S.B. No. 502

AN ACT

relating to requiring certain institutions of higher education to issue reports on the transferability of credit.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 51.400, 51.4033, and 51.4034 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.400.  DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1)  "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2)  "General academic teaching institution," "institution of higher education," and "public junior college" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

Sec. 51.4033.  REPORT OF NONTRANSFERABLE CREDIT. (a)  Not later than March 1 of each year and in the form prescribed by the coordinating board, each general academic teaching institution shall provide to the coordinating board and the legislature a report describing any courses in the Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual or its successor adopted by the coordinating board for which a student who transfers to the institution from another institution of higher education is not granted:

(1)  academic credit at the receiving institution; or

(2)  if the student has declared a major and has not changed majors, academic credit toward the student's major at the receiving institution.

(b)  A report required by this section must indicate:

(1)  the course name and type;

(2)  which institution of higher education provided academic credit for the course; and

(3)  the reason why the receiving institution did not grant academic credit for the course as described by Subsection (a).

Sec. 51.4034.  REPORT OF COURSES TAKEN AT JUNIOR COLLEGES. (a)  Not later than March 1 of each year and in the form prescribed by the coordinating board, each public junior college shall provide to the coordinating board and the legislature a report on courses taken by students who, during the preceding academic year, transferred to a general academic teaching institution or earned an associate degree at the college.

(b)  A report required by this section must include the total number of:

(1)  courses attempted and completed at the college, including the total number of semester credit hours for those courses, disaggregated by whether the course is in:

(A)  the Workforce Education Course Manual or its successor adopted by the coordinating board; or

(B)  the Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual or its successor adopted by the coordinating board;

(2)  courses attempted and completed at the college that are not in the recommended core curriculum developed by the coordinating board under Section 61.822; and

(3)  dual credit courses, including courses for joint high school and junior college credit under Section 130.008, attempted and completed at the college.

SECTION 2.  Each public institution of higher education required to submit a report under Section 51.4033 or 51.4034, Education Code, as added by this Act, shall submit the first report not later than March 1, 2021.

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.

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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 502 passed the Senate on April 26, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 24, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 502 passed the House, with amendment, on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 1, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor