

## CHAPTER 621

## S.B. No. 485

## AN ACT

relating to training for members of the governing boards of institutions of higher education.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.083 to read as follows:

*Sec. 61.083. TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNING BOARDS. (a) The board by rule shall establish a training program for members of the governing boards of institutions of higher education. Each member of a governing board of an institution of higher education shall attend, during the member's first two years of service as a member of a governing board of an institution of higher education, at least one training program seminar under this section. A member may, but need not, attend additional seminars under this section.*

*(b) The training program must include a two-day seminar held annually in Austin to be conducted by the staff of the board, by representatives from the office of the attorney general, the office of the comptroller of public accounts, the office of the state auditor, and the Texas Ethics Commission, and by other training personnel the board deems necessary.*

*(c) The board by rule shall establish a registration fee to be paid by seminar participants in an amount adequate to cover the costs incurred by the board and other state agencies in providing the training program. A seminar participant shall pay from private funds the fee required by this subsection and the participant's costs of travel, including transportation, lodging, and meals. Neither the fee required by this subsection nor a seminar participant's travel costs shall be reimbursed from appropriated funds, other than grants and donations of private funds available for that purpose.*

*(d) The content of the instruction at the seminar shall focus on the official role and duties of the members of governing boards and shall provide training in the areas of budgeting, policy development, and governance as follows:*

*(1) one day of the seminar shall be devoted to the area of budgeting and shall provide training and information in the following areas:*

- (A) budget development;*
- (B) budgeting procedures; and*

*(C) a review of auditing procedures and of recent audits of institutions of higher education; and*

*(2) one day of the seminar shall be devoted to the areas of policy development and governance and shall provide training and information in the following areas:*

*(A) the enabling legislation that creates institutions of higher education;*

*(B) the role of the governing board at institutions of higher education and the relationship between the governing board and an institution's administration, faculty and staff, and students;*

*(C) the mission statements of institutions of higher education;*

*(D) policy development;*

*(E) disciplinary and investigative authority of the governing board;*

*(F) the requirements of the open meetings law, Chapter 271, Acts of the 60th Legislature, Regular Session, 1967 (Article 6252-17, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), and the open records law, Chapter 424, Acts of the 63rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1973 (Article 6252-17a, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes);*

*(G) the requirements of conflict of interest laws and other laws relating to public officials; and*

*(H) any applicable ethics policies adopted by institutions of higher education or the Texas Ethics Commission.*

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the requirement in Subsection (a), Section 61.083, Education Code, as added by this Act, that a member of a governing board of an institution of higher education attend a training seminar in the member's first two years of service, a person serving as a member of a governing board of an institution of higher education on the effective date of this Act shall attend a training seminar under that section not later than September 1, 1995.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed the Senate on March 17, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; the Senate concurred in House amendments on May 21, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; passed the House, with amendments, on May 19, 1993, by a non-record vote.

Approved June 3, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.