

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

(b) The coordinating board shall authorize baccalaureate degree programs [~~operate the pilot project~~] at each [~~three~~] public junior college that previously participated in a pilot project to offer baccalaureate degree programs [~~colleges, as determined by the coordinating board~~].

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

1 Schools.

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

7 (e) In determining what baccalaureate degree programs are
8 to be offered, [~~the junior college and~~] the coordinating board
9 shall consider:

10 (1) the need for the degree programs in the region
11 served by the junior college;

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

14 (3) whether those degree programs would unnecessarily
15 duplicate the degree programs offered by other institutions of
16 higher education; and

17 (4) the ability of the junior college to support the
18 program and the adequacy of the junior college's facilities,
19 faculty, administration, libraries, and other resources.

20 (f) [~~(e)~~] Each public junior college that offers a
21 baccalaureate degree program under this section [~~the pilot project~~]
22 must enter into an articulation agreement with one or more general
23 academic teaching institutions to ensure that students enrolled in
24 the degree program have an opportunity to complete the degree if the
25 public junior college ceases to offer the degree program. The
26 coordinating board may require a general academic teaching
27 institution that offers a comparable degree program to enter into

1 an articulation agreement with the public junior college as
2 provided by this subsection.

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

20 (h) [~~(g)~~] Each public junior college offering a
21 baccalaureate degree program under this section [~~participating in~~
22 ~~the pilot project~~] shall prepare a biennial report on the operation
23 and effectiveness of the junior college's baccalaureate degree
24 programs [~~offered under the project~~] and shall deliver a copy of the
25 report to the coordinating board in the form and at the time
26 determined by the coordinating board.

27 [~~(h) Not later than January 1, 2009, the coordinating board~~

1 ~~shall prepare a progress report on the pilot project. Not later~~
2 ~~than January 1, 2011, the coordinating board shall prepare a report~~
3 ~~on the effectiveness of the pilot project, including any~~
4 ~~recommendations for legislative action regarding the offering of~~
5 ~~baccalaureate degree programs by public junior colleges. The~~
6 ~~coordinating board shall deliver a copy of each report to the~~
7 ~~governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of~~
8 ~~representatives, and the chair of the standing committee of each~~
9 ~~house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher~~
10 ~~education].~~

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

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

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

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

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

27 ~~[(1) the nature of the pilot project, including the~~

1 ~~limited duration of the project, and~~

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

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

5 SECTION 2. 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, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2198 was passed by the House on April 17, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 131, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2198 on May 25, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2198 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor