

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 1189

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a transfer associate degree program at each public junior college.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 130.0104 to read as follows:

Sec. 130.0104. TRANSFER ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM. (a) The governing board of each public junior college district shall establish a transfer associate degree program at each junior college in the district.

(b) A transfer associate degree program established at a junior college under this section must require a student to successfully complete:

(1) the junior college's core curriculum adopted under Section 61.822(b); and

(2) the courses selected by the student in the student's degree plan completed under Subsection (c).

(c) Notwithstanding Section 51.9685, before the beginning of the regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which a student successfully completes a cumulative total of 30 or more semester credit hours for coursework in a transfer associate degree program established under this section, the student must meet with an academic advisor to complete a degree plan, as defined by Section 51.9685(a)(1), that:

1 (1) accounts for all remaining credit hours required
2 for the completion of the degree program; and

3 (2) emphasizes:

4 (A) the student's transition to a particular
5 four-year college or university that the student chooses; and

6 (B) preparations for the student's intended
7 field of study or major at the four-year college or university.

8 (d) The coordinating board shall adopt rules as necessary
9 for the administration of this section, including rules ensuring
10 that:

11 (1) a transfer associate degree program is established
12 at each public junior college; and

13 (2) the common application form adopted under Section
14 51.762 contains a description of transfer associate degree programs
15 established under this section.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
17 Board shall adopt the rules required by Section 130.0104, Education
18 Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the
19 effective date of this Act. For that purpose, the coordinating
20 board may adopt the initial rules in the manner provided by law for
21 emergency rules.

22 (b) The governing board of each public junior college
23 district shall offer a transfer associate degree program at each
24 junior college in the district as required by Section 130.0104,
25 Education Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2016 fall
26 semester.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.