

By: Brown of Brazos

H.B. No. 3074

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the number of semester credit hours required for
3 completion of a baccalaureate degree program at a general academic
4 teaching institution.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 61.0515 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0515. SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR
9 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE. (a) To earn a baccalaureate degree, a
10 general academic teaching institution may not require a student to
11 complete more than the minimum number of semester credit hours
12 required for the degree by the Southern Association of Colleges and
13 Schools or its successor unless the institution determines that
14 there is a compelling academic reason for requiring completion of
15 additional semester credit hours for the degree under standards
16 prescribed by the board.

17 (b) The board by rule shall prescribe standards for
18 determining whether there is a compelling academic reason for an
19 institution to require completion of additional semester credit
20 hours for a particular baccalaureate degree. A compelling academic
21 reason may include certification, industry, or national academic
22 accreditation requirements.

23 (c) The board may review one or more of an institution's
24 baccalaureate degree programs to ensure compliance with this

1 section.

2 (d) Subsection (a) does not apply to a baccalaureate degree
3 awarded by an institution to a student enrolled in the institution
4 before the 2008 fall semester. This subsection does not prohibit
5 the institution from reducing the number of semester credit hours
6 the student must complete to receive the degree.

7 SECTION 2. Not later than May 31, 2006, the Texas Higher
8 Education Coordinating Board shall adopt the rules required by
9 Section 61.0515, as added by this Act, relating to the number of
10 semester credit hours required for completion of a baccalaureate
11 degree program at a general academic teaching institution.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.