

By: Keough

H.B. No. 1602

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 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 amending Subsections (a) and (g) and adding Subsections (b-4) and  
8 (g-1) to read as follows:

9 (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may  
10 [~~shall~~] authorize public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate  
11 degree programs in the fields of applied science, [~~and~~] applied  
12 technology, and nursing under this section. Offering a  
13 baccalaureate degree program under this section does not otherwise  
14 alter the role and mission of a public junior college.

15 (b-4) The coordinating board shall authorize a public  
16 junior college with a service area located wholly or partly in a  
17 county with a population of more than three million or a public  
18 junior college with a student population of at least 75,000 and  
19 contiguous to such a county to offer a baccalaureate degree program  
20 in the field of nursing. A degree program authorized under this  
21 subsection may be offered under an articulation agreement as  
22 provided by Section 29.908 with an early college education program  
23 located in the service area of the public junior college.

24 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [~~It~~] its

1 recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for  
2 public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that  
3 a public junior college receive substantially the same state  
4 support for junior-level and senior-level courses offered under  
5 this section as that provided to a general academic teaching  
6 institution for substantially similar courses. In determining the  
7 contact hours attributable to students enrolled in a junior-level  
8 or senior-level course offered under this section used to determine  
9 a public junior college's proportionate share of state  
10 appropriations under Section 130.003, the coordinating board shall  
11 weigh those contact hours as necessary to provide the junior  
12 college the appropriate level of state support to the extent state  
13 funds for those courses are included in the appropriations. This  
14 subsection does not prohibit the legislature from directly  
15 appropriating state funds to support junior-level and senior-level  
16 courses offered under this section.

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

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.