

By: Patrick

S.B. No. 945

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

(1) transferred to the institution from or previously attended a public junior college;

(2) earned at least 30 credit hours for course work successfully completed at the public junior college; and

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

(b) As soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled in a general academic teaching institution has met the criteria established by Subsection (a)(3), the institution by e-mail or other reasonable method shall request authorization from the student for the institution to release the student's transcript to the public junior college that the student previously attended for the purpose of determining whether the student has earned the

1 credits required for an associate degree awarded by the junior
2 college. On receipt of a student's authorization under this
3 subsection, the institution shall release the student's transcript
4 to the public junior college.

5 (c) After receiving a student transcript from a general
6 academic teaching institution under Subsection (b), a public junior
7 college shall review the transcript and, if the public junior
8 college determines the student has earned the credits required to
9 receive an associate degree awarded by the junior college, may
10 award the student the degree.

11 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a
12 student who not earlier than the 2011 fall semester transfers to or
13 otherwise initially enrolls in a general academic teaching
14 institution after attending a public junior college.

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, 2011.