

By: Patrick, et al.  
(Branch)

S.B. No. 945

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 945:

By: Branch

C.S.S.B. No. 945

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing a lower-division institution of higher education to award an associate degree to a student enrolled in a four-year public institution of higher education who previously attended the lower-division institution.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.833 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.833. CREDIT TRANSFER FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE. (a) In this section, "lower-division institution of higher education" means a public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute.

(b) This section applies to a student enrolled in a general academic teaching institution who:

(1) transferred to the institution from or previously attended a lower-division institution of higher education;

(2) earned at least 30 credit hours for course work successfully completed at the lower-division institution of higher education; and

(3) has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 credit hours for course work successfully completed.

(c) As soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled in a general academic teaching institution has met the criteria established by Subsection (b)(3), the institution by e-mail or

1 other reasonable method shall request authorization from the  
2 student for the institution to release the student's transcript to  
3 the lower-division institution of higher education that the student  
4 previously attended for the purpose of determining whether the  
5 student has earned the credits required for an associate degree  
6 awarded by the lower-division institution of higher education. On  
7 receipt of a student's authorization under this subsection, the  
8 general academic teaching institution shall release the student's  
9 transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education.

10 (d) After receiving a student transcript from a general  
11 academic teaching institution under Subsection (c), a  
12 lower-division institution of higher education shall review the  
13 transcript and, if the lower-division institution of higher  
14 education determines the student has earned the credits required to  
15 receive an associate degree awarded by the lower-division  
16 institution of higher education, may award the student the degree.

17 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a  
18 student who not earlier than the 2011 fall semester transfers to or  
19 otherwise initially enrolls in a general academic teaching  
20 institution after attending a lower-division institution of higher  
21 education.

22 SECTION 3. 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.