

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 598

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) and (g-1) and amending Subsection (g) to
8 read as follows:

9 (b-4) The coordinating board shall authorize a public
10 junior college with a service area located wholly or partly in a
11 county with a population of more than three million to offer a
12 baccalaureate degree program in the field of applied technology. A
13 degree program authorized under this subsection may be offered
14 under an articulation agreement as provided by Section 29.908 with
15 an early college education program located in the service area of
16 the public junior college.

17 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [In] 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 receive substantially the same state
21 support for junior-level and senior-level courses offered under
22 this section as that provided to a general academic teaching
23 institution for substantially similar courses. In determining the
24 contact hours attributable to students enrolled in a junior-level

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

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

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.