

By: Flores, Guillen, Bonnen

H.B. No. 2198

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to authorizing certain public junior colleges to offer  
3 baccalaureate degree programs.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 130.0012, Education Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 130.0012. [~~PILOT PROJECT.~~] BACCALAUREATE DEGREE  
8 PROGRAMS. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
9 authorize [~~establish a pilot project to examine the feasibility and~~  
10 ~~effectiveness of authorizing~~] public junior colleges to offer  
11 baccalaureate degree programs in the fields of applied science and  
12 applied technology under this section. Offering a baccalaureate  
13 degree program under this section [~~Participation in the pilot~~  
14 ~~project~~] does not otherwise alter the role and mission of a public  
15 junior college.

16 (b) The coordinating board shall authorize baccalaureate  
17 degree programs [~~operate the pilot project~~] at each [~~three~~] public  
18 junior college that previously participated in a pilot project to  
19 offer baccalaureate degree programs and shall authorize  
20 baccalaureate degree programs at an additional public junior  
21 college if the coordinating board determines that it is in the best  
22 interest of this state for that public junior college to offer those  
23 degree programs after considering the criteria established by the  
24 coordinating board under Subsection (e) [~~colleges, as determined by~~

1 ~~the coordinating board~~].

2 (c) A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree  
3 program under this section [~~participating in the pilot project~~]  
4 must meet all applicable accreditation requirements of the  
5 Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and  
6 Schools.

7 (d) A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree  
8 program under this section [~~participating in the pilot project~~] may  
9 not offer more than five baccalaureate degree programs [~~under the~~  
10 ~~project~~] at any time. The degree programs are subject to the  
11 continuing approval of the coordinating board.

12 (e) In determining whether a public junior college may offer  
13 baccalaureate degree programs and what baccalaureate degree  
14 programs are to be offered, [~~the junior college and~~] the  
15 coordinating board shall consider:

16 (1) the need for the degree programs in the region  
17 served by the junior college;

18 (2) how those degree programs would complement the  
19 other programs and course offerings of the junior college;

20 (3) whether those degree programs would unnecessarily  
21 duplicate the degree programs offered by other institutions of  
22 higher education; and

23 (4) the ability of the junior college to support the  
24 program and the adequacy of the junior college's facilities,  
25 faculty, administration, libraries, and other resources.

26 (f) [~~(e)~~] Each public junior college that offers a  
27 baccalaureate degree program under this section [~~the pilot project~~]

1 must enter into an articulation agreement with one or more general  
2 academic teaching institutions to ensure that students enrolled in  
3 the degree program have an opportunity to complete the degree if the  
4 public junior college ceases to offer the degree program. The  
5 coordinating board may require a general academic teaching  
6 institution that offers a comparable degree program to enter into  
7 an articulation agreement with the public junior college as  
8 provided by this subsection.

9 (g) [~~(f)~~] In its recommendations to the legislature  
10 relating to state funding for public junior colleges, the  
11 coordinating board shall recommend that a public junior college  
12 receive substantially the same state support for junior-level and  
13 senior-level courses offered under this section [~~the pilot project~~]  
14 as that provided to a general academic teaching institution for  
15 substantially similar courses. In determining the contact hours  
16 attributable to students enrolled in a junior-level or senior-level  
17 course offered under this section [~~the pilot project~~] used to  
18 determine a public junior college's proportionate share of state  
19 appropriations under Section 130.003, the coordinating board shall  
20 weigh those contact hours as necessary to provide the junior  
21 college the appropriate level of state support to the extent state  
22 funds for those courses are included in the appropriations. This  
23 subsection does not prohibit the legislature from directly  
24 appropriating state funds to support junior-level and senior-level  
25 courses offered under this section [~~the pilot project~~].

26 (h) [~~(g)~~] Each public junior college offering a  
27 baccalaureate degree program under this section [~~participating in~~

1 ~~the pilot project]~~ shall prepare a biennial report on the operation  
2 and effectiveness of the junior college's baccalaureate degree  
3 programs ~~[offered under the project]~~ and shall deliver a copy of the  
4 report to the coordinating board in the form and at the time  
5 determined by the coordinating board.

6 (i) The ~~[(h) Not later than January 1, 2009, the]~~  
7 coordinating board shall establish an application process to select  
8 additional public junior colleges that will be authorized to offer  
9 baccalaureate degree programs under this section ~~[prepare a~~  
10 ~~progress report on the pilot project. Not later than January 1,~~  
11 ~~2011, the coordinating board shall prepare a report on the~~  
12 ~~effectiveness of the pilot project, including any recommendations~~  
13 ~~for legislative action regarding the offering of baccalaureate~~  
14 ~~degree programs by public junior colleges. The coordinating board~~  
15 ~~shall deliver a copy of each report to the governor, the lieutenant~~  
16 ~~governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the~~  
17 ~~chair of the standing committee of each house of the legislature~~  
18 ~~with primary jurisdiction over higher education].~~

19 ~~[(i) Unless the authority to continue offering the~~  
20 ~~baccalaureate degree programs is continued by the legislature, a~~  
21 ~~public junior college may not:~~

22 ~~[(1) enroll a new student in a baccalaureate degree~~  
23 ~~program under the pilot project after the 2011 fall semester,~~

24 ~~[(2) offer junior-level or senior-level courses for~~  
25 ~~those degree programs after the 2015 fall semester, unless the~~  
26 ~~coordinating board authorizes the college to offer those courses,~~

27 ~~or~~

1           ~~[(3) award a baccalaureate degree under the pilot~~  
2 ~~project after the 2015 fall semester, unless the coordinating board~~  
3 ~~approves the awarding of the degree.]~~

4           (j) The coordinating board shall prescribe procedures to  
5 ensure that each public junior college that offers a degree program  
6 under this section ~~[the pilot project]~~ informs each student who  
7 enrolls in the degree program of ~~[+~~

8           ~~[(1) the nature of the pilot project, including the~~  
9 ~~limited duration of the project; and~~

10           ~~[(2)]~~ the articulation agreement entered into under  
11 Subsection (f) ~~[(e)]~~ for the student's degree program.

12           ~~[(k) This section expires January 1, 2020.]~~

13           SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
14 shall establish the application process required by Section  
15 130.0012(i), Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than  
16 January 1, 2009.

17           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.