

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 1887
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2023; March 20, 2023, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 24, 2023, reported favorably from Committee on Education by
 1-5 the following vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0; April 24, 2023, sent to
 1-6 printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			
1-21	X			

1-22 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-23 AN ACT

1-24 relating to the requirements for the early college education
 1-25 program and the transfer of course credit among public institutions
 1-26 of higher education.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-28 SECTION 1. Section 29.908(b), Education Code, is amended to
 1-29 read as follows:

1-30 (b) The program must:

1-31 (1) provide for a course of study that enables a
 1-32 participating student to combine high school courses and
 1-33 college-level courses during grade levels 9 through 12;

1-34 (2) allow a participating student to complete high
 1-35 school and enroll in a program at an institution of higher education
 1-36 that will enable the student to, on or before the fifth anniversary
 1-37 of the date of the student's first day of high school, receive a
 1-38 high school diploma and either:

1-39 (A) an applied associate degree, as defined by
 1-40 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule; or

1-41 (B) an academic associate degree, as defined by
 1-42 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule, with a completed
 1-43 field of study curriculum developed under Section 61.823 that is
 1-44 transferable [at least 60 semester credit hours] toward a
 1-45 baccalaureate degree at one or more general academic teaching
 1-46 institutions, as defined by Section 61.003;

1-47 (3) include articulation agreements with colleges,
 1-48 universities, and technical schools in this state to provide a
 1-49 participating student access to postsecondary educational and
 1-50 training opportunities at a college, university, or technical
 1-51 school; and

1-52 (4) provide a participating student flexibility in
 1-53 class scheduling and academic mentoring.

1-54 SECTION 2. Section 51.4033, Education Code, is amended to
 1-55 read as follows:

1-56 Sec. 51.4033. REPORT OF NONTRANSFERABLE CREDIT. (a) Not
 1-57 later than May [~~March~~] 1 of each year and in the form prescribed by
 1-58 the coordinating board, each general academic teaching institution
 1-59 shall provide to the coordinating board and the legislature a
 1-60 report describing any courses in the Lower-Division Academic Course
 1-61 Guide Manual or its successor adopted by the coordinating board for

2-1 which a student who transfers to the institution from another
2-2 institution of higher education is not granted:

2-3 (1) academic credit at the receiving institution; or
2-4 (2) if the student has declared a major and has not
2-5 changed majors, academic credit toward the student's major at the
2-6 receiving institution.

2-7 (b) A report required by this section must indicate:

2-8 (1) the course name and type;

2-9 (2) which institution of higher education provided
2-10 academic credit for the course; and

2-11 (3) the reason why the receiving institution did not
2-12 grant academic credit for the course as described by Subsection
2-13 (a), including whether the institution complied with the dispute
2-14 resolution process under Section 61.826.

2-15 SECTION 3. Section 51.4034(a), Education Code, is amended
2-16 to read as follows:

2-17 (a) Not later than May [~~March~~] 1 of each year and in the form
2-18 prescribed by the coordinating board, each public junior college
2-19 shall provide to the coordinating board and the legislature a
2-20 report on courses taken by students who, during the preceding
2-21 academic year, transferred to a general academic teaching
2-22 institution or earned an associate degree at the college.

2-23 SECTION 4. Section 61.823, Education Code, is amended by
2-24 adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as
2-25 follows:

2-26 (a-1) The board by rule may authorize a general academic
2-27 teaching institution to adopt, for each field of study curriculum
2-28 developed by the board for which the institution offers a degree
2-29 program, a set of courses specific to that field of study, not to
2-30 exceed a total of six semester credit hours or the equivalent, that
2-31 must be completed as part of the field of study curriculum for that
2-32 institution. Each general academic teaching institution that
2-33 adopts a set of courses for a field of study curriculum under this
2-34 subsection shall post on the institution's Internet website in a
2-35 manner easily accessible to students the set of courses with the
2-36 associated course numbers under the common course numbering system.

