

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 16

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the purpose of public institutions of higher education and a prohibition on compelling students enrolled at those institutions to adopt certain beliefs.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 3, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 50 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50. HIGHER EDUCATION PURPOSE

Sec. 50.001. HIGHER EDUCATION PURPOSE. A public institution of higher education must be committed to creating an environment of:

(1) intellectual inquiry and academic freedom so that all students are equipped for participation in the workforce and the betterment of society; and

(2) intellectual diversity so that all students are respected and educated regardless of race, sex, or ethnicity or social, political, or religious background or belief.

SECTION 2. Subchapter 2, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.982 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.982. PROHIBITION ON COMPELLING CERTAIN BELIEFS. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) A faculty member of an institution of higher education may not compel or attempt to compel a student enrolled at the

1 institution to adopt a belief that any race, sex, or ethnicity or
2 social, political, or religious belief is inherently superior to
3 any other race, sex, ethnicity, or belief.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.