

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.B. No. 4018

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4018:

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C.S.H.B. No. 4018

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1

AN ACT

2 relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress,
3 and timely graduation of students in public higher education.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 51.9685(a)(2), Education Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (2) "Institution of higher education" has [~~and "public~~
8 ~~junior college" have~~] the meaning [~~meanings~~] assigned by Section
9 61.003.

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

13 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each
14 student enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an
15 institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the
16 institution after the 12th class day but before [~~not later than~~] the
17 end of the [~~second regular~~] semester or term immediately following
18 the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total
19 of 30 [~~45~~] or more semester credit hours for coursework
20 successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses,
21 international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any
22 other course for which the institution the student attends has
23 awarded the student college course credit, including course credit
24 awarded by examination.

1 (c) A student to whom Subsection (b) [~~this section~~] applies
2 who begins the student's first semester or term at an institution of
3 higher education with 30 [~~45~~] or more semester credit hours of
4 course credit for courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a
5 degree plan with the institution after the 12th class day but before
6 [~~not later than~~] the end of that [~~the student's second regular~~]
7 semester or term [~~at the institution~~].

8 (c-2) A student enrolled in a dual credit course at an
9 institution of higher education and to whom Subsection (b) does not
10 apply shall file a degree plan with the institution not later than:

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

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

21 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in
22 consultation with institutions of higher education, shall [~~may~~]
23 adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section. In
24 adopting those rules, the coordinating board shall use the
25 negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government
26 Code.

27 SECTION 3. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is

1 amended by adding Sections 51.96852, 51.96853, and 51.96854 to read
2 as follows:

3 Sec. 51.96852. RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCES. (a) In this
4 section:

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

7 (2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
8 assigned by Section 61.003.

9 (b) Each institution of higher education shall develop at
10 least one recommended course sequence for each undergraduate
11 certificate or degree program offered by the institution. Each
12 recommended course sequence must:

13 (1) identify all required lower-division courses for
14 the applicable certificate or degree program;

15 (2) include for each course, if applicable, the course
16 number or course equivalent under the common course numbering
17 system approved by the coordinating board under Section 61.832;

18 (3) be designed to enable a full-time student to
19 obtain a certificate or degree, as applicable, within:

20 (A) for an associate degree or certificate
21 program, two years; or

22 (B) for a baccalaureate degree program, four
23 years; and

24 (4) include a specific sequence in which courses
25 should be completed to ensure completion of the applicable program
26 within the time frame described by Subdivision (3).

27 (c) Each institution of higher education shall:

1 (1) include the recommended course sequences
2 developed under this section in the institution's course catalog
3 and on the institution's Internet website; and

4 (2) submit the recommended course sequences developed
5 under this section to the coordinating board as provided by
6 coordinating board rule.

7 (d) In adopting rules under this section, the coordinating
8 board shall consult with institutions of higher education.

9 Sec. 51.96853. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM LOWER-DIVISION
10 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS. (a) In
11 this section:

12 (1) "Articulation agreement" means a formal written
13 agreement between a lower-division institution of higher education
14 and a general academic teaching institution identifying courses
15 offered by the lower-division institution that must be accepted for
16 credit toward specific course requirements at the general academic
17 teaching institution.

18 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the
19 meaning assigned by Section [61.003](#).

20 (3) "Lower-division institution of higher education"
21 means a public junior college, public state college, or public
22 technical institute, as those terms are defined by Section [61.003](#).

23 (b) Each general academic teaching institution may enter
24 into an articulation agreement with a lower-division institution of
25 higher education for a certificate or degree program for which
26 students transferring from the lower-division institution to the
27 general academic teaching institution receive transfer credit.

1 (c) An articulation agreement entered into under Subsection
2 (b) may use fields of study curricula developed by the Texas Higher
3 Education Coordinating Board under Section 61.823.

