

By: Watson

S.B. No. 352

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), (e), (g), and (h) and adding Subsection (g-1) 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 field of nursing and have demonstrated a workforce need.

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

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

4 (2) consider the following factors:

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

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

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

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

18 (E) whether the junior college meets the taxable
19 property valuation amount established in Section [130.032](#).

20 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [~~In~~] its
21 recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for
22 public junior colleges, the coordinating board shall recommend that
23 a public junior college that previously participated in a pilot
24 project to offer baccalaureate degree programs receive
25 substantially the same state support for junior-level and
26 senior-level courses in the field of applied science or applied
27 technology offered under Subsection (b)(1) [~~this section~~] as that

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

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

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

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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