

By: Powell

S.B. No. 1296

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the filing of a degree plan by students at public
3 institutions of 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. Sections 51.9685(b), (c), and (g), Education
11 Code, are amended to read as follows:

12 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each
13 student enrolled at an institution of higher education in an
14 associate or bachelor's degree program or a course for joint high
15 school and junior college credit under Section 130.008 [~~at an~~
16 ~~institution of higher education~~] shall file a degree plan with the
17 institution not later than the first day of the [~~end of the second~~]
18 regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term
19 in which the student earned a cumulative total of 30 [~~45~~] or more
20 semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the
21 student, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate
22 courses, dual credit courses, and any other course for which the
23 institution the student attends has awarded the student college
24 course credit, including course credit awarded by examination.

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

8 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in
9 consultation with institutions of higher education, shall [~~may~~]
10 adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section,
11 including rules to ensure compliance with this section.

12 SECTION 3. Section 130.0104(c), Education Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

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

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

25 (2) emphasizes:

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

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

3 SECTION 4. Section [51.9685\(c-1\)](#), Education Code, is
4 repealed.

5 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
6 academic year.

7 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.