86R6358 JRJ-D

By:  Lozano H.B. No. 3819

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the alignment of courses between educational entities in this state.

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 COURSE SEQUENCING. (a) The board, in coordination with the Texas Education Agency, shall divide the state into regions for the purpose of establishing a regional consortium among the institutions of higher education and school districts located within each region. Each consortium shall facilitate the development of sequences of courses toward the 25 degree programs at general academic teaching institutions with the greatest student enrollment in each region, as identified by the board under Subsection (b), and the alignment of each endorsement described by Section 28.025(c-1) with degree plans for those degree programs.

(b)  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 consortium with the greatest overall student enrollment.

(c)  For the purposes of this section, the release of student information, including course, grade, and credit information, between the institutions of higher education and the school districts belonging to a regional consortium established under this section serves the legitimate educational interest of a student for whom consent would otherwise be required under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g).

(d)  The board and the Texas Education Agency shall adopt rules for the operation of a regional consortium established under this section.

SECTION 2.  (a) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Education Agency shall establish the regional consortiums required by Section 61.834, Education Code, as added by this Act.

(b)  Each regional consortium shall develop the course sequences and the alignment of endorsement plans required under Section 61.834, Education Code, as added by this Act, to apply beginning with course selection for the 2023-2024 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.