

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 414

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education
3 Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer
4 baccalaureate degree programs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 130.0012, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (b) and (g) and adding Subsection (g-1) to
8 read as follows:

9 (b) The coordinating board shall authorize baccalaureate
10 degree programs at:

11 (1) each public junior college that previously
12 participated in a pilot project to offer baccalaureate degree
13 programs; and

14 (2) one or more public junior colleges that offer a
15 degree program in the field of nursing if the public junior college
16 is located in a county with a population greater than 3.3 million at
17 the time the degree is initially offered.

18 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [It] its
19 recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for
20 public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that
21 a public junior college receive substantially the same state
22 support for junior-level and senior-level courses offered under
23 this section as that provided to a general academic teaching
24 institution for substantially similar courses. In determining the

1 contact hours attributable to students enrolled in a junior-level
2 or senior-level course offered under this section used to determine
3 a public junior college's proportionate share of state
4 appropriations under Section 130.003, the coordinating board shall
5 weigh those contact hours as necessary to provide the junior
6 college the appropriate level of state support to the extent state
7 funds for those courses are included in the appropriations. This
8 subsection does not prohibit the legislature from directly
9 appropriating state funds to support junior-level and senior-level
10 courses offered under this section.

11 (g-1) A degree program created under Subsection (b)(2) may
12 be funded solely by a public junior college's proportionate share
13 of state appropriations under Section 130.003, local funds, and
14 private sources. This subsection does not require the legislature
15 to appropriate state funds to support a degree program created
16 under Subsection (b)(2).

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