2SHB 1751 (Leavitt): Hazing Prevention & Reduction (“Sam’s Law”)

Higher education institutions – including all community and technical colleges – must provide anti-hazing instruction to employees and students, make the anti-hazing curriculum available on college websites, and publicly post findings of hazing violations. The act also modifies the definition of hazing at colleges and requires the formation of 6-person hazing prevention and reduction committees with one-half of committee members being current students. Funding for implementation of the act ($170,000) is allocated in the Operating Budget Bill.

SBCTC/college implications

* Revise college Student Conduct Codes to be consistent with modified definition of hazing (Section 1)
* Extend prohibition of hazing to include off-campus hazing (Section 2)
* Include anti-hazing policy and dangers of hazing in rights & responsibilities materials given to student organizations, athletic teams, and living groups (Section 2)
* Develop (or purchase) and provide an anti-hazing educational program to students and employees on a regular, specified basis (Sections 2, 5)
* Post the anti-hazing educational program on college public websites (Section 2)
* Form 6-person Hazing Prevention Committees with specified representation (Section 3)
* Publicly report hazing violations each academic term, with specified reporting categories, timelines, and retention, subject to FERPA requirements (Section 4)
* Institute a mandatory hazing reporting requirement for employees where reasonable cause exists, and provide protection from punishment for making such reports (Section 5)
* Social fraternity and sorority organizations have new, specified notification requirements (Section 6)