

# Education committee OKs measure to set academic guidelines

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The House Higher Education Committee passed a bill Wednesday to establish guidelines for academic workloads at state-supported institutions.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bill Caraway, D-Houston, now goes to the House floor.

The measure would vest authority in the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System to develop broad policy and guidelines on workloads and small classes.

The majority of those present for the hearing in the Old Supreme Court Room were University faculty members and administrators in support of the measure.

Rep. Frank Gaston, D-Dallas, amended the bill to include a noncompliance section, which provides for the Coordinating Board to send up a "red flag" to appropriate state agencies if a university fails to comply with the board's regulations.

A technical question was raised by Rep. Don Rains, D-San Marcos, about

the relationship between this bill, if passed, and a rider the House Appropriations Committee may pass establishing a specific number of workload hours.

Gaston said that if a rider and this bill are both passed, the rider will not necessarily be "detrimental" to the bill.

Prof. James Sledd, of the University English department, testified that the University of Texas "will drive a truck through this bill." "The nature of the University is such that it is going to put research ahead of anything else," he said.

Sledd said he was present because someone "didn't want me to be here."

"State universities are preparing for a world in which one man will lead and 99 per cent will follow," he said.

The Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT) supports the bill because it would become possible to find abuses and it has an adaptable standard of measure. Frank Wright, executive director of TACT, said. "Riders aren't adequate to account for valid differences" of different institutions, disciplines and levels of teaching, he said.