

By: Watson

S.B. No. 645

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 municipality where a
22 medical school is located and with a population of 750,000 or more
23 that is primarily located in a county with a population of 1.5
24 million or less that offers a degree program in the field of nursing

1 and has demonstrated a workforce need.

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

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

7 (2) consider the following factors:

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

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

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

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

21 (E) whether the junior college meets the taxable
22 property valuation amount established in 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 that previously participated in a pilot
27 project to offer baccalaureate degree programs receive

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

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

22 (h) Each biennium, each [~~Each~~] public junior college
23 offering a baccalaureate degree program under this section shall
24 conduct a review of each baccalaureate degree program offered and
25 prepare a [~~biennial~~] report on the operation, quality, and
26 effectiveness of those [~~the junior college's baccalaureate~~] degree
27 programs. A [~~and shall deliver a~~] copy of the report shall be

1 delivered to the coordinating board in the form and at the time
2 determined by the coordinating board.

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