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H.B. No. 3836

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 early childhood education 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 adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (g-1) and amending Subsection  
8 (g) to read as follows:

9 (b-1) The coordinating board shall authorize a  
10 baccalaureate degree program in early childhood education at each  
11 public junior college located in a county with a population of 2.2  
12 million or more and adjacent to a county with a population of more  
13 than 600,000 if:

14 (1) the county in which the public junior college is  
15 located has a demonstrated initial need for at least 3,000 early  
16 childhood educators;

17 (2) the degree program curriculum is approved by the  
18 independent school districts located in the county that  
19 collectively represent at least 51 percent of the student  
20 population enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade; and

21 (3) one of the following:

22 (A) before November 1, 2015, a regional public  
23 university located in the county in which the public junior college  
24 is located or an immediately adjacent county is unable to obtain the

1 approval of the independent school districts located in the county  
2 in which the public junior college is located that collectively  
3 represent at least 51 percent of the student population enrolled in  
4 kindergarten through 12th grade for a detailed plan to:

5 (i) expand degree output of early childhood  
6 and elementary certified teachers to collectively meet the  
7 three-year average hiring demands of the independent school  
8 districts located in the county in which the public junior college  
9 is located and immediately adjacent counties, including producing  
10 more prekindergarten teachers to support the planned increases in  
11 prekindergarten enrollment for all public schools;

12 (ii) implement an early childhood education  
13 curriculum; and

14 (iii) fund the expansion of current or  
15 development of new early childhood education programs, which does  
16 not include state funding for new facilities; or

17 (B) before September 1, 2017, a regional public  
18 university that received the approval of independent school  
19 districts as described by Paragraph (A) is unable to demonstrate:

20 (i) the necessary current student  
21 enrollment to produce sufficient early childhood and elementary  
22 certified teachers within the next four years to meet the existing  
23 hiring demands of the independent school districts located in the  
24 county in which the public junior college is located and  
25 immediately adjacent counties based on historical three-year  
26 averages, including producing more prekindergarten teachers to  
27 support the planned increases in prekindergarten enrollment for all

1 public schools; and

2 (ii) implementation of an early childhood  
3 education curriculum meeting the expressed needs of the independent  
4 school districts located in the county in which the public junior  
5 college is located that collectively represent at least 51 percent  
6 of the student population enrolled in kindergarten through 12th  
7 grade.

8 (b-2) The coordinating board may not subsequently terminate  
9 authorization to offer an early childhood baccalaureate degree  
10 program granted under Subsection (b-1) on the ground that  
11 implementation of the degree program reduces the workforce need to  
12 a level that is below the minimal threshold specified in Subsection  
13 (b-1)(1).

14 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [~~In~~] its  
15 recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for  
16 public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that  
17 a public junior college receive substantially the same state  
18 support for junior-level and senior-level courses offered under  
19 this section as that provided to a general academic teaching  
20 institution for substantially similar courses. In determining the  
21 contact hours attributable to students enrolled in a junior-level  
22 or senior-level course offered under this section used to determine  
23 a public junior college's proportionate share of state  
24 appropriations under Section 130.003, the coordinating board shall  
25 weigh those contact hours as necessary to provide the junior  
26 college the appropriate level of state support to the extent state  
27 funds for those courses are included in the appropriations. This

1 subsection does not prohibit the legislature from directly  
2 appropriating state funds to support junior-level and senior-level  
3 courses offered under this section.

4 (g-1) A degree program created under Subsection (b-1) may be  
5 funded only by a public junior college's proportionate share of  
6 state appropriations under Section 130.003, local funds, and  
7 private sources. This subsection does not require the legislature  
8 to appropriate state funds to support a degree program created  
9 under Subsection (b-1).

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.