CHAPTER 674
H.B. No. 2425
AN ACT
relating to engineering recruitment programs at public or private institutions of higher education and to
certain degree programs at public junior colleges.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.791(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The board shall establish and administer, using funds appropriated for that purpose, a
one-week summer program to take place on the campus of each general academic teaching
institution or private or independent institution of higher education that offers an engineer-
ing degree program. The summer program must be designed for middle and high school
students and to expose those students to math, science, and engineering concepts that a
student in an engineering degree program may encounter.

SECTION 2. Sections 61.792(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The board shall establish and administer, using funds appropriated for that purpose,
scholarships for students pursuing a degree in engineering at a general academic teaching
institution or a private or independent institution of higher education.

(b) To qualify for a scholarship under this section, a student must:

(1) have graduated with a grade point average in the top 20 percent of the student’s high
school graduating class;

(2) have graduated from high school with a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a four-
point scale or the equivalent in mathematics and science courses offered under the
recommended or advanced high school program under Section 28.025(a); and

(3) maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on a four-point scale at the
general academic teaching institution or the private or independent institution of higher
education in which the student is enrolled.

SECTION 3. Section 130.0012, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (k) to
read as follows:

(k) The board shall conduct a study relating to the success of baccalaureate degree
programs offered under this section and to the feasibility of expanding the offering of
baccalaureate degrees by public junior colleges. The study must consider the economic
viability of expanding the degree programs, the workforce needs served by the degree
programs for various areas of the state, current and potential university course offerings,
and other methods for making baccalaureate degrees available, such as distance education
programs and multi-institutional teaching centers. Not later than November 15, 2010, the
board shall report the results of the study to each standing committee of the legislature with
primary jurisdiction over higher education. This subsection expires January 1, 2011.

SECTION 4. (a) Sections 61.791 and 61.792, Education Code, as amended by this Act,
apply beginning with the 2009–2010 academic year.

(b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt rules for the administra-
tion of Sections 61.791 and 61.792, Education Code, as amended by this Act, as soon as
practicable after this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the coordinating board may adopt
the rules in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the
members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If
this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect
September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on May 12, 2009: Yeas 149, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the
House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2425 on May 29, 2009: Yeas
142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May
27, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.
CHAPTER 675
H.B. No. 2435
AN ACT
relating to the location of an arbitration trial.

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

SECTION 1. Section 151.010, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 151.010. RESTRICTIONS. Unless otherwise ordered by the referring judge, a trial under this chapter may not be held in a public courtroom, and a public employee may not be involved in the trial during regular working hours.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a trial commenced on or after the effective date of this Act. A trial commenced before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on May 4, 2009: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 27, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.
Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 676
H.B. No. 2438
AN ACT
relating to requirements regarding motor vehicle retail installment transactions.

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

SECTION 1. Section 348.001(3), Finance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(3) "Holder" means a person who is:
(A) a retail seller; or
(B) the assignee or transferee of [if] a retail installment contract [or the outstanding balance under the contract is sold or otherwise transferred, the person to whom it is sold or otherwise transferred].

SECTION 2. Section 348.007, Finance Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, each retail installment transaction is subject to this chapter.

(a-2) A retail installment transaction in which a retail buyer purchases a commercial vehicle is only subject to the following provisions of this chapter:

(1) Subchapter A, except Section 348.0091 or unless expressly stated otherwise;
(2) Subchapter B, except Sections 348.102 and 348.123;
(3) Subchapter C, except Sections 348.204(b), 348.206, 348.209, and 348.210;
(4) Subchapter D;