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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to student access to certain academic records held by a public institution of higher education or career school or college; authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9716 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9716. STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS AND DIPLOMAS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(2) "Student" includes a former student.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, an institution of higher education may not withhold a student's transcript or diploma on the basis that the student has not fulfilled the student's financial obligation to the institution if the student's outstanding financial obligation to the institution:

(1) is less than $500; or

(2) has been outstanding for more than five years.

(c) An institution of higher education may require a student with an outstanding financial obligation to the institution of $500 or more to enter into a repayment plan with the institution before releasing the student's transcript or diploma to the student. The institution must release the transcript or diploma to the student on the student's initiation of payment under the repayment plan.

(d) An institution of higher education may charge a student a fee in connection with the release of a transcript or diploma. The amount of the fee may not exceed the cost of materials used to print, mail, or electronically send the transcript or diploma.

SECTION 2. Section 132.062, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 132.062. STUDENT [~~WITHHOLDING~~] RECORDS. (a) A career school or college may not withhold a student's transcript or certificate of completion of training on the basis that [~~until~~] the student has not fulfilled the student's financial obligation to the school or college if the student's outstanding financial obligation to the school or college:

(1) is less than $500; or

(2) has been outstanding for more than five years.

(b) A career school or college may require a student with an outstanding financial obligation to the school or college of $500 or more to enter into a repayment plan with the school or college before releasing the student's transcript or certificate of completion of training to the student. The career school or college must release the transcript or certificate to the student on the student's initiation of payment under the repayment plan.

(c) A career school or college may charge a student a fee in connection with the release of a transcript or certificate of completion of training. The amount of the fee may not exceed the cost of materials used to print, mail, or electronically send the transcript or certificate.

(d) For purposes of this section, "student" includes a former student.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.