

By: Vo

H.B. No. 3527

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), (b), (e), (g), and (h) and adding  
8 Subsection (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) The coordinating board:

16 (1) shall authorize baccalaureate degree programs in  
17 the fields of applied science and applied technology at each public  
18 junior college that previously participated in a pilot project to  
19 offer baccalaureate degree programs; and

20 (2) may authorize a baccalaureate degree program at a  
21 public junior college primarily located in a county with a  
22 population of 4 million or more or in a county adjacent to a county  
23 with a population of 4 million or more that offers a degree program  
24 in the field of nursing and has demonstrated a workforce need.

1 (e) In determining what baccalaureate degree programs are  
2 to be offered, the coordinating board shall:

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

6 (2) consider the following factors:

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

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

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

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

20 (E) whether the junior college meets the taxable  
21 property valuation amount established in Section 130.032.

22 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [~~It~~] its  
23 recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for  
24 public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that  
25 a public junior college that previously participated in a pilot  
26 project to offer baccalaureate degree programs receive  
27 substantially the same state support for junior-level and

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

15 (g-1) A degree program created under Subsection (b)(2) may  
16 be funded solely by a public junior college's proportionate share  
17 of state appropriations under Section 130.003, local funds, and  
18 private sources. This subsection does not require the legislature  
19 to appropriate state funds to support a degree program created  
20 under Subsection (b)(2).

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.