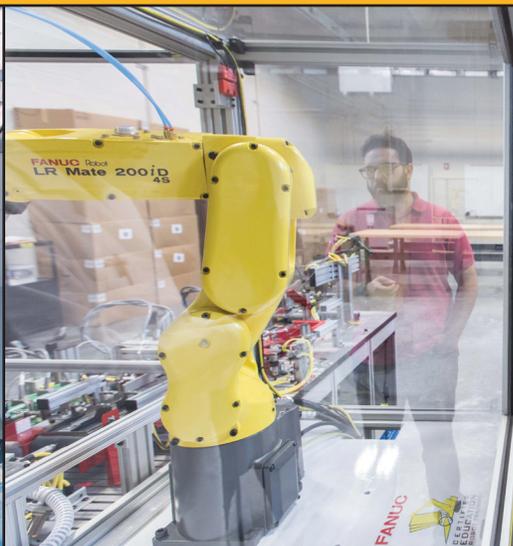




# FINAL REPORT

## 85<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION

2017





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## INTRODUCTION

This final report provides a synopsis of key legislation that passed during the Texas 85th regular legislative session. The report is predominantly relevant to community colleges. Its purpose is to provide an overview of the session's results. It also positions Houston Community College (HCC) to comply with new state laws.

As the reader considers this final report, general observations include:

- The Legislature approved a budget of \$216.8 billion (all funds);
- HCC's base formula funding decreased by 2.7% from \$139,990,854 in 2016-2017 to 136,217,886 in 2018-2019;
- No new exceptional items introduced in the session received funding;
- New law authorizes expansion of community college baccalaureate degrees in nursing and applied sciences without limiting either the 2+2 or 2<sup>2</sup> models;
- HCC's effort to facilitate the establishment of statewide goals for dual credit programs to bridge between secondary and postsecondary education passed;
- HCC's effort to facilitate best practices in the transfer of course credit between public institutions and higher education passed; and
- State law now prohibits a governing body of a local entity to adopt a policy that prohibits the enforcement of state or federal immigration laws.

The 85th regular legislative session adjourned *sine die* May 31, 2017. During the regular session, HCC tracked 573 bills of which 104—deemed high priority to HCC—became law. This report provides an overview of those bills, the bills' purpose, and as appropriate the effective date of implementation to ensure that HCC is aware of and complies with the law. This is HCC's final report of the 85th regular legislative session.

## STATE OF TEXAS APPROPRIATIONS

The 2018-2019 appropriation for the State of Texas includes:

- \$216.8 billion from all fund sources in SB1, an increase of \$7.4 billion from the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act.
- \$106.7 billion in general revenue funding, an increase of \$100 million from the 2016-2017 General Appropriations Act.
- The appropriation for community colleges, increased by \$16 million over the prior biennium to \$1.795 billion.
- The governor exercised his [line-item veto](#) authority and reduced the budget by \$120 million.

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES APPROPRIATIONS

The 2018-2019 general revenue appropriation for all community colleges includes:

- \$1.795 billion (as compared to \$1.779 billion in the prior biennium) total funding.
- \$180 million student success funding.
- \$1.5 billion contact hour funding.
- \$68 million core operations funding (\$1.3 million to each community college).

## HCC SPECIFIC APPROPRIATIONS

The HCC specific appropriation is as follows:

- Core Operations Funding: \$ 1,360,812
- Student Success Funding: \$ 13,483,924
- Contact Hour Funding: \$121,373,150

Total 2018-2019 base funding: **\$136,217,886**

Above total is **2.7 percent less than** the prior biennium appropriation.

Prior biennium (2016-2017) appropriation: **\$139,990,854**

## STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND GRANTS

For the 2018- 2019 biennium:

- Texas Grants funding is \$786.5 million.
- B-On-Time (Public) funding is \$25.4 million.
- Texas Education Opportunity Grant Program (JUCO) funding is \$88.5 million.
- Advise Texas College Advising Corps funding is \$4 million.
- Developmental Education Program funding is \$2.65 million

## HCC EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS REQUESTS

HCC requested \$13.5 million in exceptional items funding via its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for projects relating to Veterans Academy, Port Academy, Cased-Managed Advising, Four-Year On-Site Completion, and New Campus Expansion for the 2018-2019 biennium. No new items introduced in the 85th legislative session received exceptional items funding.

## HCC LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

### *FINANCIAL AID AND WORKFORCE*

HCC helped successfully advance financial aid and workforce legislation (e.g., [HB 846](#), [SB 887](#), and [SB 2082](#)) to make higher education more affordable, accessible, and help meet existing and future workforce needs. These and other relevant bills strategically align with HCC's student success and organizational stewardship pillars.

### *TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION*

HCC helped successfully advance transfer and articulation legislation (e.g., [SB 802](#)). The objective was to secure curriculum compatibility, maximize opportunity for transfer, and create easy pathways to student success, which includes advancing the 60x30TX Plan goals. This legislation also strategically aligns with HCC's student success, performance excellence, and innovation pillars.

### *DUAL CREDIT*

HCC helped successfully advance dual credit legislation (e.g., [HB 1638](#)) to increase the completion pipeline and positively contribute to the Texas workforce through a structured state-wide dual credit model. [SB 802](#) further enhances this objective. The legislation strategically aligns with HCC's student success, performance excellence, and innovation pillars.

## *MEASURING AND FUNDING SUCCESS*

HCC successfully worked to obtain funding resources to not only graduate students, but efficiently align with the 60x30TX Plan. In the end, the funding for community colleges increased by \$16 million over the prior biennium to \$1.795 billion. This result is in strategic alignment with HCC's organizational stewardship and innovation pillars.

## **BACCALAUREATE EXPANSION**

**SB 2118** (by Seliger) allows baccalaureate degree programs in the fields of nursing and applied science upon meeting defined criterion. The new law does not limit HCC's models of 2<sup>2</sup> and 2+2 for achieving baccalaureate degrees, while allowing for future development of institutional baccalaureate offering as appropriate. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) approval of community college offerings of baccalaureate degrees is required.

