

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1925

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), (d), (e), and (g), and adding Subsections
8 (b-4), (e-1), and (g-1) to read as follows:

9 (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
10 authorize public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree
11 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 baccalaureate
16 degree programs at one or more public junior colleges that offer a
17 degree program in the field of nursing and have demonstrated a
18 workforce need.

19 (d) A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree
20 program under this section may not offer more than six ~~five~~
21 baccalaureate degree programs at any time. The degree programs are
22 subject to the continuing approval of the coordinating board.

23 (e) In determining whether a public junior college may offer
24 ~~what~~ baccalaureate degree programs and what degree programs may

1 ~~[are to]~~ be offered, the coordinating board shall:

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

5 (2) consider the following factors:

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

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

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

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

19 (e-1) A public junior college may offer a baccalaureate
20 degree program under this section only if its junior college
21 district meets the taxable property valuation amount established in
22 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 receive substantially the same state
27 support for junior-level and senior-level courses offered under

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

13 (g-1) For the first two years in which a degree program
14 created under Subsection (b-4) is offered, the degree program may
15 be funded solely by a public junior college's proportionate share
16 of state appropriations under Section 130.003, local funds, and
17 private sources. This subsection does not require the legislature
18 to appropriate state funds to support a degree program created
19 under Subsection (b-4).

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