

1-1 By: Patrick S.B. No. 945
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 24, 2011; March 8, 2011,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 March 17, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-5 Nays 0; March 17, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to authorizing a public junior college to award an
1-9 associate degree to a student enrolled in a four-year public
1-10 institution of higher education who previously attended the junior
1-11 college.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 61.833 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 61.833. CREDIT TRANSFER FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

1-16 (a) This section applies to a student enrolled in a general
1-17 academic teaching institution who:

1-18 (1) transferred to the institution from or previously
1-19 attended a public junior college;

1-20 (2) earned at least 30 credit hours for course work
1-21 successfully completed at the public junior college; and

1-22 (3) has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 credit
1-23 hours for course work successfully completed.

1-24 (b) As soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled
1-25 in a general academic teaching institution has met the criteria
1-26 established by Subsection (a)(3), the institution by e-mail or
1-27 other reasonable method shall request authorization from the
1-28 student for the institution to release the student's transcript to
1-29 the public junior college that the student previously attended for
1-30 the purpose of determining whether the student has earned the
1-31 credits required for an associate degree awarded by the junior
1-32 college. On receipt of a student's authorization under this
1-33 subsection, the institution shall release the student's transcript
1-34 to the public junior college.

1-35 (c) After receiving a student transcript from a general
1-36 academic teaching institution under Subsection (b), a public junior
1-37 college shall review the transcript and, if the public junior
1-38 college determines the student has earned the credits required to
1-39 receive an associate degree awarded by the junior college, may
1-40 award the student the degree.

1-41 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a
1-42 student who not earlier than the 2011 fall semester transfers to or
1-43 otherwise initially enrolls in a general academic teaching
1-44 institution after attending a public junior college.

1-45 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-46 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-47 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-48 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-49 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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