

By: Rose

H.B. No. 708

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to coordination of postsecondary curricula and to an
3 academic planning Internet website to support academic progress by
4 students enrolled at public institutions of higher education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Sections 61.0764 and 61.0765 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.0764. COORDINATION OF CURRICULA AT TWO-YEAR
9 INSTITUTIONS AND GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a) In
10 this section, "two-year institution of higher education" means a
11 public junior college, public state college, or public technical
12 institute.

13 (b) The board shall collaborate with general academic
14 teaching institutions and two-year institutions of higher
15 education to:

16 (1) compare the curricula of the general academic
17 teaching institutions with the curricula of the two-year
18 institutions of higher education to determine if the curricula of
19 the two-year institutions of higher education satisfy the goals of:

20 (A) providing the prerequisite courses needed
21 for students to enroll in courses at general academic teaching
22 institutions;

23 (B) providing courses that will be generally
24 accepted for course credit by general academic teaching

1 institutions; and

2 (C) preparing students for academic success at
3 general academic teaching institutions; and

4 (2) ensure that the curricula of two-year institutions
5 of higher education satisfy the goals described by Subdivision (1),
6 and adopt any standards necessary for curricula and instruction at
7 two-year institutions of higher education and any plans necessary
8 to implement the standards.

9 (c) Each two-year institution of higher education shall
10 designate in the institution's student course catalog each course
11 that is not generally accepted for course credit by general
12 academic teaching institutions.

13 Sec. 61.0765. ACADEMIC PLANNING WEBSITE. (a) In this
14 section, "two-year institution of higher education" has the meaning
15 assigned by Section 61.0764.

16 (b) The board shall maintain an Internet website that
17 includes:

18 (1) an enrollment guide for use by a student enrolled
19 in a two-year institution of higher education or general academic
20 teaching institution for planning and tracking the student's
21 progress toward completion of the student's degree or certificate
22 program;

23 (2) information concerning the recommended core
24 curriculum developed under Section 61.822, including information
25 describing courses included in the recommended core curriculum and
26 describing the core curriculum transfer provisions provided by that
27 section;

1 (3) information concerning major and minor areas of
2 study available at institutions of higher education; and

3 (4) any other information the board determines would
4 serve students enrolled at institutions of higher education in
5 developing and implementing academic plans and making academic
6 progress.

7 (c) Each institution of higher education shall, on the
8 primary admissions information page on the institution's Internet
9 website, provide a link to the board's Internet website maintained
10 under Subsection (b).

11 SECTION 2. The student course catalog of each two-year
12 institution of higher education must satisfy the requirements of
13 Section 61.0764(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, beginning
14 with the 2011 fall semester.

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