

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1787

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 51.96852 and 51.96853 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.96852. RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCES. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Each institution of higher education shall develop a recommended course sequence for each undergraduate certificate or degree program offered by the institution. Each recommended course sequence must identify the required courses for the applicable certificate or degree program in the general core curriculum or the academic discipline core curriculum as described by Section 61.822.

(c) Each institution of higher education shall include the recommended course sequences developed under this section in the institution's course catalog and on the institution's Internet website.

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

(1) "Articulation agreement" means a formal written

1 agreement between a lower-division institution of higher education
2 and a general academic teaching institution identifying courses
3 offered by the lower-division institution that must be accepted for
4 credit toward specific course requirements at the general academic
5 teaching institution.

6 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the
7 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

8 (3) "Lower-division institution of higher education"
9 means a public junior college, public state college, or public
10 technical institute, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003.

11 (b) Each general academic teaching institution shall:

12 (1) identify each lower-division institution of
13 higher education from which the general academic teaching
14 institution regularly receives at least 20 percent of its transfer
15 students; and

16 (2) establish an articulation agreement with each
17 lower-division institution of higher education identified under
18 Subdivision (1) for each certificate or degree program for which at
19 least five percent of students transferring from the lower-division
20 institution to the general academic teaching institution receive
21 transfer credit.

22 (c) An articulation agreement established under Subsection
23 (b)(2) must enable a transfer student to receive up to 60 semester
24 credit hours for courses completed at the lower-division
25 institution of higher education.

26 (d) A general academic teaching institution's participation
27 in an articulation agreement under this section does not affect the

1 institution's admissions policies.

2 SECTION 2. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by
3 adding Subsections (a-2) and (b-1) and amending Subsection (b) to
4 read as follows:

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

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

9 (A) six semester credit hours in:

10 (i) American or Texas history;

11 (ii) government or political science; and

12 (iii) communication; and

13 (B) three semester credit hours in:

14 (i) language, philosophy, or culture; and

15 (ii) creative arts; and

16 (2) for each broad academic discipline, an academic
17 discipline core curriculum of at least 18 semester credit hours
18 specific to that discipline and that includes relevant courses in
19 mathematics and physical sciences.

20 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core
21 curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including
22 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum
23 shall:

24 (1) include a general core curriculum and an academic
25 discipline core curriculum as described by Subsection (a-2); and

26 (2) be consistent with the common course numbering
27 system approved by the board and with the statement,

1 recommendations, and rules issued by the board.

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

4 SECTION 3. Section 130.0104(b), Education Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

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

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

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

14 SECTION 4. Sections 51.96852 and 51.96853, Education Code,
15 as added by this Act, and Section 61.822, Education Code, as amended
16 by this Act, apply beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year.

17 SECTION 5. Not later than May 31, 2021, the Texas Higher
18 Education Coordinating Board shall develop a recommended core
19 curriculum that conforms to the requirements of Section 61.822,
20 Education Code, as amended by this Act.

21 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.