

By: Lewis

H.B. No. 1261

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the authority of the Texas Higher Education
3 Coordinating Board to consolidate or eliminate a degree or
4 certificate program offered by a public institution of higher
5 education.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 61.051, Education Code, is amended by
8 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as
9 follows:

10 (e) The board shall review periodically the role and mission
11 statements, the table of programs, and all degree and certificate
12 programs offered by the public institutions of higher education to
13 assure that they meet the present and future needs of the state and
14 the counties in which they are located. The board's review shall be
15 performed at least every four years and shall involve the
16 chairperson of the institution's board of regents. The board shall
17 also order the initiation[~~, consolidation, or elimination~~] of
18 degree or certificate programs where that action is in the best
19 interest of the public institutions themselves or the general
20 requirements of the State of Texas, the counties in which they are
21 located, or when that action offers hope of achieving excellence by
22 a concentration of available resources. No new department, school,
23 degree program, or certificate program may be added at any public
24 institution of higher education except with specific prior approval

1 of the board. The board may recommend that [~~authorize~~] an
2 institution [~~to~~] continue a doctoral program that is inconsistent
3 with the role and mission of the institution if the program was in
4 existence on September 1, 1987, and the board determines that
5 continuation of the program is warranted.

6 (e-1) The board may not order the consolidation or
7 elimination of any degree or certificate program offered by an
8 institution of higher education but may make recommendations to the
9 institution or to the legislature for that action if the board
10 determines that action satisfies the criteria prescribed by
11 Subsection (e) for ordering the initiation of a program.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.