## **OTHER RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

### *APPROPRIATIONS/FISCAL MATTERS*

**HB 2** (by Zerwas/Nelson)

*Relating to making supplemental appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.*

This legislation provides for the following appropriations-related provisions: 1) General Revenue-related appropriations decrease by \$80,467,671 in fiscal year 2017; 2) General Revenue-related appropriations increase by \$1,081,266,846 in fiscal year 2017; 3) General Revenue-dedicated appropriations decrease by \$32,209,355 in fiscal year 2017; and 4) Federal funds appropriations increase by \$1,599,849,506 in fiscal year 2017. Subject to the governor's hiring freeze directive, issued January 31, 2017, the legislation also requires executive branch state agencies and institutions of higher education to lapse all savings derived from the directive.

**Effective Date:** June 12, 2017.

## *APPROPRIATIONS/FISCAL MATTERS (cont'd)*

### **HB 1930** (Frullo/Perry)

*Relating to financial accounting and reporting requirements for this state and political subdivisions of this state.*

This legislation repeals Government Code, Chapter 2266 which allows for a statutory modified accrual basis of accounting by the State and political subdivisions. This legislation also requires state and local governments to comply with Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards for post-employment benefits (OPEB) other than pension benefits.

**Effective Date:** June 15, 2017.

### **SB 1** (by Nelson)

*General appropriations bill – relating to appropriations for the 2018-2019 biennium.*

The legislation identifies state appropriations to all state agencies and other entities, including higher education institutions, for the 2018-2019 biennium. The governor exercised his [line-item veto](#) authority and reduced the budget by \$120 million.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017

### **SB 295** (Hinojosa/Flynn)

*Relating to the issuance of certain capital appreciation bonds by political subdivisions.*

This legislation extends the exemption from certain restrictions on certain refunding bonds and capital appreciation bonds issued by school districts and local governmental entities, to correct a drafting error in legislation passed in 2015.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 622** (by Burton/Lozano)

*Relating to itemizing certain public notice expenditures in certain political subdivision budgets.*

The legislation amends existing law to require that a political subdivision itemize expenditures for notices required by law and include a line item in their budgets indicating these expenses. The “itemization of certain public notice expenditures required in certain political subdivision budgets” provision specifically does not apply to a junior college district.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

## ELECTIONS

### [HB 1661](#) (Phelan et al./ Nichols)

*Relating to a withdrawal of a candidate.*

This legislation amends the Election Code to allow the authority preparing the ballots to omit the name of a candidate who withdraws if the withdrawal request was filed before the ballots were printed.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 2157](#) (Miller/Bettencourt)

*Relating to the requirements for a candidate's application or petition for a place on the ballot.*

This legislation amends existing law to require a candidate's signed and sworn application for a place on the ballot to be signed and sworn to before a notary public and to require that the affidavit of the circulator of a petition for a place on the ballot included with each part of the petition be executed before a notary public.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 2410](#) (Israel et al./Zaffirini)

*Relating to the authority to conduct a runoff primary election by mail in certain counties.*

This legislation would have allowed certain counties to conduct mail-in runoffs for certain primary elections. The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

**Vetoed:** June 15, 2017.

### [SB 957](#) (Campbell et al./Laubenberg et al.)

*Relating to the content and numbering of propositions on the ballot.*

This legislation changes existing law to require that each political subdivision's proposition on a ballot on which more than one measure is to be voted on be assigned a unique number or letter on the ballot. This legislation also requires a proposed constitutional amendment to be placed on the ballot before all other propositions.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2017.

## FINANCIAL AID & WORKFORCE

### [HB 108](#) (Alvarado et al./Taylor, Larry)

*Relating to the use of the skills development fund to facilitate the relocation to or expansion in this state of employers offering complex or high-skilled employment opportunities.*

This legislation authorizes the Texas Workforce Commission to use the skills development fund to provide an intensive and rapid response to employers expanding in or relocating their operations to Texas, by among other things awarding grants to a public junior college or public technical institute providing workforce training and related support services to employers who commit to establishing a place of business in Texas.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 136](#) (by Bell/Uresti)

*Relating to inclusion of career and technology education in the mission of public education.*

Observing that more Texas jobs require knowledge of science, math, engineering and technology, the legislation makes two changes to the Texas Education Administration's (TEA) mission: (1) add post-secondary readiness in work force training, employment and enrollment in higher education, and (2) ensure that TEA, the State Board of Education, and the commissioner of education assist school districts in providing CTE and workforce opportunities to students.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2017.

### [HB 493](#) (by Perez/Campbell)

*Relating to reporting requirements for the College Credit for Heroes program.*

Requires that the Texas Workforce Commission, in consultation with the THECB, report on how many academic or workforce credit hours are awarded each year. Also, requires that the report disaggregate credit hours awarded by subject matter. The THECB would report the number of transfer credit hours awarded with the intent of improving the program via these metrics for the benefit of veterans.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2018.

## *FINANCIAL AID & WORKFORCE (cont'd)*

### **HB 846** (by Raney/Menendez)

*Relating to the implementation of student financial assistance programs for veterans and their families.*

The bill seeks to remove barriers that certain students experience when attempting to use financial assistance for veterans and their families. It prohibits institutions of higher education from imposing additional fees on military veterans or family members for a program not otherwise required for the purpose of the program. It also allows a military veteran or family member to defer tuition and fees, if the receipt of military related financial assistance was delayed by less than 60 days.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **HB 2431** (by Deshotel/Creighton)

*Relating to the participation of public state colleges in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program.*

The bill provides participation of public state colleges in the JET Program after determining that recently enacted changes were not sufficiently inclusive.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2017.

