

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 82
By: McClendon
Higher Education
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Interested parties note that students transferring from two-year institutions of higher education to four-year institutions often encounter challenges like having to retake courses not recognized by the receiving institution or having to pay additional tuition to take courses that will be recognized. This can cost such students both money and valuable time. Negotiating how to transfer credit between courses is also time-consuming and difficult for colleges and universities and both have recognized the need for a more streamlined approach. C.S.H.B. 82 seeks to reduce the costs for all involved through a single common course numbering system that will be phased in over a period of time.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 82 amends the Education Code to clarify that the course numbering system to be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for lower-division courses to facilitate the transfer of such courses among institutions of higher education is a single common course numbering system. The bill requires the coordinating board to solicit input from institutions of higher education regarding the development of the single common course numbering system and requires each institution of higher education, other than The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University, to use the approved common course numbering system for each course for which a common number designation and course description are included in that system and to include the applicable course numbers from that system in its course catalogs and other course listings. The bill, in a provision limiting the coordinating board's approval of a common course numbering system to a system already in common use in Texas by institutions of higher education, specifies that such a numbering system already be in use by one or more institutions in Texas.

C.S.H.B. 82 adds a temporary provision, set to expire January 1, 2020, to require the coordinating board, not later than June 1, 2014, to approve a single common course numbering system and to establish a timetable that requires the applicable institutions to phase in the inclusion of applicable course numbers from the numbering system in their individual course listings and course numbering systems so that each institution fully complies with the numbering system for all courses offered for the 2018-2019 academic year and subsequent years.

C.S.H.B. 82 removes a provision authorizing the coordinating board to grant an institution of higher education, for good cause, an exemption from the requirement to include in the institution's course listings the applicable course numbers from the board-approved common course numbering system.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2013.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 82 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and highlighted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

INTRODUCED

SECTION 1. Section 61.822(b), Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 2. Section 61.830, Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 3. Section 61.832, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.832. COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM. (a) The board shall approve a single common course numbering system for lower-division courses to facilitate the transfer of those courses among institutions of higher education by promoting consistency in course designation and identification.

(b) The board shall solicit input from institutions of higher education regarding the development of the single common course numbering system.

(c) Each institution of higher education shall:

- (1) use the approved common course numbering system for each course for which a common number designation and course description are included in that system; and
- (2) include the applicable course numbers from that system in its course catalogs and other course listings.

(d) The board may approve only a common course numbering system already in common use in this state by one or more institutions of higher education.

(e) [~~e~~] The board shall cooperate with institutions of higher education in any additional development or alteration of the common course numbering system approved under Subsection (a), including the taxonomy to be used, and in the development of rules for the administration and applicability of the system.

(f) Not later than June 1, 2014, the board

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Same as introduced version.

SECTION 2. Same as introduced version.

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(b) The board shall solicit input from institutions of higher education regarding the development of the single common course numbering system.

(c) Each institution of higher education other than The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University shall:

- (1) use the approved common course numbering system for each course for which a common number designation and course description are included in that system; and
- (2) include the applicable course numbers from that system in its course catalogs and other course listings.

(d) The board may approve only a common course numbering system already in common use in this state by one or more institutions of higher education.

(e) [~~e~~] The board shall cooperate with institutions of higher education in any additional development or alteration of the common course numbering system approved under Subsection (a), including the taxonomy to be used, and in the development of rules for the administration and applicability of the system.

(f) Not later than June 1, 2014, the board

shall:

(1) approve a single common course numbering system as required by Subsection (a); and

(2) establish a timetable that requires institutions of higher education to phase in the inclusion of the applicable course numbers from the common course numbering system in their individual course listings and course numbering systems as required by this section so that each institution fully complies with this section for all courses offered for the 2018-2019 academic year and subsequent years.

(f-1) Subsection (f) and this subsection expire January 1, 2020.

~~[(d) An institution of higher education shall include in its course listings the applicable course numbers from the common course numbering system approved by the board under this section. For good cause, the board may grant to an institution of higher education an exemption from the requirements of this subsection.]~~

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

shall:

(1) approve a single common course numbering system as required by Subsection (a); and

(2) establish a timetable that requires ~~the~~ institutions of higher education ~~to which~~ Subsection (c) applies to phase in the inclusion of the applicable course numbers from the common course numbering system in their individual course listings and course numbering systems as required by this section so that each institution fully complies with this section for all courses offered for the 2018-2019 academic year and subsequent years.

(f-1) Subsection (f) and this subsection expire January 1, 2020.

~~[(d) An institution of higher education shall include in its course listings the applicable course numbers from the common course numbering system approved by the board under this section. For good cause, the board may grant to an institution of higher education an exemption from the requirements of this subsection.]~~

SECTION 4. Same as introduced version.