

By: Muñoz, Jr.

H.B. No. 2901

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

9 (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
10 authorize public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree  
11 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 baccalaureate  
16 degree programs at one or more public junior colleges that offer a  
17 degree program in the field of nursing and have demonstrated a  
18 workforce need.

19 (d) A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree  
20 program under this section may not offer more than six ~~five~~  
21 baccalaureate degree programs at any time. The degree programs are  
22 subject to the continuing approval of the coordinating board.

23 (e) In determining whether a public junior college may offer  
24 ~~what~~ baccalaureate degree programs and what degree programs may

1 ~~[are to]~~ be offered, the coordinating board shall:

2 (1) apply the same criteria and standards the  
3 coordinating board uses to approve baccalaureate degree programs at  
4 general academic teaching institutions; and

5 (2) consider the following factors:

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

8 (B) [~~(2)~~] how those degree programs would  
9 complement the other programs and course offerings of the junior  
10 college and whether the associate degree program offered by the  
11 junior college in the same field has been successful;

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

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

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

23 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [~~In~~] its  
24 recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for  
25 public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that  
26 a public junior college receive substantially the same state  
27 support for junior-level and senior-level courses offered under

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

13 (g-1) For the first two years in which a degree program  
14 created under Subsection (b-4) is offered, the degree program may  
15 be funded solely by a public junior college's proportionate share  
16 of state appropriations under Section 130.003, local funds, and  
17 private sources. This subsection does not require the legislature  
18 to appropriate state funds to support a degree program created  
19 under Subsection (b-4).

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