### **HB 2537** (by Guerra/West)

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

The bill operates to increase awareness, particularly for students who are in the conservatorship of the Department of Family Protective Services, about the availability of education and training vouchers and tuition and fee waivers to attend public institutions of higher education. It requires inclusion of information about postsecondary education that public school counselors must provide to certain students at certain times.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

## FINANCIAL AID & WORKFORCE (cont'd)

### [HB 2729](#) (by Lucio/Miles)

*Relating to an inventory of credentials and certificates that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program.*

The legislation seeks to ensure that public high school students in career and technology education programs have access to a coherent inventory of industry recognized credentials and certificates that are aligned to state and regional workforce needs and serve as an entry point to middle and high-wage jobs.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

### [HB 2790](#) (by White, et al./Miles)

*Relating to funding for certain apprenticeship training programs.*

This legislation amends existing law to authorize an apprenticeship training program in the apprenticeship system of adult career and technology education to be conducted by an independent apprenticeship committee as an alternative to being sponsored by a public school district or a state postsecondary institution under a contract between the district or institution and an apprenticeship committee.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [SB 719](#) (by Zaffirini/Raney)

*Relating to requiring the THECB to collect, study, and report certain data regarding workforce education programs.*

The bill requires the THECB to collect and maintain data relating to participation of persons with intellectual and development disabilities enrolled in a workforce education program. This comprises a workforce continuing education program that is eligible for state-appropriated formula funding, including retention and graduation data, and professional licensing.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## *FINANCIAL AID & WORKFORCE (cont'd)*

### **SB 887** (by Seliger/Clardy)

*Relating to a requirement that certain participating institutions under the student loan program administered by the THECB provide loan debt information to certain students.*

The legislation seeks to mitigate the growth of student debt in Texas by giving students the ability to make more informed choices about student loans and to better understand the short-term and long-term consequences of those choices. It also aligns with the state goal of the THECB – 60x30TX plan.

**Effective Date:** May 27, 2017.

### **SB 1119** (Zaffirini/Howard et al.)

*Relating to an annual report on employment positions provided through the Texas college work-study program.*

This legislation requires the THECB to submit an annual report on the Texas College Work Study Program to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over higher education, and specifies the type of information that would have to be included in the report, including demographic and other data.

**Effective Date:** June 15, 2017.

### **SB 2082** (by Taylor/Clardy)

*Relating to the work-study student mentorship program administered by the THECB.*

The legislation expands the Work-Study Student Mentorship program administered by the THECB. It allows a college student employed by the THECB in the program to work to support student interventions at eligible institutions focused on increasing completion of degrees or certificates.

**Effective Date:** May 26, 2017.

## GOVERNING BOARD

### [HB 501](#) (by Capriglione et al./Taylor, Van)

*Relating to personal financial statements filed by public officers and candidates, including the disclosure of certain contracts, agreements, services, and compensation in and the amendment of those statements.*

This legislation amends current law relating to personal financial statements filed by public officers and candidates, including the disclosure of certain contracts, agreements, services, and compensation in and the amendment of those statements. The legislation also clarifies that it applies only to financial statements filed on or after January 8, 2019.

**Effective Date:** January 8, 2019.

### [HB 961](#) (by Rodriguez/Seliger)

*Relating to the election of junior college district trustees.*

The bill would have allowed a board of trustees to provide a resolution, no later than the 180th day before the date of an election, that a candidate must receive a plurality vote for a position on a junior college board of trustees. The intent of the bill was to reduce cost involved in certain elections, such as run-off elections.

**Effective Date:** Vetoed by the Governor.

### [HB 2194](#) (by King/Estes)

*Relating to the board of trustees of the Weatherford Junior College District.*

The legislation modifies the membership of the Weatherford Junior College district's board of trustees to include one representative from each campus that imposed a branch campus maintenance tax on September 1, 2017.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 3047](#) (by Dale/Schwertner)

*Relating to the meeting of a governmental body held by video conference call.*

This legislation amends current law relating to the meeting of a governmental body held by videoconference call to clarify that that if a connection is lost to a remotely participating member of a meeting, a quorum of that body may continue to meet.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## GOVERNING BOARD (*cont'd*)

### [HB 4276](#) (by VanDeaver/Hughes)

*Relating to the Paris Junior College District.*

The legislation authorizes the Paris Junior College (PJC) governing board to reduce the number of its trustees from nine to seven to accommodate a voter approved entry of certain areas into the PJC taxing district. It also allows precinct and at-large elections to ensure effective and efficient board representation of all tax payers, including those newly incorporated into the taxing district.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [SB 286](#) (by Nichols/Gooden)

*Relating to the governing board of the Trinity Valley Community College District.*

By order or resolution, the legislation authorizes the governing board of Trinity Valley Community College District to increase the number of its governing board members to 11.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [SB 500](#) (Taylor, Van/Geren et al.)

*Relating to the effect of certain felony convictions of public elected officers.*

This legislation makes certain elected officials ineligible to receive a service retirement annuity under certain public retirement systems if the official is convicted of a qualifying felony committed while in office and arising directly from the official duties of that elected office.

**Effective Date:** June 6, 2017.

### [SB 564](#) (by Campbell/Capriglione)

*Relating to the applicability of open meetings requirements to certain meetings of a governing body relating to information technology security practices.*

This legislation allows governmental entities subject to state open meetings requirements to discuss in closed session meetings deliberate security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; certain network security information, or the deployment; or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices. This legislation also extends existing law regarding the confidentiality of certain network security information to apply to all governmental entities.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## GOVERNING BOARD (cont'd)

### [SB 1440](#) (Campbell/Larson)

*Relating to the attendance by a quorum of a governmental body at certain candidate events under the open meetings law.*

This legislation adds an exemption to the definition of “meeting” under the open meetings law to provide that “meeting” does not include attendance by a quorum of a governmental body at certain candidate events.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### [HB 88](#) (by Martinez et al./Hinojosa)

*Relating to an unlawful employment practice by an employer whose leave policy does not permit an employee to use leave to care for the employee’s foster child.*

This legislation establishes that an employer commits an unlawful employment practice by administering leave policies that do not permit employees to use leave to care for the employee’s foster child in the same manner as an employee could use leave to care for a biological or adopted child.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 451](#) (by Moody et al./Creighton)

*Relating to waiver of immunity in certain employment discrimination actions in connection with a workers’ compensation claim.*

