

1-1 By: Rose (Senate Sponsor - Shapiro) H.B. No. 708
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 18, 2009;
1-3 May 19, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-4 Education; May 25, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0;
1-6 May 25, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 708 By: Patrick

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to higher education transfer practices, articulation
1-11 agreements, policies for dropping courses, and special-purpose
1-12 centers and to the formula funding for certain credit hours.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Sections 51.907(a) and (b), Education Code, are
1-15 amended to read as follows:

1-16 (a) In this section, "governing board," ~~[and]~~ "institution
1-17 of higher education," and "public junior college" have the meanings
1-18 assigned by Section 61.003.

1-19 (b) This section applies only to an undergraduate student
1-20 who drops a course at an institution of higher education other than
1-21 a public junior college and only if:

1-22 (1) the student was able to drop the course without
1-23 receiving a grade or incurring an academic penalty;

1-24 (2) the student's transcript indicates or will
1-25 indicate that the student was enrolled in the course; and

1-26 (3) the student is not dropping the course in order to
1-27 withdraw from the institution.

1-28 SECTION 2. (a) Section 61.0595(d), Education Code, is
1-29 amended to read as follows:

1-30 (d) The following are not counted for purposes of
1-31 determining whether the student has previously earned the number of
1-32 semester credit hours specified by Subsection (a):

1-33 (1) semester credit hours earned by the student before
1-34 receiving an associate or [a] baccalaureate degree that has
1-35 previously been awarded to the student;

1-36 (2) semester credit hours earned by the student by
1-37 examination or under any other procedure by which credit is earned
1-38 without registering for a course for which tuition is charged;

1-39 (3) credit for a remedial education course, a
1-40 technical course, a workforce education course funded according to
1-41 contact hours, or another course that does not count toward a degree
1-42 program at the institution; ~~[and]~~

1-43 (4) semester credit hours earned by the student at a
1-44 private institution or an out-of-state institution; and

1-45 (5) semester credit hours earned by the student before
1-46 graduating from high school and used to satisfy high school
1-47 graduation requirements.

1-48 (b) The change in law made by this section to Section
1-49 61.0595, Education Code, applies beginning with the funding
1-50 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the
1-51 2011-2012 academic year.

1-52 SECTION 3. Section 61.821, Education Code, is amended by
1-53 amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (4) to read as
1-54 follows:

1-55 (1) "Core curriculum" means the curriculum in liberal
1-56 arts, humanities, and sciences and political, social, and cultural
1-57 history that all undergraduate students of an institution of higher
1-58 education are required to complete before receiving a bachelor's
1-59 [an academic undergraduate] degree.

1-60 (4) "Statewide articulated transfer curricula" means,
1-61 with respect to engineering disciplines, sets of courses, up to the
1-62 level of an associate's degree, that will satisfy the
1-63 lower-division requirements for bachelor's degrees in specific

2-1 engineering disciplines, including biomedical, chemical, civil,
 2-2 computer, electrical, environmental, industrial, mechanical,
 2-3 nuclear, and petroleum engineering at a general academic teaching
 2-4 institution.

2-5 SECTION 4. Section 61.822(b), Education Code, is amended to
 2-6 read as follows:

2-7 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
 2-8 curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including
 2-9 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum
 2-10 shall be consistent with the common course numbering system
 2-11 approved by the board and with the statement, recommendations, and
 2-12 rules issued by the board. The minimum core curriculum requirement
 2-13 for all academic associate's degrees shall be 42 semester credit
 2-14 hours, except for programs designated under board-approved field of
 2-15 study curricula or statewide articulated transfer curricula. An
 2-16 institution may have a core curriculum of other than 42 semester
 2-17 credit hours only if approved by the board.

2-18 SECTION 5. Section 61.830, Education Code, is amended to
 2-19 read as follows:

2-20 Sec. 61.830. PUBLICATION OF TRANSFER GUIDELINES;
 2-21 ~~[ADDRESSING]~~ TRANSFER PRACTICES. (a) In its course catalogs and
 2-22 on its website, each institution of higher education shall publish:

2-23 (1) guidelines addressing the practices of the
 2-24 institution regarding the transfer of course credit, under which
 2-25 courses are identified~~[- In the guidelines, the institution must~~
 2-26 ~~identify a course by]~~ using the common course numbering system
 2-27 approved by the board; and

2-28 (2) in a format designated by the commissioner, all
 2-29 institutional and statewide articulation agreements concerning the
 2-30 transfer of courses.

2-31 (b) Each institution of higher education shall post on the
 2-32 institution's website the dates for which each published
 2-33 articulation agreement is valid and shall remove an expired
 2-34 articulation agreement from the website not later than the 30th day
 2-35 after the date of its expiration.

