

SUBJECT: Requiring disciplinary actions to be listed on postsecondary transcripts

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — C. Turner, Button, Frullo, Howard, Pacheco, Smithee, Walle,  
Wilson

1 nay — Schaefer

2 absent — Stucky, E. Johnson

WITNESSES: For — Tatum Zeko, Deeds Not Words; Katherine Strandberg, Texas  
Association Against Sexual Assault; Karen Smith; Sierra Smith;  
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Martha Compton, Association for Student  
Conduct Administration; Bill Kelly, City of Houston Mayor's Office)

Against — None

On — Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; Wanda  
Mercer, The University of Texas System

DIGEST: HB 449 would require postsecondary educational institutions that  
suspended or expelled a student for any reason to include on the student's  
transcript a disciplinary notation stating that the student was suspended or  
expelled.

The bill also would prohibit a postsecondary institution from ending the  
disciplinary process of a student who withdrew from that institution  
pending charges that could have resulted in the student's suspension or  
expulsion from the institution.

HB 449 would allow a postsecondary institution to remove a disciplinary  
notation indicating a student's suspension or expulsion from a student's  
transcript on the request of a student if the institution determined that each  
condition of the suspension had been fulfilled or that good cause existed  
to remove the notation.

The bill would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to adopt rules to implement the bill's provisions as soon as practicable after it took effect.

The bill would apply beginning with the fall 2019 semester.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.