

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 1527

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) and (g) and adding Subsections (b-4) and
8 (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-4) The coordinating board shall authorize a public
16 junior college with a service area located wholly or partly in a
17 county with a population of less than 500,000 adjacent to the
18 northern boundary of a county with a population of more than three
19 million to offer a baccalaureate degree program in the field of
20 nursing. A degree program authorized under this subsection may be
21 offered under an articulation agreement as provided by Section
22 29.908 with an early college education program located in the
23 service area of the public junior college.

24 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1), in [~~It~~] its

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

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

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