

By: Laubenberg

H.B. No. 2251

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

9 (b-4) The coordinating board may authorize baccalaureate
10 degree programs under this section at one or more public junior
11 colleges that offer a degree program in the field of nursing and
12 have demonstrated a workforce need. Offering a baccalaureate
13 degree program under this subsection does not otherwise alter the
14 role and mission of a public junior college.

15 (e) In determining whether a public junior college may offer
16 [what] baccalaureate degree programs and what degree programs may
17 [are to] be offered, the coordinating board shall:

18 (1) apply the same criteria and standards the
19 coordinating board uses to approve baccalaureate degree programs at
20 general academic teaching institutions; and

21 (2) consider the following factors:

22 (A) [~~1~~] the workforce need for the degree
23 programs in the region served by the junior college;

24 (B) [~~2~~] how those degree programs would

1 complement the other programs and course offerings of the junior
2 college and whether the associate degree program offered by the
3 junior college in the same field has been successful;

4 (C) [~~3~~] whether those degree programs would
5 unnecessarily duplicate the degree programs offered by other
6 institutions of higher education; and

7 (D) [~~4~~] the ability of the junior college to
8 support the degree programs with student enrollment [~~program~~] and
9 the adequacy of the junior college's facilities, faculty,
10 administration, libraries, and other resources.

11 (e-1) A public junior college may offer a baccalaureate
12 degree program under this section only if its junior college
13 district meets the taxable property valuation amount established in
14 Section 130.032.

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

21 (h) Each biennium, each public junior college offering a
22 baccalaureate degree program under this section shall conduct a
23 review of each baccalaureate degree program offered and prepare a
24 [~~biennial~~] report on the operation, quality, and effectiveness of
25 those [~~the junior college's baccalaureate~~] degree programs. A [~~and~~
26 ~~shall deliver a~~] copy of the report shall be delivered to the
27 coordinating board in the form and at the time determined by the

1 coordinating board.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.