This legislation amends existing law to authorize a first responder who alleges employment discrimination by a state or local governmental entity that employs the first responder based on the responder’s pursuit of a workers’ compensation claim to sue the governmental entity for relief, and waives and abolishes sovereign or governmental immunity from suit. The legislation also establishes that its provisions do not affect the immunity of a person who has official or individual immunity from a claim for damages.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## *HUMAN RESOURCES (cont'd)*

### **HB 1983** (Wray et al./Whitmire)

*Relating to the eligibility of a first responder for workers' compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder.*

This legislation amends existing law relating to workers' compensation benefits by adding post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a compensable injury for peace officers and firefighters if the PTSD is caused by events occurring in the course and scope of employment, and the preponderance of evidence indicates a work event was a substantial contributing factor.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **HB 2053** (by Oliveira/Creighton)

*Relating to the enforcement of workers' compensation compliance and practice requirements.*

This legislation expands the role of the Texas Department of Insurance (TX DOI) in investigating workers' compensation insurance fraud by expanding the purposes for which the division of workers' compensation of the TX DOI is required to maintain a fraud investigation unit; authorizes the commissioner of workers' compensation to issue subpoenas relevant to investigations of a criminal offenses under the Texas Workers' Compensation Act and increases the penalties.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

### **HB 2056** (by Oliveira/Zaffirini)

*Relating to access by the division of workers' compensation to certain designated doctor contracts under the workers' compensation system.*

This legislation requires any doctor with whom the division of workers' compensation of the Department of Insurance has contracted to provide an independent medical opinion at the request of an injured employee or insurance carrier, to provide the division – upon request -- with a copy of any contract between the doctor and an authorized agent providing services related to the doctor's duties, including scheduling, billing, and organizing medical records.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## ***HUMAN RESOURCES (cont'd)***

### **HB 2061** (by Oliveira/Hancock)

*Relating to service and filing requirements for a party seeking judicial review in certain workers' compensation cases.*

The legislation clarifies that a party seeking judicial review of the decision of an appeals panel of the division of workers' compensation at the Texas Department of Insurance shall provide the division with a copy of the party's petition that has been filed with district court. It also clarifies that a party's duty to file any proposed judgment or settlement with the division includes all proposed judgments and settlements to be entered after summary proceedings, etc.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 877** (by Hancock/Oliveira)

*Relating to liability of certain political subdivisions in certain workers' compensation actions.*

This legislation clarifies that political subdivisions which subrogate and recover workers' compensation benefit payments made to an injured employee/beneficiary, cannot assert sovereign immunity to shield themselves from the payment of attorney fees which would otherwise be required of a self-insuring employer under Texas law that successfully recovers in claims against a third-party brought on behalf of the injured employee/beneficiary.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 968** (by Watson/Alvarado)

*Relating to a sexual assault policy at certain public and private institutions of higher education and to requiring those institutions to provide students and employees an option to electronically report certain offenses to the institution.*

The legislation requires a private or independent institution of higher education to provide options for enrolled students or employees to electronically report to the institution an allegation of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking committed against or witnessed by the student/employee, regardless of where the alleged offense occurred.

**Effective Date:** June 12, 2017.

## *HUMAN RESOURCES (cont'd)*

### **SB 969** (by Watson/Leach)

*Relating to requiring certain public and private institutions of higher education to provide amnesty to students who report certain incidents, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.*

The legislation prohibits a private or independent institution of higher education from taking disciplinary action against a student enrolled at the institution for a violation of its policies on student conduct, if the student in good faith reports being a victim of, or witness to, an incident of sexual assault and the violation was in relation to the incident.

**Effective Date:** June 12, 2017.

### **SB 1954** (by Hughes/Lozano)

*Relating to participation in and contributions to the optional retirement program for certain employees of institutions of higher education.*

The legislation seeks to ensure that employees of higher education institutions receive adequate information about the deadline by which they must choose between participation in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas or the Optional Retirement Program.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES*

### **HB 537** (by Hinojosa/Lozano)

*Relating to requiring the disclosure of special course fees at public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation requires institutions of higher education to include in their online course catalog the description and amount of any special course fee, including an online access fee or lab fee, to be charged for each course. A published, hard-copy catalog could include fee information from the most recent academic year.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (cont'd)*

### **HB 655** (by Clardy/Zaffirini)

*Relating to the filing of a degree plan by students at public junior colleges.*

The bill directs community college students to select a pathway through a major or meta-major not later than after having completed 30 semester credit hours. The objective is to encourage students to select an educational pathway early and incentivize colleges and universities to work more collaboratively to improve credit mobility in alignment with the 60x30 plan goal – having 60 percent of 25 to 34 year olds have a certificate or degree by 2030.

**Effective Date:** May 29, 2017.

### **HB 928** (by White/Uresti)

*Relating to assisting certain children who are in foster care in the process of applying to institutions of higher education.*

The legislation ensures that foster youth are informed of how to best navigate programs that help transition them to college. It directs existing community resource groups to coordinate with school districts to identify foster youth eligible for existing tuition and fee waivers. Moreover, it directs the Department of Family and Protective Services to coordinate with school districts to help foster youth with completing applications, preparing and paying for college and entrance exams, etc.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2017.

### **HB 1553** (by Lazano/Hinojosa)

*Relating to permitting a school district that has failed to satisfy performance standards to partner with an institution of higher education to improve district performance.*

The bill authorizes a district that fails to satisfy the accreditation criteria, the academic performance standards, or any financial accountability standard, as determined by commissioner rule, to enter into a memorandum of understanding with an institution of higher education. The desire in part is to position the IHE to help improve the district's performance that may result in some cost to the school district.

**Effective Date:** June 15, 2017.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (cont'd)*

### **HB 1638** (by Guillen/West)

*Relating to statewide goals for dual credit programs provided by school districts.*

The legislation requires colleges and the THECB to develop statewide goals for dual credit programs to bridge between secondary and postsecondary education. Plans must address enrollment in and acceleration through postsecondary education, performance in college-level coursework, development of a course equivalency crosswalk identifying the number of credits that may be earned for each course completed through the programs, and document student support and fees for transportation, textbook and related items.

