

By: West

S.B. No. 3039

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transfer of students in public higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 51.4033 and 51.4034, Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 51.4033. TRANSFER REPORT [~~OF NONTRANSFERABLE CREDIT~~].

(a) Not later than May 1 of each year and in the form prescribed by the coordinating board, each general academic teaching institution shall provide to the coordinating board and the legislature a report that:

(1) describes [~~describing~~] any courses in the Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual or its successor adopted by the coordinating board for which a student who transfers to the institution from another institution of higher education is not granted:

(A) [(1)] academic credit at the receiving institution; or

(B) [(2)] if the student has declared a major and has not changed majors, academic credit toward the student's major at the receiving institution;

(2) details the institution's goals to increase the number, success, and persistence, as measured by the coordinating board, of students who transfer to the institution from a public junior college;

1 (3) assesses the institution's academic and technical
2 transfer pathways;

3 (4) identifies:

4 (A) any existing barriers to transferring to the
5 institution; and

6 (B) emerging issues affecting transfer students
7 at the institution;

8 (5) details the institution's actions to serve current
9 and prospective transfer students through local and regional
10 articulation agreements that include:

11 (A) faculty collaboration;

12 (B) public junior college program enhancements;

13 (C) student outreach and advising services;

14 (D) website information development;

15 (E) targeted financial aid;

16 (F) student success programs; and

17 (G) degree program alignment; and

18 (6) contains any other information relating to the
19 transfer of academic credit to the institution required by
20 coordinating board rule.

21 (b) A report required by this section must indicate for each
22 course described by Subsection (a)(1):

23 (1) the course name, ~~and~~ type, and common course
24 number;

25 (2) the name of:

26 (A) the institution of higher education or other
27 postsecondary educational institution at which the student

1 completed the course; and

2 (B) the [which] institution of higher education
3 that awarded or transcribed [provided] academic credit for the
4 course; and

5 (3) the reason why the receiving institution did not
6 grant academic credit for the course as described by Subsection
7 (a), including whether the institution complied with the dispute
8 resolution process under Section 61.826.

9 (c) Not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year,
10 the coordinating board shall submit to the governor, the
11 Legislative Budget Board, the house appropriations committee, and
12 the senate finance committee a report that evaluates actions to
13 increase the number, success, and persistence of students who
14 transfer to a general academic teaching institution from a public
15 junior college. The report must include:

16 (1) a comparative analysis of institution reports and
17 performance data, including application and admission rates,
18 financial aid awarded, time-to-degree, and baccalaureate
19 graduation rates of students, including transfer students, by
20 program completion at public junior colleges and general academic
21 teaching institutions during the preceding academic year;

22 (2) a study of public junior college transfer
23 practices; and

24 (3) recommendations for legislative or other action to
25 meet the transfer student-related goals of the state's master plan
26 for higher education developed under Section 61.051.

27 (d) The coordinating board may adopt rules necessary to

implement this section.

Sec. 51.4034. REPORT OF COURSES TAKEN AT PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGES. (a) Not later than May 1 of each year and in the form prescribed by the coordinating board, each public junior college shall provide to the coordinating board and the legislature a report on courses taken by students who, during the preceding academic year, transferred to a general academic teaching institution, completed a field of study curriculum, or earned an associate degree at the college.

(b) A report required by this section must include:

(1) the total number of:

(A) [~~(1)~~] courses attempted and completed at the college, including the total number of semester credit hours for those courses, disaggregated by whether the course is in:

(i) [~~(A)~~] the Workforce Education Course Manual or its successor adopted by the coordinating board; or

(ii) [~~(B)~~] the Lower-Division Academic Course Guide Manual or its successor adopted by the coordinating board;

(B) [~~(2)~~] courses attempted and completed at the college that are not in the recommended core curriculum developed by the coordinating board under Section 61.822; and

(C) [~~(3)~~] dual credit courses, including courses for joint high school and junior college credit under Section 130.008, attempted and completed at the college; and

(2) any other relevant information required by coordinating board rule.

1 (c) The coordinating board may adopt rules necessary to
2 implement this section.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
4 amended by adding Section 51.4035 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 51.4035. PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING DENIAL
6 OF TRANSFER CREDIT. (a) Each institution of higher education shall
7 maintain on the admissions page of the institution's Internet
8 website a list of:

9 (1) the five majors or degree or certificate programs
10 offered by the institution with the highest number of courses for
11 which academic credit is denied or not applied toward the major or
12 program; and

13 (2) the five courses for each major or degree or
14 certificate program described by Subdivision (1) for which academic
15 credit is most frequently denied because the credit is not
16 applicable toward the major or program.

17 (b) The coordinating board annually shall provide to each
18 institution of higher education a list of the courses described by
19 Subsection (a)(2).

20 (c) The coordinating board may adopt rules necessary to
21 implement this section.

22 SECTION 3. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 61.8231 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 61.8231. TRANSFER LIAISON. (a) Each institution of
25 higher education, using existing resources, shall designate at
26 least one employee of the institution to serve as a single point of
27 contact for other institutions of higher education and the board

1 regarding transfer issues and to act as a liaison officer for
2 current or incoming students at the institution who will transfer
3 into or out of the institution.

4 (b) On a transfer or request to transfer to or from an
5 institution of higher education, the institution's transfer
6 liaison shall provide a current, former, or prospective student, as
7 applicable, with:

8 (1) a complete and current list of the institution's
9 core curriculum applicable to the student;

10 (2) a complete and current list of the institution's
11 field of study curricula that may be applicable to the student;

12 (3) for a receiving institution, a list of courses
13 completed by the student:

14 (A) for which the institution will accept
15 academic credit; and

16 (B) for which the institution proposes to deny
17 academic credit in accordance with Section 61.826, including the
18 procedures for credit transfer dispute required by that section;
19 and

20 (4) any other information required by board rule.

21 (c) On the admission of a transfer student, the receiving
22 institution of higher education's transfer liaison shall assist the
23 student in obtaining a degree audit to determine whether the
24 student's completed coursework satisfies the institution's core
25 curriculum, satisfies a field of study curriculum of the
26 institution, or qualifies the student to be awarded a Texas Direct
27 associate degree under Section 61.834 or any other degree or

1 certificate offered by the institution.

2 (d) The board shall adopt rules necessary to implement this
3 section.

4 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
5 academic year.

6 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.