

By: Sparks
(Guillen)

S.B. No. 1987

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 1987:

By: Kuempel

C.S.S.B. No. 1987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the accreditation of certain postsecondary educational
3 institutions in this state or of certain programs offered by those
4 institutions.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 61.003(13) and (15), Education Code,
7 are amended to read as follows:

8 (13) "Recognized accrediting agency" means [~~the~~
9 ~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and~~] any [~~other~~]
10 association or organization so designated by the board.

11 (15) "Private or independent institution of higher
12 education" includes only a private or independent college or
13 university that is:

14 (A) organized under the Texas Non-Profit
15 Corporation Act (Article 1396-1.01 et seq., Vernon's Texas Civil
16 Statutes);

17 (B) exempt from taxation under Article VIII,
18 Section 2, of the Texas Constitution and Section 501(c)(3) of the
19 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Section 501); and

20 (C) accredited by:

21 (i) a recognized accrediting agency
22 designated by the board for the purpose of accrediting general
23 academic teaching institutions [~~Commission on Colleges of the~~
24 ~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~];

1 (ii) the Liaison Committee on Medical
2 Education; or

3 (iii) the American Bar Association.

4 SECTION 2. Section 61.0515(a), Education Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (a) To earn a baccalaureate degree, a student may not be
7 required by a general academic teaching institution to complete
8 more than the minimum number of semester credit hours required for
9 the degree by the institution's recognized accrediting agency
10 [~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its successor~~]
11 unless the institution determines that there is a compelling
12 academic reason for requiring completion of additional semester
13 credit hours for the degree.

14 SECTION 3. Section 61.05151(a), Education Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (a) To earn an associate degree, a student may not be
17 required by an institution of higher education to complete more
18 than the minimum number of semester credit hours required for the
19 degree by the institution's recognized accrediting agency
20 [~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its successor~~]
21 unless the institution determines that there is a compelling
22 academic reason for requiring completion of additional semester
23 credit hours for the degree.

24 SECTION 4. Section 61.222(a), Education Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (a) The coordinating board shall approve only those private
27 or independent colleges or universities that are private or

1 independent institutions of higher education as defined by Section
2 61.003 as it applied on January 1, 2023.

3 SECTION 5. Section 61.8235(f), Education Code, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (f) A student enrolled in a board-established program of
6 study who transfers from a public junior college, public state
7 college, or public technical institute to another public junior
8 college, public state college, or public technical institute that
9 offers a similar program, regardless of whether the institution has
10 adopted the board-established program of study, shall receive
11 academic credit from the institution to which the student
12 transferred for each of the courses that the student has
13 successfully completed in the program of study curriculum. Unless
14 otherwise required by the institution's recognized accrediting
15 agency [~~Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of~~
16 ~~Colleges and Schools~~], the student may complete the program of
17 study at the institution to which the student transferred by
18 completing only the remaining number of semester credit hours the
19 student would need to complete the program of study at the
20 institution from which the student transferred.

21 SECTION 6. Section 107.151(c), Education Code, is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,
24 the university may operate as a general academic teaching
25 institution only after the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
26 Board certifies that the university is accredited by a recognized
27 accrediting agency, as defined by Section 61.003, [~~the Southern~~

1 ~~Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges]~~ and has
2 been approved by the coordinating board to offer one or more degree
3 programs. Until the coordinating board certifies that the
4 conditions of this subsection have been met, the board of regents
5 may operate a branch campus of Texas Woman's University in the city
6 of Dallas.

7 SECTION 7. Section 107.201(c), Education Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,
10 the university may operate as a general academic teaching
11 institution only after the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
12 Board certifies that the university is accredited by a recognized
13 accrediting agency, as defined by Section 61.003, [~~the Southern~~
14 ~~Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges]~~ and has
15 been approved by the coordinating board to offer one or more degree
16 programs. Until the coordinating board certifies that the
17 conditions of this subsection have been met, the board of regents
18 may operate a branch campus of Texas Woman's University in the city
19 of Houston.

20 SECTION 8. Section 130.301, Education Code, is amended by
21 adding Subdivision (3) to read as follows:

22 (3) "Recognized accrediting agency" has the meaning
23 assigned by Section 61.003.

24 SECTION 9. Section 130.305, Education Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 130.305. ACCREDITATION. A public junior college
27 offering a baccalaureate degree program under this subchapter must

1 meet all applicable accreditation requirements of a recognized
2 accrediting agency [~~the Commission on Colleges of the Southern~~
3 ~~Association of Colleges and Schools~~].

4 SECTION 10. Section 130.307(c), Education Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (c) Before a public junior college may be authorized to
7 offer a baccalaureate degree program under this subchapter, the
8 public junior college must submit a report to the coordinating
9 board that includes:

10 (1) a long-term financial plan for receiving
11 accreditation from a recognized accrediting agency [~~the Commission~~
12 ~~on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~];

13 (2) a long-term plan for faculty recruitment that:

14 (A) indicates the ability to pay the increased
15 salaries of doctoral faculty;

16 (B) identifies recruitment strategies for new
17 faculty; and

18 (C) ensures the program would not draw faculty
19 employed by a neighboring institution offering a similar program;

20 (3) detailed information on the manner of program and
21 course delivery; and

22 (4) detailed information regarding existing
23 articulation agreements and dual enrollment agreements indicating:

24 (A) that at least three articulation agreements
25 have been established with general academic teaching institutions
26 or medical and dental units, or the reasons why no articulation
27 agreements have been established; and

1 (B) that, with the agreement of the applicable
2 general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit,
3 established articulation agreements are at capacity.

4 SECTION 11. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.