

By: Shapleigh, Shapiro

S.B. No. 111

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

AN ACT

relating to undergraduate course credit granted by public institutions of higher education for the completion of certain postsecondary-level programs by high school students.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.968 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.968. UNDERGRADUATE COURSE CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPLETING POSTSECONDARY-LEVEL PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Advanced placement examination" means an examination administered through the advanced placement program.

(2) "CLEP examination" means an examination administered through the college-level examination program.

(3) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(4) "Institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, that offers freshman-level courses.

(5) "International baccalaureate diploma program" means the curriculum and examinations leading to an international baccalaureate diploma awarded by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

(b) Each institution of higher education that offers

1 freshman-level courses shall adopt and implement a policy to grant
2 undergraduate course credit to entering freshman students who have
3 successfully completed the international baccalaureate diploma
4 program, who have achieved required scores on one or more
5 examinations in the advanced placement program or the college-level
6 examination program, or who have successfully completed one or more
7 courses offered through concurrent enrollment in high school and at
8 an institution of higher education.

9 (c) In the policy, the institution shall:

10 (1) establish the institution's conditions for
11 granting course credit, including the minimum required scores on
12 CLEP examinations, advanced placement examinations, and
13 examinations for courses constituting the international
14 baccalaureate diploma program; and

15 (2) based on the correlations identified under
16 Subsection (f), identify the specific course credit or other
17 academic requirements of the institution, including the number of
18 semester credit hours or other course credit, that the institution
19 will grant to a student who successfully completes the diploma
20 program, who successfully completes a course through concurrent
21 enrollment, or who achieves required scores on CLEP examinations or
22 advanced placement examinations.

23 (d) Each institution of higher education shall report to the
24 coordinating board the institution's policy adopted under this
25 section and shall include a copy of the policy with the
26 institution's undergraduate student application materials,
27 including application materials available on the institution's

1 Internet website.

2 (e) On request of an applicant for admission as an entering
3 freshman, an institution of higher education, based on information
4 provided by the applicant, shall determine and notify the applicant
5 regarding:

6 (1) the amount and type of any course credit that would
7 be granted to the applicant under the policy; and

8 (2) any other academic requirement that the applicant
9 would satisfy under the policy.

10 (f) The coordinating board, in consultation with the Texas
11 Education Agency, shall:

12 (1) identify correlations between the subject matter
13 and content of courses offered by each institution of higher
14 education and the subject matter and content of courses and
15 examinations in the international baccalaureate diploma program,
16 the advanced placement program, and the college-level examination
17 program; and

18 (2) make that information available to the public on
19 the coordinating board's Internet website.

20 (g) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, an
21 institution of higher education shall grant at least 24 semester
22 credit hours or equivalent course credit in appropriate subject
23 areas to an entering freshman student for successful completion of
24 the international baccalaureate diploma program. The institution
25 may grant fewer than 24 semester credit hours if the student
26 received a score of less than four on an examination administered as
27 part of the diploma program. The institution may grant fewer credit

1 hours only with respect to courses that are substantially related
2 to the subject of that examination.

3 SECTION 2. Each public institution of higher education in
4 this state shall:

5 (1) not later than December 31, 2005, adopt and make
6 available to students and the public and to the Texas Higher
7 Education Coordinating Board the policy required by Section 51.968,
8 Education Code, as added by this Act; and

9 (2) implement the policy beginning with admissions to
10 the institution for the 2006-2007 academic year.

11 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.