86R6097 JRJ-D

By:  Lozano H.B. No. 2078

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the coordination of the transfer of course credit between public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (f) and (g) to read as follows:

(a)  The board shall develop and implement a policy regarding [~~encourage~~] the transferability of lower division course credit among institutions of higher education.

(b)  Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum shall be consistent with the common course numbering system approved by the board under Section 61.832 and with the statement, recommendations, and rules issued by the board. An institution may have a core curriculum of other than 42 semester credit hours only if approved by the board.

(f)  The board shall establish a database and collect information as determined by the board to annually identify the 25 degree programs that have the greatest transfer student enrollment. Each general academic teaching institution shall identify for each of those degree programs:

(1)  a list of the lower-division courses offered by institutions of higher education that are considered by the board to be general academic transfer courses that may be offered for state funding by public junior colleges, public state colleges, and public technical institutes;

(2)  the required courses for the degree program that satisfy the core curriculum requirements at the institution; and

(3)  any additional lower-division requirements for the degree program at the institution.

(g)  Courses identified by a general academic teaching institution under Subsection (f) are only required to be applied to the appropriate degree program for a student in the period of the institution's course catalog beginning with the student's first enrollment in an institution of higher education.

SECTION 2.  The changes in law made by this Act apply beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.