

By: West

S.B. No. 2086

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures to facilitate the transfer of students and course credit within the public higher education system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.834 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.834. REGIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR TRANSFER COMPACTS.

(a) The board shall divide the state into regions for the purpose of establishing a regional consortium among the institutions of higher education located within each region to facilitate the transfer of students and the transfer of course credit between institutions within the region.

(b) The board shall designate a general academic teaching institution within each region as the lead institution. Each public junior college, public state college, public technical institute, and general academic teaching institution shall participate in its assigned regional consortium.

(c) For the purposes of this section, each general academic teaching institution shall annually identify and report to the board the 25 degree programs with the greatest student enrollment at the institution. The board shall compile the information the board receives from the general academic teaching institutions in each regional consortium and report to each consortium the 25 degree programs at general academic teaching institutions in that

1 consortium with the greatest student enrollment overall.

2 (d) Each regional consortium shall develop transfer
3 compacts that identify specific courses included in the common
4 course numbering system acceptable as credit toward the 25 degree
5 programs at general academic teaching institutions with the
6 greatest student enrollment in each region, as identified by the
7 board under Subsection (c). The transfer compacts must include
8 agreements on the transfer of course credit for those degree
9 programs and related student advising, career planning, and student
10 support services at each institution in the regional consortium.

11 (e) The board shall adopt rules for the operation of a
12 regional consortium established under this section.

13 SECTION 2. Section 61.830, Education Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 Sec. 61.830. PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES ADDRESSING TRANSFER
16 PRACTICES. (a) In its course catalogs and on its website, each
17 institution of higher education shall publish guidelines
18 addressing the practices of the institution regarding the transfer
19 of course credit.

20 (b) In the guidelines, each ~~[the]~~ institution of higher
21 education must identify a course by using the common course
22 numbering system approved by the board.

23 (c) Each general academic teaching institution must include
24 the following in its guidelines:

25 (1) the 25 degree programs at general academic
26 teaching institutions with the greatest student enrollment in the
27 regional consortium in which the institution participates under

1 Section 61.834 and the core curriculum and any additional
2 lower-division requirements for each of those degree programs;

3 (2) a list of the courses offered by institutions of
4 higher education participating in the institution's regional
5 consortium that are considered by the board to be general academic
6 transfer courses that may be offered for state funding by public
7 junior colleges, public state colleges, and public technical
8 institutes; and

9 (3) the field of study curriculum for each degree
10 offered by the institution.

11 (d) Each public junior college, public state college, and
12 public technical institute must prominently indicate in its
13 guidelines any general academic teaching institution with which it
14 has entered into an agreement concerning the transfer of course
15 credit.

16 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than January 1, 2018, the Texas
17 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall establish the regional
18 consortiums required by Section 61.834, Education Code, as added by
19 this Act.

20 (b) Each regional consortium must develop the transfer
21 compacts required under Section 61.834, Education Code, as added by
22 this Act, to apply beginning with enrollment for the 2019 fall
23 semester.

24 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
25 61.830, Education Code, apply beginning with the 2019-2020 academic
26 year.

27 SECTION 5. 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.