**Effective Date:** May 23, 2017.

### **HB 2223** (by Giddings/Zaffirini)

*Relating to developmental coursework offered by public institutions of higher education under the Texas Success Initiative.*

The legislation requires institutions of higher education to adopt a co-requisite model for developmental education, with the ultimate goal of 75 percent of students enrolled in developmental education complying with the requirements of the bill. The requirements would not apply to adult basic education or basic academic skills education.

**Effective Date:** June 15, 2017.

### **HB 2738** (by Hernandez/Taylor)

*Relating to the hours of instruction provided in barbering and cosmetology schools.*

The legislation seeks to ensure consistency across the industry by providing for standards for determining the conversion between clock and credit. This results after interested parties expressed confusion regarding the matter in which hours of instruction are credited for certain barbering and cosmetology programs.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (cont'd)*

### **HB 2739** (by Hernandez/Zaffirini)

*Relating to the regulation of barber schools, private beauty culture schools, and other facilities used to teach or perform the practice of barbering or cosmetology.*

Identifying certain regulations and licensing requirements deemed burdensome, the bill seeks to provide greater flexibility and lower operational costs for barbering and cosmetology programs.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **HB 2937** (by Canales/Lucio)

*Relating to the establishment of a pilot program under which a licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to public high school students.*

The legislation authorizes the THECB to develop and implement a medical dual credit program, through which a hospital meeting certain qualification (selected by THECB) could offer such courses to high school students under a partnership with a school district or institution of higher education at no cost to students.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

### **HB 2994** (by Ashby/Hinojosa)

*Relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior colleges.*

The legislation generally requires contact hours for workforce continuing education courses at public junior colleges to be counted when determining state appropriations. This shall occur regardless of whether such hours were taken by a student who was not an adult or whether the college waived all or part of the tuition or fees for the course under certain conditions.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (cont'd)*

### **SB 22** (by Taylor/Lucio)

*Relating to the establishment of a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program and to the repeal of the tech-prep program.*

The legislation amends existing law relating to the establishment of the P-TECH program and repeals the Tech-Prep program. The P-TECH program is built upon partnerships between school districts/charters, higher education institutions, and business/industry, with P-TECH students receiving focused education and skill that seek to prepare them for high demand jobs.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 128** (by Garcia/Thompson)

*Relating to the inclusion of education and training regarding human trafficking in the curriculum of commercial driver's license training programs offered by public junior colleges and career schools and colleges and to certain requirements for commercial driver's licenses.*

The legislation requires inclusion of education and training regarding human trafficking in the curriculum of commercial driver's license training programs offered by public junior colleges and career schools and colleges, and to certain requirements for commercial driver's licenses.

**Effective Date:** May 18, 2017.

### **SB 463** (by Seliger et al./Huberty et al.)

*Relating to the use of individual graduation committees to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.*

This legislation extends to September 1, 2019 the expiration dates associated with the use of individual graduation committees (IGC) and the reporting requirements for students graduating based on IGC review process. It requires the TEA Commissioner to establish a procedure by rule to determine whether certain students who entered the ninth grade before school year 2011-12 may qualify to graduate and receive a diploma and specifies certain requirements for the Commissioner's rules. It also prohibits school districts from administering certain exit-level assessment instruments; and requires the THECB and TEA to collect longitudinal data related to the post-graduation of each student awarded a diploma based on the determination of an IGC and report certain related information to the legislature by December 1 of each even-numbered year.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017, except that Section 4 takes effect September 1, 2018 and Section 11 takes effect September 1, 2019.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (cont'd)*

### **SB 634** (by Estes/Burton)

*Relating to reporting requirements for certain skills development fund workforce training program providers.*

The legislation requires that an entity not in compliance with statutory reporting requirements surrounding Skills Development Funds received for workforce training shall return unexpended grant funds and be subject to ineligibility for subsequent funds until the required report is submitted.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 802** (Seliger/Howard)

*Relating to a study and report regarding best practices in the transfer of course credit between public institutions of higher education.*

This legislation requires the THEBC to conduct a study to identify best practices in ensuring that courses transferred to an institution of higher education for course credit, including courses offered for dual credit, apply toward a degree program at the institution. The study must evaluate existing articulation agreements that govern the transfer of course credit between institutions of higher education, and identify those institutions of higher education that are implementing the best practices. The Board shall report the results of its study to the legislature by November 1, 2018.

**Effective Date:** May 29, 2017.

### **SB 825** (by Taylor/Huberty)

*Relating to school district discretion to administer college preparation assessment instruments to public school students at state cost.*

The legislation changes an existing statutory mandate by permissively affording school districts the option to offer "College Preparation Assessments" if the state restores funding to the program. It aligns with HB 5 changes enacted in 2013 to address parents' over-testing concerns by making the program subject to local determination.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (cont'd)*

### **SB 1091** (by Seliger/Howard)

*Relating to limitations on courses that may be offered for dual credit by school districts and public institutions of higher education.*

The legislation prohibits institutions of higher education from offering any course outside of the core curriculum, career and technical education, or foreign language as a dual credit course. The objective is to ensure that such courses transfer to a general academic institution and apply towards a student's degree.

**Effective Date:** June 12, 2017.

### **SB 1731** (Birdwell/Meyer)

*Relating to the repeal of laws governing certain state entities, including the functions of those entities, and to certain duties, responsibilities, and functions of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the abolishment of certain of those entities.*

As originally drafted, this legislation would have withdrawn Texas as a member of the Southern Regional Education Compact. The bill was amended during the legislative process, and no longer affects the participation of Texas in the SREC.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 1782** (by West/Clardy)

*Relating to the elimination of certain formula funding and dropped course restrictions for returning adult students at public institutions of higher education and to the tuition rate that may be charged to those students for certain excessive undergraduate hours.*

The legislation requires the THECB, among other things, to adopt rules requiring institutions of higher education to allow students who were re-enrolling after a break of at least 24 months, and who had completed at least 50 semester hours before that break, to drop one additional course beyond the current limit in state law or a smaller limit set by an institution's policy.

**Effective Date:** June 15, 2017.

## *INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES (cont'd)*

### **SB 1813** (by Buckingham/Turner)

*Relating to the adoption of common admission application forms for institutions of higher education.*

The legislation makes provision to include representatives of private and independent institutions of higher education among the members of the advisory committee with whose assistance the THECB adopts specified common admission application forms. It affords the same inclusion to high school counselors.

**Effective Date:** June 15, 2017.

### **SB 1932** (by West/Lucio)

*Relating to eligibility requirements for registration as an interior designer.*

The legislation provides that an application for admission to the registration examination must be accompanied by evidence to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners that the "applicant meets the educational and professional experience requirements for the examination." No longer is the standard "has graduated from an interior design program recognized/approved by the board; and has professional experience in the field."

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 2118** (by Seliger/Davis)

*Relating to authorization by the THECB for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.*

The legislation authorizes the THECB to expand the opportunity for certain community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees in the fields of applied science, applied technology, and nursing when there is a demonstrated workforce need. It also authorizes such degrees in early childhood development. Community colleges must meet defined standards and have sufficient resources to offer such degrees.

**Effective Date:** June 12, 2017.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### [HB 8](#) (by Capriglione et al./Nelson)

*Relating to cybersecurity for state agency information resources.*

This legislation defines and establishes The Texas Cybersecurity Act, omnibus legislation designed to enhance and better equip state governmental cybersecurity programs. It also creates certain cybersecurity-related requirements for state agencies; creates a state cybersecurity council that includes representatives of institutions of higher education; requires institutions of higher education including junior colleges to adopt and implement a policy for Internet website and mobile application security procedures consistent with requirements set out in the legislation; and requires the production of certain studies and reports.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 9](#) (by Capriglione et al./Taylor, Van)

*Relating to cybercrime; creating criminal offenses.*

This legislation amends existing law relating to computer crimes to create the offenses of electronic access interference, electronic data tampering, and unlawful decryption. The bill also provides criminal penalties for these offenses and certain defenses to prosecution.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 2087](#) (by VanDeaver et al./Taylor, Larry)

*Relating to restricting the use of covered information, including student personally identifiable information, by an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application for a school purpose.*

This legislation establishes rules defining when an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application for a school purpose, is allowed to use and is prohibited from using certain student data, as well as guidelines for how they must protect and delete collected student data. It prohibits the sale of certain student data and its use for purposes of targeted advertising. It generally seeks to ensure the proper protection and deletion of student data.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## LEGAL

### [HB 53](#) (by Romero, Jr. et al./Huffman)

*Relating to certain limitations on settlement agreements with a governmental unit.*

This legislation prohibits certain governmental units – including junior college districts – from entering into certain settlement agreements equal to or more than \$30,000, if a condition of the settlement requires a party seeking affirmative relief against the governmental unit to agree not to disclose any fact, allegation, evidence, or other matter to any other person, including a journalist or other member of the media. The legislation also provides that a settlement agreement provision entered into in violation of the prohibition is void and unenforceable.

**Effective:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 1774](#) (Bonnen, Greg et al./Hancock)

*Relating to actions on and liability associated with certain insurance claims.*

This legislation establishes requirements and procedures applicable to the handling of legal actions for certain insurance claims, including those arising from damage to or loss of property due to hailstorms and other forces of nature.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 3107](#) (by Ashby/Nichols)

*Relating to the production of public information under the public information law.*

This legislation seeks to prevent abuse of the Public Information Action by revising the law relating to the production of public information, particularly with regard to requests that require a large amount of employee or personnel time.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## PEACE OFFICERS

### [HB 245](#) (by Johnson et al./Whitmire)

*Relating to certain reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies and to the creation of a criminal justice web portal by the office of the attorney general; providing a civil penalty.*

This legislation amends existing law to allow the Texas Attorney General to investigate allegations that a law enforcement agency failed to submit a report on certain officer-involved injury or deaths, or on certain injuries or deaths of peace officers. It also establishes civil penalties for such a failure. It eliminates the requirement that law enforcement agencies post a copy of required reports of officer-involved injury or deaths, or on certain injuries or deaths of peace officers, on the agency's internet website.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [SB 4](#) (by Perry et al./Geren et al.)

*Relating to the enforcement by campus police departments and certain local governmental entities of state and federal laws governing immigration and to related duties and liability of certain persons in the criminal justice system; providing a civil penalty; creating a criminal offense.*

The legislation prohibits a local entity or campus police department from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, order, rule, policy or other measure under which the entity or department prohibits the enforcement of immigration laws, or prohibits enforcement of immigration laws as demonstrated by pattern or practice. It creates a civil penalty for intentional violation of its provisions, and waives sovereign and governmental immunity to the extent of that liability. It allows for removal from office of elected or appointed officials of a political subdivision who act in violation of the legislation. The legislation establishes a competitive grant program within the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor to provide financial assistance to local entities to offset costs associated with immigration enforcement and fulfilling immigration detainer requests.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## *PEACE OFFICERS (cont'd)*

### **SB 1649** (by Watson/Moody)

*Relating to increasing the punishment for certain conduct constituting the offense of criminal trespass on or in the property of a public institution of higher education.*

The legislation increases a criminal trespass offense to a Class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$4,000), if the person trespassed at a public institution of higher education and previously had been convicted of or received deferred adjudication for trespassing at an institution of higher education.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## *PROCUREMENT*

### **HB 89** (King, Phil et al./Anderson, Charles et al.)

*Relating to state contracts with and investments in companies that boycott Israel.*

This legislation prohibits certain governmental entities from contracting with and investing in companies that boycott Israel.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **HB 639** (by Anderson/Menendez)

*Relating to authorizing the purchase of certain insurance coverage by public schools for the benefit of businesses and students participating in career and technology programs and providing for immunity from liability of certain public school students participating in career and technology programs.*

The legislation seeks to address the need for students to have more liability protection from accidents that may occur during their participation in career and technology programs. It allows public schools to obtain certain insurance coverage for the benefit of businesses and students and provides for immunity from liability of certain public schools students who participate in the aforementioned programs.

