

TACRAO Legislative Issues Committee Report

Date: November 9, 2025

Overview

The TACRAO Legislative Issues Committee monitored 128 bills filed within the Texas Legislature during the 89th Legislative Session that were deemed broadly applicable to TACRAO institutions. Of these, 24 bills were signed into law by Governor Abbott.

Many of the enacted bills relate to studies mandated for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Additional data and research will be collected by that agency, and the resulting findings are expected to inform the development of new legislation—particularly regarding accountability measures—in the upcoming 90th Legislative Session.

Summary of Legislative Review

During the TACRAO Summer Meeting in College Station, Texas, the committee presented an overview of legislation passed, organized by the following categories:

- Accountability
- Admissions
- Curriculum
- Health & Safety
- Miscellaneous
- Tuition & Fees

Federal Legislative Outlook & Impacts

At the federal level, attention continues to center on accountability measures. As a result of the One Big Beautiful Bill, institutions of higher education will be responsible for monitoring program outcomes related to student earnings and job placement, and for making evaluative decisions regarding the continuation of underperforming programs.

With the national shift toward performance- and outcomes-based funding, there appears to be a move away from broad access toward a value-based model of federal support. This change may significantly affect program offerings, student populations served, and overall institutional management strategies.

As institutions are likely aware, on June 4, 2025, a federal court enjoined the application of Texas Education Code §54.051(m) and 54.052(a) to aliens who are unlawfully present. In order to ensure uniformity of application and compliance with the injunction and Texas Education Code 54.056(b), each institution must assess the population of students who have established eligibility for Texas resident tuition under Section 54.053(a)(3) who are not lawfully present and will therefore need to be reclassified as non-residents and charged non-resident tuition for the fall 2025 semester pursuant to the court order and Texas Education Code §§ 54.054 and 54.055.

Additional Information

For further information or research requests, please contact:

Brenda Martinez

Chair, TACRAO Legislative Issues Committee

Email: Brenda.Martinez@ttu.edu

Committee Members

- Brenda L. Martinez, Chair — Texas Tech University
- Brenda Schumann — University of Texas at Austin
- Cynthia Blanco — South Texas College
- Trisha McCormick — West Texas A&M University