2-36 (c) The board shall adopt a standard format for the
 2-37 publication of articulation agreements under this section. The
 2-38 format must provide students with access to the requirements of
 2-39 each articulation agreement to allow students enrolled in public
 2-40 junior colleges, public state colleges, and public technical
 2-41 institutes to plan and coordinate course schedules to meet those
 2-42 requirements.

2-43 (d) The board shall provide links to each website described
 2-44 under Subsection (a) in a prominent, easily accessible, and
 2-45 identifiable location on the board's college information website.

2-46 (e) Not later than September 30 of each even-numbered year,
 2-47 the commissioner shall make recommendations to each standing
 2-48 committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher
 2-49 education to improve:

2-50 (1) the publication of transfer policies and
 2-51 articulation agreements for the benefit of transfer students; and

2-52 (2) the level of participation of institutions of
 2-53 higher education in articulation agreements for the purpose of
 2-54 facilitating the transfer of students between institutions.

2-55 (f) A student who enrolls in a public junior college, public
 2-56 state college, or public technical institute under an articulation
 2-57 agreement is entitled to transfer to the general academic teaching
 2-58 institution that is a party to the agreement not later than the
 2-59 fourth anniversary of the date the student first enrolled in the
 2-60 public junior college, public state college, or public technical
 2-61 institute.

2-62 SECTION 6. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 2-63 amended by adding Section 61.833 to read as follows:

2-64 Sec. 61.833. STATEWIDE ARTICULATED TRANSFER CURRICULA FOR
 2-65 ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES; PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The board shall
 2-66 establish a pilot program to develop and assess methods to increase
 2-67 the number of students earning a baccalaureate degree in
 2-68 engineering. The program shall:

2-69 (1) develop levels of academic attainment, including,

- 3-1 if feasible, standard associate's degrees:
- 3-2 (A) for specific engineering disciplines,
- 3-3 including biomedical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical,
- 3-4 environmental, industrial, mechanical, nuclear, and petroleum
- 3-5 engineering; or
- 3-6 (B) that provide a foundation in any engineering
- 3-7 discipline;
- 3-8 (2) develop a well-defined process for transitioning
- 3-9 students who earn an associate's degree or other level of academic
- 3-10 attainment in an engineering discipline into an accredited
- 3-11 engineering degree program at a four-year institution; and
- 3-12 (3) establish methods to provide orientation and
- 3-13 advising to support students in choosing an engineering discipline
- 3-14 and in completing a baccalaureate degree in engineering.
- 3-15 (b) Not later than January 1, 2011, the board, with the
- 3-16 assistance of advisory committees equitably composed of
- 3-17 representatives of institutions of higher education, shall develop
- 3-18 statewide articulated transfer curricula for the purpose of
- 3-19 developing levels of academic attainment, including, if feasible,
- 3-20 standard associate's degrees, for engineering disciplines. Each
- 3-21 university system or independent institution of higher education
- 3-22 that offers a degree program for which a statewide articulated
- 3-23 transfer curriculum is proposed may nominate an individual to
- 3-24 participate on the advisory committee for that particular
- 3-25 engineering curriculum.
- 3-26 (c) The statewide articulated transfer curricula shall:
- 3-27 (1) have the same rigor and content as the equivalent
- 3-28 course work at an engineering program accredited by ABET,
- 3-29 Incorporated, that is offered at a general academic teaching
- 3-30 institution;
- 3-31 (2) minimize the time and course work required to
- 3-32 complete a baccalaureate degree in engineering; and
- 3-33 (3) be consistent with:
- 3-34 (A) the common course numbering system approved
- 3-35 by the board; and
- 3-36 (B) the recommendations and rules of the board.
- 3-37 (d) Each institution of higher education that offers an
- 3-38 undergraduate degree program in an engineering discipline may
- 3-39 participate in the pilot program by adopting the statewide
- 3-40 articulated transfer curriculum for that discipline.
- 3-41 (e) A student who meets institutional and engineering
- 3-42 degree program admission requirements and successfully completes
- 3-43 the statewide articulated transfer curriculum for an engineering
- 3-44 discipline developed by the board under the pilot program:
- 3-45 (1) may transfer the credit hours earned under that
- 3-46 curriculum and apply those credit hours to a participating
- 3-47 four-year institution's engineering degree program in a discipline
- 3-48 for which the curriculum was developed; and
- 3-49 (2) shall receive full academic credit toward that
- 3-50 engineering degree program for the credit hours transferred.
- 3-51 (f) A student who meets institutional and degree program
- 3-52 admission requirements and who transfers from one institution of
- 3-53 higher education to another without completing the statewide
- 3-54 articulated transfer curriculum developed by the board for that
- 3-55 engineering discipline shall receive full academic credit from a
- 3-56 participating institution for each of the courses that the student
- 3-57 has successfully completed in the statewide articulated transfer
- 3-58 curriculum. Following receipt of credit for each of those courses,
- 3-59 the student shall be required to satisfy any additional course
- 3-60 requirements in the degree program of the receiving institution.
- 3-61 (g) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees
- 3-62 established under this section, shall periodically evaluate
- 3-63 whether the statewide articulated transfer curricula for
- 3-64 engineering disciplines:
- 3-65 (1) effectively facilitate the transition of junior
- 3-66 college students and students of other two-year institutions of
- 3-67 higher education into accredited four-year engineering degree
- 3-68 programs; and
- 3-69 (2) have contributed to increasing the number of

4-1 transfer students who successfully complete baccalaureate degree
4-2 programs in engineering.

