

By: Hagenbuch

S.B. No. 2847

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to innovations in core curriculum to accelerate the award of bachelor's degrees.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 61.822 (b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum shall be consistent with the common course numbering system approved by the board and with the statement, recommendations, and rules issued by the board. An institution may have a core curriculum of other than 42 semester credit hours only if approved by the board. The board by rule may approve a core curriculum of fewer than 42 semester credit hours for an associate degree program if the board determines that the approval would facilitate the award of a degree or transfer of credit consistent with this subchapter.

(b-1) The board by rule may approve a core curriculum of fewer than 42 semester credit hours for a bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education if the board determines that the approval would accelerate student completion of workforce aligned credentials, as defined by board rule.

(c) If a student successfully completes the core curriculum

1 at an institution of higher education, that block of courses may be  
2 transferred to any other institution of higher education and must  
3 be substituted for the receiving institution's core curriculum. A  
4 student shall receive academic credit for each of the courses  
5 transferred and may not be required to take additional core  
6 curriculum courses at the receiving institution unless the board  
7 has approved a larger core curriculum at the institution.

8 (d) A student who transfers from one institution of higher  
9 education to another without completing the core curriculum of the  
10 sending institution shall receive academic credit from the  
11 receiving institution for each of the courses that the student has  
12 successfully completed in the core curriculum of the sending  
13 institution. Following receipt of credit for these courses, the  
14 student may be required to satisfy further course requirements in  
15 the core curriculum of the receiving institution.

16 (e) The governing board of a general academic teaching  
17 institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under  
18 a contract with a foreign college or university may, in  
19 consultation with the foreign college or university, identify and  
20 approve courses offered by the foreign college or university that  
21 are equivalent to, and may substitute for, courses in the core  
22 curriculum of a student enrolled in the joint degree program who is  
23 considered to be primarily a student of the general academic  
24 teaching institution.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.