4 (d) A general academic teaching institution may extend an
5 existing articulation agreement entered into under Subsection (b)
6 to another lower-division institution of higher education with
7 respect to the transfer of courses from that lower-division
8 institution of higher education to the general academic teaching
9 institution, on request by that lower-division institution of
10 higher education.

11 (e) An articulation agreement established under this
12 section may enable a transfer student to receive up to 60 semester
13 credit hours for courses completed at the lower-division
14 institution of higher education.

15 (f) A general academic teaching institution's participation
16 in an articulation agreement under this section does not affect the
17 institution's admissions policies.

18 Sec. 51.96854. DECLARATION OF META MAJOR. (a) In this
19 section:

20 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
21 assigned by Section 61.003.

22 (2) "Meta major" has the meaning assigned by Section
23 61.821.

24 (b) Each student enrolled at an institution of higher
25 education in an associate or bachelor's degree program or in a dual
26 credit course shall file with the institution a declaration of the
27 meta major under which the student intends to earn a degree after

1 the 12th class day but before the end of the semester or term
2 immediately following the semester or term in which the student
3 earned a cumulative total of 15 or more semester credit hours for
4 coursework successfully completed by the student, including
5 transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, dual credit
6 courses, and any other course for which the institution the student
7 attends has awarded the student college course credit, including
8 course credit awarded by examination.

9 (c) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in
10 consultation with institutions of higher education, shall adopt
11 rules as necessary for the administration of this section. In
12 adopting those rules, the coordinating board shall use the
13 negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government
14 Code.

15 SECTION 4. Section 61.821, Education Code, is amended by
16 adding Subdivision (4) to read as follows:

17 (4) "Meta major" means a collection of programs of
18 study or academic disciplines that share common foundational
19 skills.

20 SECTION 5. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by
21 amending Subsections (a-1), (b), (c), and (d) and adding
22 Subsections (a-2), (a-3), (b-1), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

23 (a-1) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees
24 composed of representatives of institutions of higher education or
25 university systems designated by the applicable institution or
26 system, shall develop a recommended core curriculum of at least 42
27 semester credit hours, including a statement of the content,

1 component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. At least a
2 majority of the members of any advisory committee named under this
3 section shall be faculty members of an institution of higher
4 education. [~~An institution shall consult with the faculty of the
5 institution before nominating or recommending a person to the board
6 as the institution's representative on an advisory committee.~~]

7 (a-2) The recommended core curriculum developed under
8 Subsection (a-1) must have the following components:

9 (1) a general core curriculum of at least 24 semester
10 credit hours that includes:

11 (A) six semester credit hours in:

12 (i) American or Texas history; and

13 (ii) government or political science; and

14 (B) three semester credit hours in:

15 (i) communications;

16 (ii) language, philosophy, or culture;

17 (iii) creative arts; and

18 (iv) a component area provided by board

19 rule; and

20 (2) for each meta major under Subsection (a-3), an
21 academic discipline core curriculum of not more than 18 semester
22 credit hours specific to that meta major and that includes:

23 (A) six semester credit hours in life sciences or
24 physical sciences; and

25 (B) three semester credit hours in:

26 (i) mathematics;

27 (ii) behavioral science;

1 (iii) communications; and
2 (iv) a component area provided by board
3 rule.

4 (a-3) The board shall develop a recommended academic
5 discipline core curriculum under Subsection (a-2) for each of the
6 following meta majors:

- 7 (1) arts, humanities, communications, and design;
- 8 (2) business;
- 9 (3) education;
- 10 (4) health sciences;
- 11 (5) industry, manufacturing, and construction;
- 12 (6) public safety;
- 13 (7) science, technology, engineering, and
14 mathematics; and
- 15 (8) social and behavioral sciences and human services.

16 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
17 curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including
18 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum
19 shall:

- 20 (1) include a general core curriculum and for each
21 meta major, an academic discipline core curriculum as described by
22 Subsection (a-2); and
- 23 (2) be consistent with the common course numbering
24 system approved by the board and with the statement,
25 recommendations, and rules issued by the board.

