

By: West

S.B. No. 2122

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 61.822, Education Code is amended by  
8 amending Subsections (a), (a-1), (b), and (c) and adding  
9 Subsections (a-2), (f) and (g) to read as follows:

10 (a) The board shall ~~encourage~~ develop and implement policy  
11 regarding the transferability of lower division course credit among  
12 institutions of higher education.

23                   (a-2) The 39 semester credit hour core curriculum provides  
24 the knowledge and academic competencies foundational for all future

1 learning. Courses in the core curriculum shall be general education  
2 courses, broad in scope, and shall not narrowly focus on knowledge  
3 and competencies specific to a particular occupation or profession.

4           (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core  
5 curriculum of no less than 39 semester credit hours, including  
6 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum  
7 shall be lower division courses, consistent with the common course  
8 numbering system, and approved by the board according to the  
9 statement, recommendations, and rules issued by the board. An  
10 institution may have a core curriculum of other than semester  
11 credit hours only if approved by the board.

12           (c) If a student successfully completes the 39 42-hour core  
13 curriculum at an institution of higher education, that block of  
14 courses may be transferred to any other institution of higher  
15 education and must be substituted for the receiving institution's  
16 core curriculum. A student shall receive academic credit for each  
17 of the courses transferred and may not be required to take  
18 additional core curriculum courses at the receiving institution  
19 unless the board has approved a larger core curriculum at the  
20 institution.

21           (f) The Coordinating Board will annually identify in a  
22 database determined by the Coordinating Board the state's top 25  
23 majors among transfer students. General academic teaching  
24 institutions will identify for each of the majors described above  
25 the following:

26           (1) Required lower-division courses for which  
27 equivalencies exist in the Academic Course Guide Manual (ACGM).

1                   (2) Required courses in the top 25 majors that would  
2 satisfy Core Curriculum requirements at that institution.

3                   (3) Required lower-division courses that are not in  
4 the ACGM for the top 25 majors.

5                   (g) Courses identified shall be applied to the appropriate  
6 major for a time period equal to the period students may utilize any  
7 given catalog to graduate at a receiving institution. For this  
8 purpose the time period would start when a student first entered  
9 college, but no more than three years after first entering college.

10                  SECTION 2. Section 61.823, Education Code, is amended by  
11 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

12                  (g) A public junior college and a technical institute as  
13 described in 61.003 must adopt board approved fields of study for  
14 any disciplines where they have similar programs.

15                  SECTION 3. Section 51.9685, Education Code, is amended by  
16 amending Subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

17                  (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each  
18 student enrolled ~~in an associate or bachelor's degree program~~ at an  
19 institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the  
20 institution not later than the end of the ~~first~~ ~~second~~ regular  
21 semester after initially enrolling, or term immediately following  
22 the semester or term in which the student ~~earned a cumulative total~~  
23 ~~of 45 or more~~ has accumulated a total of 15 semester credit hours  
24 and immediately following the term in which a student has  
25 accumulated 30 semester credit hours for coursework attempted  
26 coursework successfully completed by the student, including  
27 transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, dual credit

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1 courses, and any other course for which the institution the student  
2 attends has awarded the student college course credit, including  
3 course credit awarded by examination.

4 (c) A student to whom this section applies who begins the  
5 student's first semester or term at an institution of higher  
6 education with 30 ~~45~~ or more semester credit hours of course credit  
7 for courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a degree plan  
8 with the institution not later than the end of the student's first  
9 second regular semester or term at the institution.

10 SECTION 4. Section 61.059, Education Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsection (p) by adding paragraph (4) to read as follows:

12 (p) In its instruction and operations formula applicable to  
13 an institution of higher education, the board may not include any  
14 semester credit hours earned for dual course credit by a high school  
15 student for high school and college credit at the institution  
16 unless those credit hours are earned through any of the following:

17 (1) a course in the core curriculum of the institution  
18 providing course credit;

19 (2) a career and technical education course that  
20 applies to any certificate or associate 's degree offered by the  
21 institution providing course credit; or

22 (3) a foreign language course.

23 (4) a course from a Board approved Field of Study or  
24 Programs of Study offered by the institution providing course  
25 credit.

26 SECTION 5. Section 61.832, