

By: Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 4092

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 130.0012, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (d), (e), (g), and (h) and adding Subsections (e-1), (f-1), (g-1), and (g-2) to read as follows:

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

(b) The coordinating board:

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

(2) may authorize baccalaureate degree programs at one or more public junior colleges that offer a degree program in the fields of applied science, applied technology, or nursing and have demonstrated a workforce need.

(d) A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree

1 program under this section may not offer more than three ~~[five]~~
2 baccalaureate degree programs at any time. The degree programs are
3 subject to the continuing approval of the coordinating board.

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

7 (1) apply the same criteria and standards the
8 coordinating board uses to approve baccalaureate degree programs at
9 general academic teaching institutions;

10 (2) consider the following factors:

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

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

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

20 (D) ~~[(4)]~~ the ability of the junior college to
21 support the degree programs with student enrollment ~~[program]~~ and
22 the adequacy of the junior college's facilities, faculty,
23 administration, libraries, and other resources, including evidence
24 provided to the coordinating board and the Texas Board of Nursing
25 that a public junior college seeking approval of a baccalaureate
26 degree program in nursing has secured adequate long-term clinical
27 space; and

1 (3) ensure the program would not draw faculty employed
2 by a neighboring institution offering a similar program.

3 (e-1) A public junior college may offer a baccalaureate
4 degree program under this section only if its junior college
5 district had a taxable property valuation amount of not less than
6 \$10 billion in the preceding year.

7 (f-1) The coordinating board shall establish minimum
8 admission standards for students enrolling in a baccalaureate
9 degree program in nursing offered by a public junior college under
10 this section.

11 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), a degree program
12 created under this section may be funded solely by a public junior
13 college's proportionate share of state appropriations under
14 Section 130.003, local funds, and private sources. This subsection
15 does not require the legislature to appropriate state funds to
16 support a degree program created under this section.

17 (g-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (g), in [~~It~~] its
18 recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for
19 public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that
20 a public junior college that previously participated in a pilot
21 project to offer baccalaureate degree programs receive
22 substantially the same state support for junior-level and
23 senior-level courses in the fields of applied science and applied
24 technology offered under this section as that provided to a general
25 academic teaching institution for substantially similar courses.
26 For purposes of this subsection, in [~~It~~] determining the contact
27 hours attributable to students enrolled in a junior-level or

1 senior-level course in the field of applied science or applied
 2 technology offered under this section used to determine a public
 3 junior college's proportionate share of state appropriations under
 4 Section 130.003, the coordinating board shall weigh those contact
 5 hours as necessary to provide the junior college the appropriate
 6 level of state support to the extent state funds for those courses
 7 are included in the appropriations. This subsection does not
 8 prohibit the legislature from directly appropriating state funds to
 9 support junior-level and senior-level courses to which this
 10 subsection applies [~~offered under this section~~].

11 (g-2) A public junior college may not charge a student
 12 enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program offered under this
 13 section tuition and fees in an amount that exceeds the amount of
 14 tuition and fees charged by the junior college to a similarly
 15 situated student who is enrolled in an associate degree program in a
 16 corresponding field.

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

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.