4-3 (h) Not later than January 1, 2011, the board shall report
4-4 to the legislature regarding the board's progress in developing and
4-5 evaluating statewide articulated transfer curricula for
4-6 engineering disciplines required by this section.

4-7 (i) This section expires January 1, 2017.

4-8 SECTION 7. Chapter 111, Education Code, is amended by
4-9 adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

4-10 SUBCHAPTER I. UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON HURRICANE CENTER FOR
4-11 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

4-12 Sec. 111.121. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

4-13 (1) "Board" means the board of regents of the
4-14 University of Houston System.

4-15 (2) "Center" means the University of Houston Hurricane
4-16 Center for Innovative Technology (UHC-IT) established under this
4-17 subchapter.

4-18 Sec. 111.122. ESTABLISHMENT. (a) The University of
4-19 Houston Hurricane Center for Innovative Technology is established
4-20 at the University of Houston.

4-21 (b) The organization, control, and management of the center
4-22 are vested in the board.

4-23 (c) The center shall be hosted by the university's College
4-24 of Engineering. Participation in the center's activities shall be
4-25 open to any faculty member of the university who is an active
4-26 researcher in the field of materials, nanotechnology, structural
4-27 engineering, designing of structures, or sensor technology, or in
4-28 another relevant field as determined by the university.

4-29 Sec. 111.123. PURPOSE. The center is created to:

4-30 (1) promote interdisciplinary research, education,
4-31 and training for the development of state-of-the-art products,
4-32 materials, systems, and technologies designed to mitigate the wind
4-33 and asserted structural damages in the built environment and
4-34 offshore structures caused by hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region;
4-35 and

4-36 (2) develop protocols for the fast and efficient
4-37 recovery of the public and private sectors, including utilities,
4-38 hospitals, petrochemical industries, offshore platforms, and
4-39 municipalities and other local communities following a hurricane.

4-40 Sec. 111.124. POWERS AND DUTIES. The center shall:

4-41 (1) collaborate with appropriate federal, state, and
4-42 local agencies and private business or nonprofit entities as
4-43 necessary to coordinate efforts after a hurricane in the Gulf Coast
4-44 region;

4-45 (2) develop smart materials and devices for use in
4-46 hurricane protection and mitigation systems for structural
4-47 monitoring;

4-48 (3) develop anchor systems for window and door
4-49 screens, dwellings and other buildings, pipelines, and other
4-50 onshore and offshore structures to withstand hurricane wind damage;

4-51 (4) develop test facilities for evaluating the
4-52 performance of new products, materials, or techniques designed to
4-53 protect against hurricane wind damage;

4-54 (5) develop specifications and standards for products
4-55 used for protecting against hurricane wind damage;

4-56 (6) design buildings, houses, and other structures to
4-57 withstand hurricane wind damage; and

4-58 (7) provide hurricane-related educational programs,
4-59 seminars, conferences, and workshops to the community designed to
4-60 ensure safety, minimize loss of life, and mitigate the destruction
4-61 of property associated with hurricane wind damage.

4-62 Sec. 111.125. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES. The
4-63 University of Houston shall encourage public and private entities
4-64 to participate in or support the operation of the center and may
4-65 enter into an agreement with any public or private entity for that
4-66 purpose. An agreement may allow the center to provide information,
4-67 services, or other assistance to an entity in exchange for the
4-68 entity's participation or support.

4-69 Sec. 111.126. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board may solicit,

5-1 accept, and administer gifts and grants from any public or private
5-2 source for the purposes of the center.

5-3 Sec. 111.127. PERSONNEL. The board may employ personnel
5-4 for the center as necessary.

5-5 SECTION 8. (a) Each public institution of higher education
5-6 must satisfy the requirements of Section 61.830, Education Code, as
5-7 amended by this Act, not later than September 30, 2010.

5-8 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
5-9 adopt the standard publication format required by Section
5-10 61.830(c), Education Code, as added by this Act, not later than
5-11 December 31, 2009.

5-12 SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act in amending
5-13 Sections 61.821 and 61.822, Education Code, and adding Section
5-14 61.833, Education Code, do not make an appropriation. A provision
5-15 in those sections that creates a new governmental program, creates
5-16 a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental entity is
5-17 not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the legislature has
5-18 not made a specific appropriation to implement the provision.

5-19 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect immediately if it
5-20 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
5-21 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
5-22 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
5-23 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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