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1 **The Graduate Electronic Submission Accessibility**
2 **(GESA) Act of 2025**

3 **Section 1. Title**

4 To be entitled the "*Graduate Electronic Submission Accessibility*
5 *(GESA) Act of 2025*" which purposes to formally recognize \LaTeX as
6 an acceptable document preparation format for graduate students
7 submitting theses and dissertations through the Texas State Uni-
8 versity's official electronic submission system, Vireo.

9 **Section 2. Background**

10 Vireo is the University's official system for managing and archiv-
11 ing graduate research submissions. Under the current Thesis and
12 Dissertation Guide issued by The Graduate College, students must
13 use the Microsoft Word template provided to ensure formatting con-
14 sistency and compliance with submission standards.

15 Previously, the University allowed the use of \LaTeX templates—a
16 standard practice among peer institutions. \LaTeX , widely adopted
17 in academic and technical fields, provides consistent formatting
18 through structured commands and remains the prevailing standard in
19 science, engineering, and mathematics.

20 Section 3. Rationale

21 The Graduate College's current restriction to Microsoft Word as the
22 sole approved formatting template limits accessibility and flexi-
23 bility for students proficient in alternative typesetting systems.
24 \LaTeX offers significant academic and professional advantages, in-
25 cluding:

- 26 • Streamlined and reproducible formatting embedded within a doc-
27 ument's preamble;
- 28 • Superior handling of equations, citations, and technical il-
29 lustrations;
- 30 • Professional typographic standards consistent with academic
31 journals and industry publications; and
- 32 • Compatibility with collaborative, version-controlled workflows
33 commonly used in research environments.

34 Expanding submission options to include \LaTeX aligns with the
35 University's commitment to innovation, academic excellence, and
36 equitable access to research tools.

37 Section 4. Implementation

38 Upon passage of this Act, the Graduate House of Representatives
39 requests that The Graduate College:

- 40 1. Officially recognize \LaTeX as an acceptable formatting option
41 for graduate submissions through Vireo;
- 42 2. Publish a standardized \LaTeX template consistent with current
43 formatting and style requirements; and
- 44 3. Ensure that students opting for \LaTeX are afforded equal tech-
45 nical support and review procedures as those using Microsoft
46 Word.

47 Section 5. Scope

48 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to replace or repeal the ex-
49 isting Microsoft Word template requirement. Rather, it supplements
50 current policy by expanding acceptable submission formats. Any fu-
51 ture modification to existing submission standards shall require
52 separate legislative or administrative action.

53 Section 6. Enactment

54 This Act shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Graduate
55 House of Representatives, approval by the Student Body President,
56 and the Dean of The Graduate College.