

By: Rose

H.B. No. 708

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 708:

By: Rose

C.S.H.B. No. 708

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to coordination of postsecondary curricula and to the
3 publication of transfer guidelines for academic planning to support
4 academic progress by students enrolled at public institutions of
5 higher education.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 61.830, Education Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 61.830. PUBLICATION OF TRANSFER GUIDELINES;
10 [~~ADDRESSING~~] TRANSFER PRACTICES. (a) In its course catalogs and
11 on its website, each institution of higher education shall publish:
12 (1) guidelines addressing the practices of the
13 institution regarding the transfer of course credit, under which
14 courses are identified [~~. In the guidelines, the institution must~~
15 ~~identify a course by~~] using the common course numbering system
16 approved by the board; and

17 (2) in a format designated by the commissioner, all
18 institutional and statewide articulation agreements concerning the
19 transfer of courses.

20 (b) Each institution of higher education shall post on the
21 institution's website the dates for which each published
22 articulation agreement is valid and shall remove an expired
23 articulation agreement from the website not later than the 30th day
24 after the date of its expiration.

1 (c) The board shall adopt a standard format for the
2 publication of articulation agreements under this section. The
3 format must provide students with access to the requirements of
4 each articulation agreement to allow students enrolled in public
5 junior colleges, public state colleges, and public technical
6 institutes to plan and coordinate course schedules to meet those
7 requirements.

8 (d) The board shall provide links to each website described
9 under Subsection (a) in a prominent, easily accessible, and
10 identifiable location on the board's college information website.

11 (e) Not later than September 30 of each even-numbered year,
12 the commissioner shall make recommendations to each standing
13 committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher
14 education to improve:

15 (1) the publication of transfer policies and
16 articulation agreements for the benefit of transfer students; and

17 (2) the level of participation of institutions of
18 higher education in articulation agreements for the purpose of
19 facilitating the transfer of students between institutions.

20 (f) A student who enrolls in a public junior college, public
21 state college, or public technical institute under an articulation
22 agreement is entitled to transfer to the general academic teaching
23 institution that is a party to the agreement not later than the
24 fourth anniversary of the date the student first enrolled in the
25 public junior college, public state college, or public technical
26 institute.

27 SECTION 2. (a) Each public institution of higher education

1 must satisfy the requirements of Section 61.830, Education Code, as
2 amended by this Act, not later than September 30, 2010.

3 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
4 adopt the standard publication format required by Section
5 61.830(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than
6 December 31, 2009.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.