

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 878

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a single common course numbering system for and the
3 transfer of course credit among public institutions of higher
4 education in this state.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section [61.822](#), Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read
8 as follows:

9 (a) The board shall develop and implement a policy regarding
10 ~~[encourage]~~ the transferability of ~~[lower-division]~~ course credit
11 among institutions of higher education.

12 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
13 curriculum of not ~~[no]~~ less than 42 semester credit hours,
14 including specific courses composing ~~[comprising]~~ the curriculum.
15 The core curriculum shall be consistent with the single common
16 course numbering system approved by the board under Section
17 [61.832\(a\)](#) and with the statement, recommendations, and rules issued
18 by the board. An institution may have a core curriculum of other
19 than 42 semester credit hours only if approved by the board.

20 (f) If a student successfully completes a course at an
21 institution of higher education for which a common number
22 designation and course description are included in the single
23 common course numbering system described by Section [61.832](#), that
24 course may be transferred to any other institution of higher

1 education that offers a course with the same common course number
2 and must be substituted for the receiving institution's course.

3 SECTION 2. Section 61.826(a), Education Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (a) The board by rule shall adopt procedures to be followed
6 by:

7 (1) institutions of higher education in resolving
8 disputes concerning the transfer of [~~lower-division~~] course credit;
9 and

10 (2) the commissioner of higher education or the
11 commissioner's designee in making a final determination concerning
12 transfer of the course credit if the transfer is in dispute.

13 SECTION 3. Section 61.830, Education Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 Sec. 61.830. PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES ADDRESSING TRANSFER
16 PRACTICES. In its course catalogs and on its website, each
17 institution of higher education shall publish guidelines
18 addressing the practices of the institution regarding the transfer
19 of course credit. In the guidelines, the institution must use
20 [~~identify a course by using~~] the single common course numbering
21 system as required by Section 61.832 to identify each of its offered
22 courses for which a common number designation and course
23 description are included by the board in that system [~~approved by~~
24 ~~the board~~].

25 SECTION 4. Section 61.832, Education Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 61.832. COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM. (a) The board

1 shall approve a single common course numbering system for
2 [~~lower-division~~] courses to facilitate the transfer of [~~these~~]
3 courses among institutions of higher education by promoting
4 consistency in course designation and identification.

5 (a-1) The following types of courses are exempt from the
6 single common course numbering system approved under Subsection
7 (a):

8 (1) courses in career and technical education, except
9 as provided by Section 61.8235;

10 (2) courses in applied performing arts;

11 (3) clinical coursework in health-related subject
12 areas;

13 (4) skill-related courses in criminal justice-related
14 subject areas;

15 (5) graduate courses; and

16 (6) special topics courses, including course credit
17 received for completing an internship, an apprenticeship, a
18 practicum, a thesis, a dissertation, or a course offered by a study
19 abroad program.

20 (b) The board shall solicit input from institutions of
21 higher education regarding the development of the single common
22 course numbering system.

23 (c) Each institution of higher education shall:

24 (1) use the approved common course numbering system in
25 the institution's guidelines regarding the transfer of course
26 credit for each course for which a common number designation and
27 course description are included by the board in that system; and

1 (2) include the applicable course numbers from the
2 approved common course numbering system in its course catalogs and
3 other course listings.

4 (d) The board may approve only a common course numbering
5 system already in common use in this state by one or more
6 institutions of higher education.

7 (e) [~~(e)~~] The board shall cooperate with institutions of
8 higher education in any additional development or alteration of the
9 common course numbering system approved under Subsection (a),
10 including the taxonomy to be used, and in the development of rules
11 for the administration and applicability of the system.

12 (f) Each institution of higher education must certify
13 annually to the board the accuracy of the institution's
14 identification, in its course catalogs and other course listings,
15 of each course offered by the institution for which a common number
16 designation and course description are included by the board in the
17 common course numbering system. As part of the certification
18 required by this subsection, the institution shall specify each of
19 its offered courses for which a common number designation and
20 course description are included in that system and each of its
21 offered courses for which a common number designation and course
22 description are not included in that system. The institution also
23 shall include with its certification a current, publicly accessible
24 Internet website address at which the institution publishes its
25 guidelines regarding the transfer of course credit.

26 (g) The board may, based on the board's review of the
27 information certified under Subsection (f), recommend corrective

1 action to an institution's governing board if the institution fails
2 to comply with the requirements of this section. In its next
3 legislative appropriations request made to the legislature, the
4 board shall identify each institution that fails to comply with the
5 board's recommended corrective action.

6 (h) Not later than June 1, 2024, the board shall:

7 (1) approve a single common course numbering system as
8 required by Subsection (a); and

9 (2) establish a timetable that requires institutions
10 of higher education to phase in the inclusion of the applicable
11 course numbers from the approved common course numbering system in
12 their individual guidelines regarding the transfer of course credit
13 and in their individual course numbering systems as required by
14 this section so that each institution fully complies with this
15 section for each course that is offered during the 2028-2029
16 academic year or a subsequent academic year and for which a common
17 number designation and course description are included by the board
18 in that system.

19 (h-1) Subsection (h) and this subsection expire January 1,
20 2030.

21 ~~[(d) An institution of higher education shall include in its~~
22 ~~course listings the applicable course numbers from the common~~
23 ~~course numbering system approved by the board under this section.~~
24 ~~For good cause, the board may grant to an institution of higher~~
25 ~~education an exemption from the requirements of this subsection.]~~

26 SECTION 5. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
27 section, the change in law made by this Act applies beginning with

1 the 2024-2025 academic year.

2 (b) The change in law made by this Act in adding Sections
3 61.832(f) and (g), Education Code, applies beginning with the
4 2028-2029 academic year.

5 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.