

AN ACT

relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 130.0012, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), (b-3), (k), and (l) to read as follows:

(b-1) The coordinating board shall establish a pilot project to examine the feasibility and effectiveness of authorizing baccalaureate degree programs in the field of dental hygiene at a public junior college that offers a degree program in that field, has a main campus located in the county seat of a county with a population greater than 200,000, and includes territory in at least six public school districts located in two counties. Subsection (g) does not apply to junior-level and senior-level courses offered under this subsection. In its recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that junior-level and senior-level courses offered under this subsection by a public junior college receive the same state support as other courses offered by the public junior college.

(b-2) Not later than January 1, 2017, the coordinating board shall prepare a progress report on the pilot project established

1 under Subsection (b-1). Not later than January 1, 2019, the  
2 coordinating board shall prepare a report on the effectiveness of  
3 the pilot project, including any recommendations for legislative  
4 action regarding the offering of baccalaureate degree programs in  
5 the field of dental hygiene by a public junior college. The  
6 coordinating board shall deliver a copy of each report to the  
7 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
8 representatives, and the chair of the standing committee of each  
9 house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher  
10 education. Unless the authority to continue offering a  
11 baccalaureate degree program in the field of dental hygiene is  
12 continued by the legislature, a public junior college may not:

13 (1) enroll a new student in a baccalaureate degree  
14 program under the pilot project after the 2019 fall semester;

15 (2) offer junior-level or senior-level courses for  
16 those degree programs after the 2021 fall semester, unless the  
17 coordinating board authorizes the college to offer those courses;  
18 or

19 (3) award a baccalaureate degree under the pilot  
20 project after the 2021 fall semester, unless the coordinating board  
21 approves the awarding of the degree.

22 (b-3) This subsection and Subsections (b-1) and (b-2)  
23 expire on the first June 15 following the first regular legislative  
24 session that occurs after the fourth anniversary of the date a  
25 public junior college offering a degree program in the field of  
26 dental hygiene under Subsection (b-1) meets the accreditation  
27 requirements of Subsection (c).

1        (k) The coordinating board shall adopt rules as necessary  
2 for the administration of this section.

3        (l) In this section, "general academic teaching  
4 institution" and "institution of higher education" have the  
5 meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

6        SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3348 was passed by the House on May 8, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3348 on May 27, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 1, 3 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3348 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor