

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 61

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a single common course numbering system for public
3 institutions of higher education in this state.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 61.822(b), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
8 curriculum of not [~~no~~] less than 42 semester credit hours,
9 including specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core
10 curriculum shall be consistent with the single common course
11 numbering system approved by the board under Section 61.832(a) and
12 with the statement, recommendations, and rules issued by the board.
13 An institution may have a core curriculum of other than 42 semester
14 credit hours only if approved by the board.

15 SECTION 2. Section 61.830, Education Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 61.830. PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES ADDRESSING TRANSFER
18 PRACTICES. In its course catalogs and on its website, each
19 institution of higher education shall publish guidelines
20 addressing the practices of the institution regarding the transfer
21 of course credit. In the guidelines, the institution must identify
22 a course by using the single common course numbering system
23 approved by the board under Section 61.832(a).

24 SECTION 3. Section 61.832, Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

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

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

10 (c) Each institution of higher education shall:

11 (1) use the approved common course numbering system in
12 the institution's guidelines regarding the transfer of course
13 credit for each course for which a common number designation and
14 course description are included in that system; and

15 (2) include the applicable course numbers from the
16 approved common course numbering system in its course catalogs and
17 other course listings.

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

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

26 (f) Not later than June 1, 2016, the board shall:

27 (1) approve a single common course numbering system as

1 required by Subsection (a); and

2 (2) establish a timetable that requires institutions
3 of higher education to phase in the inclusion of the applicable
4 course numbers from the approved common course numbering system in
5 their individual guidelines regarding the transfer of course credit
6 and course numbering systems as required by this section so that
7 each institution fully complies with this section for all courses
8 offered for the 2020-2021 academic year and subsequent years.

9 (f-1) Subsection (f) and this subsection expire January 1,
10 2022.

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.