

By: González

H.B. No. 3498

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the development of transfer associate degree programs
3 to facilitate the transfer of students from public junior colleges
4 to general academic teaching institutions.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 61.05125 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.05125. TRANSFER ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS. (a) The
9 board, in collaboration with public junior colleges and general
10 academic teaching institutions, shall:

11 (1) develop and approve transfer associate degree
12 programs to be offered by public junior colleges in a variety of
13 fields reflecting the diversity of degree programs offered by
14 general academic teaching institutions; and

15 (2) subject to admissions space availability, require
16 each general academic teaching institution to offer any applicant
17 for transfer admission to the institution who successfully
18 completed a transfer associate degree program under Subdivision
19 (1):

20 (A) priority consideration in admission to the
21 institution as a junior-level transfer student with academic credit
22 for the semester credit hours of course work completed by the
23 student under the transfer associate degree program; and

24 (B) priority consideration in admission to a

1 specific college or degree program at the institution that is
2 related to the student's associate degree field.

3 (b) Each transfer associate degree program approved by the
4 board under this section must require a student to successfully
5 complete 60 semester credit hours of academic course work at a
6 public junior college, including the public junior college's core
7 curriculum adopted under Section 61.822(b), with a cumulative grade
8 point average of at least 2.0 on a four-point scale or the
9 equivalent.

10 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
11 shall develop and approve transfer associate degree programs under
12 Section 61.05125, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as
13 practicable following the effective date of this Act, but not later
14 than January 31, 2016.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.