

83rd Texas Legislative Session

September 1, 2013

STUDENT AFFAIRS BILLS THAT PASSED

HB 1284 by Johnson/Huffman--Relating to the offense of making or causing a false alarm or report involving a public or private institution of higher education. HB 1284 creates the penalty (Class A misdemeanor) for false alarms on campuses of institutions of higher education in line with the penalty for false alarms in similarly crowded places, such as public schools and places of public transportation. HB 1284 requires public and private institutions of higher education to notify all incoming students of the penalty for making a false alarm or report as soon as practicable, but not required if deemed not feasible. Not later than October 1, 2013, institutions shall notify all enrolled students of the penalty of making a false alarm.

SB 62 Nelson/Laubenberg--Relating to the vaccination against bacterial meningitis of entering students at public and private or independent institutions of higher education. SB 62 lowers from 30 to 22 years the minimum age at which an entering student at a public or private institution is exempt from providing a certificate that the student has received a bacterial meningitis vaccine dose or booster during the five-year period preceding the compliance date.

The bill requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop and implement a secure, Internet-based process to be used exclusively at public junior colleges that elect to use the process to allow an entering student to apply online for an exemption from the bacterial meningitis vaccination requirement for reasons of conscience.

SB 62 requires an affidavit signed by a student stating that the student declines the vaccination for reasons of conscience to be on DSHS's immunization exemption affidavit form and be submitted to the appropriate admitting official not later than the 90th day after the date the affidavit is notarized.

SB 62 amends the Health and Safety Code to exempt a person claiming an exemption from a required immunization using the Internet-based process from the requirement that a person claiming the exemption complete DSHS's immunization exemption affidavit form.

SB 62 applies its provisions to entering students on or after January 1, 2014.

SB 146 by Williams/Kolkhorst--Relating to access by a public institution of higher education to the criminal history record information of certain persons seeking to reside in on-campus housing. SB 146 entitles a university to obtain from the state the criminal history information relating to a student or applicant for admission who applies to reside on campus. The information can only be used for evaluation for housing. Institutions shall notify students who are subject to the use of this information and denied housing. Also in the legislation are protections relating to release and maintenance of the information.

SB 1525 by Zaffirini/Patrick--Relating to including disability awareness training in risk management programs required for members and advisors of student organizations at postsecondary educational institutions. SB 1525 amends current law (relating to risk management for student programs) to include disability awareness training. This includes a review of federal and state law and institutional policies that address needs and access.

SB 1590 Zaffirini/Branch--Relating to requirements for personal financial literacy training offered by public school districts and public universities. SB 1590 includes insurance in the list of topics to be considered for financial literacy training in institutions of higher education and the financial literacy pilot program in Texas public schools.