By:  Taylor S.B. No. 1324

(In the Senate - Filed February 28, 2019; March 7, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education; March 21, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 21, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton       X

West            X

Bettencourt     X

Buckingham      X

Flores          X

Menéndez        X

Powell          X

Taylor          X

Watson          X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the filing of a degree plan by students at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 51.9685, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-2) and amending Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(c-2)  A student enrolled in a course for joint high school and junior college credit under Section 130.008 at a public junior college and to whom Subsection (b) or (c-1) does not apply shall file a degree plan with the college not later than:

(1)  the end of the second regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 15 or more semester credit hours of course credit for dual credit courses successfully completed by the student; or

(2)  if the student begins the student's first semester or term at the college with 15 or more semester credit hours of course credit for dual credit courses successfully completed by the student, the end of the student's second regular semester or term at the college.

(g)  The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with institutions of higher education, shall [~~may~~] adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section, including rules requiring institutions of higher education to report to the board information regarding the filing of degree plans as required by this section.

SECTION 2.  Section 130.0104(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  In complying with the requirements regarding the filing of a degree plan under [~~Notwithstanding~~] Section 51.9685, [~~before the beginning of the regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which~~] a student enrolled [~~successfully completes a cumulative total of 30 or more semester credit hours for coursework~~] in a multidisciplinary studies associate degree program established under this section[~~, the student~~] must meet with an academic advisor to complete a degree plan[~~, as defined by Section 51.9685(a)(1),~~] that:

(1)  accounts for all remaining credit hours required for the completion of the degree program; and

(2)  emphasizes:

(A)  the student's transition to a particular four-year college or university that the student chooses; and

(B)  preparations for the student's intended field of study or major at the four-year college or university.

SECTION 3.  This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

SECTION 4.  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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