

By: Wu

H.B. No. 301

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the granting of undergraduate course credit by
3 examination or assessment at public institutions of higher
4 education; authorizing a fee.

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

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 51.968, Education Code,
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.968. ALTERNATE METHODS FOR EARNING UNDERGRADUATE
9 COURSE CREDIT [~~FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPLETING~~
10 ~~POSTSECONDARY-LEVEL PROGRAM~~].

11 SECTION 2. Section 51.968(a)(4), Education Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (4) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
14 assigned [~~means an institution of higher education, as defined~~] by
15 Section 61.003 [~~, that offers freshman-level courses~~].

16 SECTION 3. Section 51.968, Education Code, is amended by
17 adding Subsections (a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (d), and (f-1) and amending
18 Subsections (b), (c), and (e) to read as follows:

19 (a-1) This section applies only to an institution of higher
20 education that offers freshman-level and sophomore-level courses.

21 (a-2) To maximize opportunities for students to earn
22 undergraduate course credit at the institution, each institution of
23 higher education shall develop and, at least once during each
24 academic year, administer one or more institution-specific

1 examinations or assessments by which entering or current
2 undergraduate students may earn freshman-level or sophomore-level
3 course credit in the same manner as an entering freshman student may
4 earn course credit through a CLEP examination or Advanced Placement
5 examination. The institution may charge a student a reasonable fee
6 for taking an examination or assessment described by this
7 subsection. The institution shall develop and administer
8 examinations or assessments for course credit for as many
9 freshman-level and sophomore-level courses as practicable and may
10 develop those examinations or assessments using source material
11 from other institutions of higher education.

12 (a-3) Each institution of higher education that ceases to
13 offer credit through the College-Level Examination Program or the
14 Advanced Placement Program for a specific course shall offer credit
15 for the course through an institution-specific examination or
16 assessment administered under Subsection (a-2).

17 (b) Each institution of higher education [~~that offers~~
18 ~~freshman-level courses~~] shall adopt and implement a policy to grant
19 [~~undergraduate~~] course credit for freshman-level and
20 sophomore-level courses to undergraduate [~~entering freshman~~]
21 students who have:

22 (1) successfully completed the International
23 Baccalaureate Diploma Program;

24 (2) [~~who have~~] achieved required scores on one or more
25 examinations in the Advanced Placement Program or the College-Level
26 Examination Program;

27 (3) [~~or who have~~] successfully completed one or more

1 courses offered through concurrent enrollment in high school and at
2 an institution of higher education; or

3 (4) achieved required scores on one or more
4 institution-specific examinations or assessments administered by
5 the institution under Subsection (a-2).

6 (c) In the policy, the institution shall:

7 (1) establish the institution's conditions for
8 granting course credit, including the minimum required scores on
9 CLEP examinations, Advanced Placement examinations, ~~[and]~~
10 examinations for courses constituting the International
11 Baccalaureate Diploma Program, and institution-specific
12 examinations or assessments administered by the institution under
13 Subsection (a-2); and

14 (2) based on the correlations identified under
15 Subsections ~~[Subsection]~~ (f) and (f-1), identify the specific
16 freshman-level or sophomore-level course credit or other academic
17 requirements of the institution, including the number of semester
18 credit hours or other course credit, that the institution will
19 grant to a student who successfully completes a course or program or
20 achieves a required score on an examination or assessment as
21 described by Subsection (b) ~~[the diploma program, who successfully~~
22 ~~completes a course through concurrent enrollment, or who achieves~~
23 ~~required scores on CLEP examinations or Advanced Placement~~
24 ~~examinations]~~.

25 (d) Each institution of higher education shall:

26 (1) report to the coordinating board:

27 (A) a list of courses for which the institution

1 offers undergraduate students the opportunity to earn course credit
2 through an institution-specific examination or assessment;

3 (B) the institution's policy adopted under this
4 section; and

5 (C) a schedule of any fees charged for an
6 examination or assessment administered under Subsection (a-2); and

7 (2) include a copy of the list, policy, and applicable
8 fee schedule with the institution's undergraduate student
9 application materials, including application materials available
10 on the institution's Internet website.

11 (e) On request of an applicant for admission as an entering
12 undergraduate student [~~freshman~~], an institution of higher
13 education, based on information provided by the applicant, shall
14 determine and notify the applicant regarding:

15 (1) the amount and type of any course credit that would
16 or could be granted to the applicant under the policy; and

17 (2) any other academic requirement that the applicant
18 would satisfy under the policy.

19 (f-1) An institution of higher education shall:

20 (1) identify correlations between the subject matter
21 and content of courses offered by the institution and the subject
22 matter and content of institution-specific examinations or
23 assessments administered by the institution under Subsection
24 (a-2); and

25 (2) make that information available to the public on
26 the institution's Internet website.

27 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies

1 beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year. An academic year
2 occurring before that academic year is covered by the law in effect
3 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
4 continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.