**Effective Date:** May 26, 2017.

## *PROCUREMENT (cont'd)*

### **HB 1116** (Kacal/Buckingham)

*Relating to the repeal of certain state procurement advisory and approval procedures.*

This legislation dissolves the Statewide Procurement Advisory Council, a statutorily required advisory council at the office of the comptroller, an advisory committee to oversee the state's purchasing duties that expired in 2011.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **HB 1571** (Paddie/Hughes)

*Relating to energy savings performance contracts.*

This legislation modifies provisions related to energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs), including amending the definition of ESPCs for school districts, institutions of higher education and state agencies to the meaning assigned in Section 302.001 of the Local Government Code. It amends the Local Government Code to include in the definition of energy savings the anticipated equipment replacement and repair costs, and to authorize applicable entities to use any available money to pay the provider of an energy or water conservation measure.

**Effective Date:** May 29, 2017.

### **SB 78** (Nelson/Price)

*Relating to the disposition of state surplus or salvage data processing equipment by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.*

This legislation allows the Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to sell repaired or refurbished data processing equipment to certain organizations and programs, and lists school districts first in the order of organizations and programs that should be given preference to purchase such equipment.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## PROCUREMENT (cont'd)

### **SB 252** (Taylor, Van/Davis, Sarah et al.)

*Relating to prohibiting governmental contracts with a company doing business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization.*

This legislation prohibits a governmental entity from entering into a governmental contract with any company that is identified on a list of companies known to have contracts with or provide supplies or services to a foreign terrorist organization, and provides that such list is to be created and maintained by the Comptroller.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 255** (Zaffirini/Simmons)

*Relating to contracts with and training for governmental entities and vendors, including purchasing and contract management training; authorizing fees.*

This legislation amends existing law regarding various training for state agency employees, including certain contract managers, and their governing bodies. The legislation also makes changes to contracting requirements for governmental entities, including the Disclosure of Interested Parties requirements contained in Sections 2252.908(c) and (e) of the Government Code.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 261** (Zaffirini/Guillen)

*Relating to the bulk purchase of information technology commodity items by the Department of Information Resources.*

This legislation exempts from certain requirements a Department of Information Resources (DIR) contract for the bulk purchase of commodity items intended for use by more than one state agency.

**Effective Date:** May 29, 2017.

## *PROCUREMENT (cont'd)*

### **SB 262** (by Zaffirini/Guillen)

*Relating to certain purchasing by state agencies and local governments.*

This legislation amends existing law to require a state agency or local government contracting for the purchase of an automated information system under a Texas multiple award schedule (TxMAS) contract established by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to comply with statutory provisions relating to the use of Department of Information Resources (DIR) cooperative contracts. It also amends state law regarding state purchasing of automated information systems, to require the DIR, in cooperation with state agencies, to periodically assess the risk to this state in the purchase of commodity items made by the agencies under DIR cooperative contracts, and to monitor and verify the purchase transaction reports of the monthly sales of those commodity items as DIR considers necessary.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 533** (Nelson/Geren)

*Relating to governmental entity contracting and procurement.*

This legislation makes various changes to existing law in order to clarify and strengthen the major reform of state contracting law undertaken by the legislature in 2015.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 706** (Birdwell/Kacal)

*Relating to the abolishment of the State Council on Competitive Government and the transfer of its functions to the comptroller.*

This legislation abolishes the State Council on Competitive Government, a procurement oversight program that resides within the Office of the Comptroller, and transfers its functions directly to the Comptroller.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

**SB 754** (Perry/King, Ken)

*Relating to the extension and modification of a public school district depository contract.*

This legislation amends existing law to allow a school district to extend the depository contract with its depository bank for a third additional two-year term.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

**SB 807** (Creighton/Workman)

*Relating to choice of law and venue for certain construction contracts.*

This legislation extends to other types of construction-related contracts the protections provided for certain construction-related contracts concerning real property in Texas with respect to another state's law, litigation in the courts of another state, or arbitration in another state.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

**SEXUAL OFFENSES****HB 355** (by Raney/Buckingham)

*Relating to prohibiting certain sex offenders from residing on the campus of a public or private institution of higher education.*

The legislation addresses the perceived statutory oversight that sex offenders on the Texas Department of Public Safety sex offender registry are allowed to live in an on-campus dormitory or on-campus housing facility. The bill also enables institutions of higher education to decide if a registered sex offender who is rated at the lowest likelihood of re-offending can live in on-campus housing.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## TAXATION

### [HB 150](#) (by Bell et al./Creighton)

*Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of, and the deferral or abatement of ad valorem taxes on, certain residence homesteads.*

This legislation would amend the existing partial property tax exemption available for a homestead donated to a partially disabled veteran, by making the partial exemption available for a residence homestead donated by a charitable organization at a cost to the disabled veteran that is not more than 50 percent of the charitable organization's good faith estimate of the homestead's market value. It also lowers from 8 percent to 5 percent the annual interest rate applied during a property tax deferral or abatement period of homestead taxes for certain individuals who are 65 years or older or disabled. Implementation of this legislation is contingent on voter approval of a constitutional amendment.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2018, but only if [HJR 21](#) is approved by the voters.

### [SB 15](#) (by Huffines/Fallon)

*Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.*

The legislation entitles the surviving spouse of a first responder who was killed or fatally injured in the line of duty to a property tax exemption of the full value of the surviving spouse's homestead under prescribed circumstances.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2018. **Note:** Enabling legislation for [SJR 1](#).

### [SJR 1](#) (by Campbell/Fallon)

*Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.*

SJR 1 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow the Legislature to entitle the surviving spouse of a first responder killed or fatally injured in the line of duty to a property tax exemption. The exemption would cover all or part of the market value of the spouse's residence homestead, if the spouse has not remarried.

**Election Date:** November 7, 2017.

## TUITION AND FEES

### [SB 1123](#) (by Zaffirini/Clardy)

*Relating to conditions on the receipt of tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for adopted students formerly in foster or other residential care.*

The legislation corrects a prior oversight by removing the tuition and fee exemption for adopted students formerly in foster care or other residential care from statutory provisions that place certain conditions on the continued receipt of tuition and fee exemptions or waivers at institutions of higher education.

