

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 2086
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2017; March 28, 2017, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
 1-4 May 8, 2017, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 8, 2017,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2086 By: West

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to measures to facilitate the transfer of students and
 1-20 course credit within the public higher education system.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 1-23 amended by adding Section 61.834 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 61.834. REGIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR TRANSFER COMPACTS.

1-25 (a) The board shall divide the state into regions for the purpose
 1-26 of establishing a regional consortium among the institutions of
 1-27 higher education located within each region to facilitate the
 1-28 transfer of students and the transfer of course credit between
 1-29 institutions within the region. In developing the regions, the
 1-30 board shall give consideration to existing consortiums.

1-31 (b) The board shall designate a general academic teaching
 1-32 institution within each region as the lead institution. Each
 1-33 public junior college, public state college, public technical
 1-34 institute, and general academic teaching institution shall
 1-35 participate in its assigned regional consortium.

1-36 (c) For the purposes of this section, each general academic
 1-37 teaching institution shall annually identify and report to the
 1-38 board the 25 degree programs with the greatest student enrollment
 1-39 at the institution or the degree programs in which a major has been
 1-40 declared that constitute at least 70 percent of the student
 1-41 enrollment at the institution. The board shall compile the
 1-42 information the board receives from the general academic teaching
 1-43 institutions in each regional consortium and report to each
 1-44 consortium the 25 degree programs at general academic teaching
 1-45 institutions in that consortium with the greatest student
 1-46 enrollment overall.

1-47 (d) Each regional consortium shall develop transfer
 1-48 compact that identify specific courses included in the common
 1-49 course numbering system acceptable as credit toward the identified
 1-50 degree programs under Subsection (c) in each region. The transfer
 1-51 compact must include agreements on the transfer of course credit
 1-52 for those degree programs and related student advising, career
 1-53 planning, and student support services at each institution in the
 1-54 regional consortium.

1-55 (e) The board shall adopt rules for the operation of a
 1-56 regional consortium established under this section.

1-57 SECTION 2. Section 61.830, Education Code, is amended to
 1-58 read as follows:

1-59 Sec. 61.830. PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES ADDRESSING TRANSFER
 1-60 PRACTICES. (a) In its course catalogs and on its website, each

2-1 institution of higher education shall publish guidelines
2-2 addressing the practices of the institution regarding the transfer
2-3 of course credit.

2-4 (b) In the guidelines, each [the] institution of higher
2-5 education must identify a course by using the common course
2-6 numbering system approved by the board.

2-7 (c) Each general academic teaching institution must include
2-8 the following in its guidelines:

2-9 (1) the identified degree programs under Section
2-10 61.834(c) in the regional consortium in which the institution
2-11 participates under Section 61.834 and the core curriculum and any
2-12 additional lower-division requirements for each of those degree
2-13 programs;

2-14 (2) a list of the courses offered by institutions of
2-15 higher education participating in the institution's regional
2-16 consortium that are considered by the board to be general academic
2-17 transfer courses that may be offered for state funding by public
2-18 junior colleges, public state colleges, and public technical
2-19 institutes; and

2-20 (3) the field of study curriculum for each degree
2-21 offered by the institution.

2-22 (d) Each public junior college, public state college, and
2-23 public technical institute must prominently indicate in its
2-24 guidelines any general academic teaching institution with which it
2-25 has entered into an agreement concerning the transfer of course
2-26 credit.

2-27 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than January 1, 2018, the Texas
2-28 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall establish the regional
2-29 consortiums required by Section 61.834, Education Code, as added by
2-30 this Act.

2-31 (b) Each regional consortium must develop the transfer
2-32 compacts required under Section 61.834, Education Code, as added by
2-33 this Act, to apply beginning with enrollment for the 2019 fall
2-34 semester.

2-35 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
2-36 61.830, Education Code, apply beginning with the 2019-2020 academic
2-37 year.

2-38 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-39 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-40 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-41 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-42 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

2-43 * * * * *