26 (b-1) An institution may have a core curriculum of other
27 than 42 semester credit hours only if approved by the board.

1 (c) If a student successfully completes the 42-hour core
2 curriculum or the general core curriculum or academic discipline
3 core curriculum at an institution of higher education, that block
4 of courses may be transferred to any other institution of higher
5 education and must be substituted for the receiving institution's
6 core curriculum, general core curriculum, or academic discipline
7 core curriculum, as applicable. A student shall receive academic
8 credit for each of the courses transferred and may not be required
9 to take additional core curriculum, general core curriculum, or
10 academic discipline core curriculum courses, as applicable, at the
11 receiving institution unless the board has approved a larger core
12 curriculum at the institution.

13 (d) A student who transfers from one institution of higher
14 education to another without completing the core curriculum of the
15 sending institution shall receive academic credit from the
16 receiving institution toward that institution's general core
17 curriculum or academic discipline core curriculum, as applicable,
18 for each of the courses that the student has successfully completed
19 in the core curriculum of the sending institution. Following
20 receipt of credit for these courses, the student may be required to
21 satisfy any remaining [~~further~~] course requirements in the core
22 curriculum of the receiving institution.

23 (f) Each institution of higher education shall:

24 (1) identify in the institution's course catalog and
25 on the institution's Internet website:

26 (A) each course offered by the institution that
27 fulfills a course requirement in the institution's general core

1 curriculum or academic discipline core curriculum and the specific
2 course requirement that the course fulfills; and

3 (B) the meta major with which each degree or
4 certificate program offered by the institution is associated;

5 (2) provide to the board in accordance with board rule
6 the institution's general core curriculum and academic discipline
7 core curriculum and the information described by Subdivision
8 (1)(A); and

9 (3) advise each student enrolled at the institution
10 regarding the importance of taking coherent sequences of courses in
11 the core curriculum that are aligned with the student's academic
12 and career goals.

13 (g) To assist in advising a student regarding the selection
14 of coherent sequences of courses in the core curriculum that are
15 aligned with the student's academic and career goals, the board
16 shall make available to each institution of higher education and to
17 school counselors and other postsecondary advisors employed by a
18 school district or open-enrollment charter school information
19 regarding:

20 (1) the general core curriculum and academic
21 discipline core curriculum required under Subsection (b); and

22 (2) the transferability of course credit between
23 institutions of higher education for courses in the core curriculum
24 as provided by this section.

25 SECTION 6. Section 61.827, Education Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 61.827. RULES. (a) The board is authorized to adopt

1 rules implementing the provisions of this subchapter.

2 (b) In adopting rules regarding the recommended core
3 curriculum developed under Section 61.822, the board shall use the
4 negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government
5 Code.

6 SECTION 7. Sections 130.0104(b) and (c), Education Code,
7 are amended to read as follows:

8 (b) A multidisciplinary studies associate degree program
9 established at a junior college under this section must require a
10 student to successfully complete:

11 (1) the junior college's core curriculum adopted under
12 Section 61.822 [~~61.822(b)~~]; and

13 (2) after completion of the core curriculum under
14 Subdivision (1), the courses selected by the student in the
15 student's degree plan completed under Subsection (c).

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

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

27 (2) emphasizes:

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

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

5 SECTION 8. Section 51.9685(c-1), Education Code, is
6 repealed.

7 SECTION 9. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
8 section, this Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020 academic
9 year.

10 (b) Sections 51.96852, 51.96853, and 51.96854, Education
11 Code, as added by this Act, and Section 61.822, Education Code, as
12 amended by this Act, apply beginning with the 2021-2022 academic
13 year.

14 SECTION 10. Not later than May 31, 2021, the Texas Higher
15 Education Coordinating Board shall develop a recommended core
16 curriculum that conforms to the requirements of Section 61.822,
17 Education Code, as amended by this Act.

18 SECTION 11. This Act takes effect immediately if it
19 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
20 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
21 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
22 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.