**Effective Date:** June 12, 2017.

## VETERANS

### [HB 66](#) (by Guillen/Zaffirini)

*Relating to determining eligibility for a Texas Armed Services Scholarship and to the appointment by certain elected officials of students to receive that scholarship.*

Interested parties note that if a student appointed to receive a Texas Armed Services Scholarship loses eligibility for the scholarship, the appointing official is unable to make another appointment until the next year. HB 66 seeks to address this issue by allowing an appointing official, should the first student lose eligibility, to award the scholarship's remaining funds to another eligible student beginning with the next academic year.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 1117](#) (by Wray/Zaffirini)

*Relating to eligibility for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.*

The legislation amends eligibility requirements for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program to include students enrolled in undergraduate officer commissioning programs such as the United State Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Class. To be awarded a scholarship, a student must meet certain criteria and be nominated by the governor, lieutenant governor, or his/her member of the legislature.

**Effective Date:** May 29, 2017.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### [HB 264](#) (by Hernandez/Garcia)

*Relating to public outreach materials to foster awareness of certain public school curriculum requirements.*

This legislation seeks to address the ongoing need to provide public outreach materials regarding certain expanded curriculum requirements. The outreach materials will now provide updated information related to existing state financial aid resources.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2017.

### [HB 1472](#) (by Capriglione/Nelson)

*Relating to investment by a public junior college district of public funds received from the management and development of mineral rights.*

The legislation allows public junior colleges to invest in oil and gas royalties from land it owns according to the investment standard in the Texas Trust Code. The intended purpose of the bill is to support our junior colleges and provide greater investment returns.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 1526](#) (King, Phil et al./Huffman)

*Relating to the provision of certain state benefits to certain peace officers and certain active and retired employees of community supervision and corrections departments.*

This legislation amends existing law to provide financial assistance to the survivors of peace officers employed by private institutions of higher education or private junior colleges who are killed in the line of duty. This legislation also amends existing law to make the state responsible for paying insurance contributions for employees of community supervision and corrections departments.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 1606](#) (by Huberty/Lucio)

*Relating to the authority of the Texas Military Department to purchase food and beverages.*

The legislation authorizes the Texas Military Department to use appropriated money to buy food and beverages for members of the Texas military forces on duty and students participating in the Texas Challenge Academy.

**Effective Date:** June 12, 2017.

## MISCELLANEOUS (cont'd)

### [HB 2039](#) (by Huberty/Zaffirini)

*Relating to creating an early childhood certification to teach students in prekindergarten through grade three.*

The legislation amends existing law to direct the State Board of Educator Certification to establish an early childhood certificate to ensure that there are teachers with special training in early childhood education focusing on prekindergarten through grade three.

**Effective Date:** June 15, 2017.

### [HB 2413](#) (by Burkett/Lucio)

*Relating to certain identifying information regarding career school or college students.*

This legislation amends statutory provisions relating to career schools and colleges to bring the statute into parity with other consumer protection statutes and to permit the Texas Workforce Commission career schools and colleges program to regulate and enforce improper disclosure of student records and personally identifiable information.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [HB 2895](#) (by Price/Seliger)

*Relating to the requirement that certain public institutions of higher education post mental health resources on the institution's Internet website.*

The legislation seeks to strengthen the requirement that institutions of higher education institutions must create a web page dedicated to information regarding the mental health resources available to students.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

## MISCELLANEOUS (cont'd)

### [SB 59](#) (by Zaffirini/Kuempel)

*Relating to energy and water management planning and reporting requirements for state agencies and institutions of higher education.*

The legislation seeks to improve existing law relating to energy and water usage by reconciling confusing requirements for state agencies and institutions of higher education. It would eliminate duplicative reporting requirements, and modify due dates for biennial reports (e.g., utility management and conservation efforts), among other things.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### [SB 377](#) (by Perry/Burkett)

*Relating to the Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program.*

The legislation authorizes the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board: to establish residency requirements for a designated ABLE beneficiary; to enter into an agreement to engage services through a consortium of states and to enter into an agreement with another entity to act as a plan manager; and to contract with a financial institution retained by another state or by a consortium of states to serve as plan managers and to invest the money in ABLE accounts.

**Effective Date:** May 29, 2017.

### [SB 810](#) (by Taylor/Huberty)

*Relating to the purchase and use of open educational resources.*

The legislation seek to mitigate the rising cost of college textbooks by calling for the establishment of a grant program to encourage faculty at public institutions of higher to adopt, modify, redesign, or develop courses that use only open educational resources. It requires the THECB to establish and administer a temporary program and allows faculty to apply for related grant funds to help accomplish the overall objective.

**Effective Date:** June 9, 2017.

## MISCELLANEOUS (cont'd)

### **SB 1220** (by Miles/Vo)

*Relating to ensuring continuity of education and access to higher education, career information, and skills certification for foster care youth and former foster care youth.*

The legislation develops systems that ease and accelerate transitions for substitute care students (foster care or homeless) from one school to another within the first few weeks of enrollment, as well as assessing and meeting the needs of substitute care students with special needs. It also ensures through the TEA that these students have access to information regarding higher education, career information, and skill certifications.

**Effective Date:** June 1, 2017.

### **SB 1367** (by Menendez/Howard)

*Relating to policies and training regarding the use of epinephrine auto-injectors by public institutions of higher education; providing immunity.*

The legislation gives community colleges and universities the same authority afforded school districts in the 84th session to adopt and implement policies regarding the use of epinephrine auto-injectors to treat individuals suffering from anaphylactic shock, granting immunity from civil and criminal liability.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2017.

### **SB 1533** (by Rodriguez/Moody et al.)

*Relating to mental health first aid training for university employees.*

The legislation amends existing law to add certain employees of public or private institution of higher education to the list of individuals eligible to receive grant-funded mental health first aid training provided by local mental health authorities.

**Effective Date:** May 19, 2017.

*This report contains the most complete information known at the time of producing this work product. If it is later determined that additional applicable legislation exist, we will supplement this report with that information.*





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