2-37 (b) If a student successfully completes a field of study
2-38 curriculum developed by the board, that block of courses may be
2-39 transferred to a general academic teaching institution and, subject
2-40 to completion of the set of courses adopted by the institution for
2-41 that field of study under Subsection (a-1), must be substituted for
2-42 that institution's lower division requirements for the degree
2-43 program for the field of study into which the student transfers, and
2-44 the student shall receive full academic credit toward the degree
2-45 program for the block of courses transferred.

2-46 SECTION 5. Sections 61.826(c), (d), and (e), Education
2-47 Code, are amended to read as follows:

2-48 (c) If an institution of higher education proposes to deny
2-49 the application toward a student's degree requirements of [does not
2-50 accept] course credit earned by the [a] student at another
2-51 institution of higher education in the other institution's core
2-52 curriculum or in a field of study curriculum developed by the board
2-53 under Section 61.823, that institution must:

2-54 (1) [~~shall~~] give written notice to the student and the
2-55 other institution of that institution's intent to deny [that] the
2-56 application [transfer] of the course credit to the student's degree
2-57 requirements and the reasons for the proposed denial;

2-58 (2) [~~is denied. The two institutions and the student~~
2-59 ~~shall] attempt to resolve the application [transfer] of the course~~
2-60 ~~credit to the student's degree requirements with the other~~
2-61 ~~institution and the student in accordance with board rules;~~

2-62 (3) resolve the dispute not later than the 45th day
2-63 after the date on which the student enrolls in that institution; and

2-64 (4) if [— If] the [transfer] dispute is not resolved
2-65 to the satisfaction of the student or the institution at which the
2-66 credit was earned, [within 45 days after the date the student
2-67 received written notice of the denial, the institution that denies
2-68 the transfer of the course credit shall] notify the commissioner of
2-69 higher education of its denial to apply the course credit to the

3-1 student's degree requirements and the reasons for the denial.
 3-2 (d) Not later than the 20th business day after the date the
 3-3 commissioner of higher education receives notice of a dispute
 3-4 concerning the application of course credit to a student's degree
 3-5 requirements under Subsection (c)(4), the [The] commissioner [of
 3-6 higher education] or the commissioner's designee shall make the
 3-7 final determination about the [a] dispute [concerning the transfer
 3-8 of course credit] and give written notice of the determination to
 3-9 the involved student and institutions. If the commissioner or the
 3-10 commissioner's designee determines that the institution may not
 3-11 deny the application of course credit described by Subsection (c)
 3-12 to the student's degree requirements, the institution shall apply
 3-13 that course credit toward the student's degree requirements. A
 3-14 determination by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee
 3-15 under this subsection is final and may not be appealed.

3-16 (e) The board shall:
 3-17 (1) collect data on the types of transfer disputes
 3-18 that are reported and the disposition of each case that is
 3-19 considered by the commissioner of higher education or the
 3-20 commissioner's designee; and
 3-21 (2) post on the board's Internet website a list of each
 3-22 case that is considered by the commissioner of higher education or
 3-23 the commissioner's designee under this section, including the
 3-24 disposition of the case.

3-25 SECTION 6. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 3-26 amended by adding Section 61.834 to read as follows:

3-27 Sec. 61.834. TEXAS DIRECT ASSOCIATE DEGREE. An institution
 3-28 of higher education shall award a student a "Texas Direct"
 3-29 associate degree and include an appropriate notation on the
 3-30 student's transcript if the student completes a field of study
 3-31 curriculum developed by the board under Section 61.823 and:

3-32 (1) the institution's core curriculum; or
 3-33 (2) 42 semester credit hours of lower-division courses
 3-34 transferable to one or more general academic teaching institutions.

3-35 SECTION 7. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
 3-36 academic year.

3-37 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 3-38 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 3-39 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 3-40 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 3-41 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

3-42 * * * * *