

By: Lewis

H.B. No. 2999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a fixed tuition rate program for certain students who  
3 transfer to a state university after completing an associate degree  
4 program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 54.016 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 54.016. FIXED TUITION RATE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN  
9 TRANSFER STUDENTS AT GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a)

10 In this section:

11 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher  
12 Education Coordinating Board.

13 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the  
14 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

15 (3) "Lower-division institution of higher education"  
16 means a public junior college, public state college, or public  
17 technical institute.

18 (b) A general academic teaching institution may develop a  
19 fixed tuition rate program for qualified students who agree to  
20 transfer to the institution after successfully earning an associate  
21 degree at a lower-division institution of higher education. Under  
22 a program developed under this section, a general academic teaching  
23 institution must:

24 (1) guarantee to a participating student enrolled in

1 an associate degree program at a lower-division institution of  
2 higher education, on successful completion of the associate degree  
3 program, transfer admission to the general academic teaching  
4 institution and acceptance into the student's degree program of  
5 choice; and

6           (2) notwithstanding any other provision of this  
7 chapter, charge tuition to a participating student for any semester  
8 or other academic term at the same rate the general academic  
9 teaching institution would have charged to the student during the  
10 fall semester of the student's freshman year at another institution  
11 of higher education had the student entered the general academic  
12 teaching institution as a freshman student.

13           (c) A general academic teaching institution that develops a  
14 fixed tuition rate program under this section shall prescribe  
15 eligibility requirements for participation in the program and  
16 notify applicants for transfer admission from lower-division  
17 institutions of higher education regarding the program.

18           (d) In consultation with general academic teaching  
19 institutions, the coordinating board shall adopt any rules the  
20 coordinating board considers appropriate for the administration of  
21 this section.

22           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.