

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 238

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing certain community colleges to offer a  
baccalaureate degree program in interior design.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 130.0012(a), (b), and (d), Education  
Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
establish a pilot project to examine the feasibility and  
effectiveness of authorizing public junior colleges to offer  
baccalaureate degree programs in the fields described by Subsection  
(b) [of applied science and applied technology]. Participation in  
the pilot project does not otherwise alter the role and mission of a  
public junior college.

(b) The coordinating board shall operate the pilot project  
at:

(1) three public junior colleges, as determined by the  
coordinating board, to offer baccalaureate degree programs in the  
fields of applied science and applied technology; and

(2) one public junior college, with an established  
accredited interior design program that includes an advanced  
technical certificate program, to offer a baccalaureate degree  
program in the field of interior design.

(d) A public junior college participating in the pilot  
project that offers a baccalaureate degree program in the fields of

1 applied science and applied technology may not offer more than five  
2 baccalaureate degree programs under the project at any time. The  
3 degree programs are subject to the continuing approval of the  
4 coordinating board. In determining what baccalaureate degree  
5 programs are to be offered, the junior college and the coordinating  
6 board shall consider:

7 (1) the need for the degree programs in the region  
8 served by the junior college;

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

11 (3) whether those degree programs would unnecessarily  
12 duplicate the degree programs offered by other institutions of  
13 higher education; and

14 (4) the ability of the junior college to support the  
15 program and the adequacy of the junior college's facilities,  
16 faculty, administration, libraries, and other resources.

17 SECTION 2. 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.