

By: Ellis, et al.

S.B. No. 414

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report regarding authorizing certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs to address regional workforce needs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 130.0013 to read as follows:

Sec. 130.0013. STUDY AND REPORT; BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS AUTHORITY. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall, using existing funds, conduct a study of regional workforce needs in this state to determine the regions of the state that would benefit from the authorization of baccalaureate degree programs at public junior colleges serving the region and appropriate metrics for determining whether a public junior college should offer those degree programs. In conducting its study, the coordinating board shall consult with at least one representative of each of the following:

- (1) four-year institutions of higher education;
- (2) two-year institutions of higher education;
- (3) regional businesses;
- (4) professional associations; and
- (5) any other entity the commissioner of higher education considers appropriate.

(b) Not later than August 1, 2014, the coordinating board

1 shall submit to each legislative standing committee with primary  
2 jurisdiction over higher education the results of its study under  
3 this section and recommendations for legislative or other action.

4 (c) This section expires September 1, 2015.

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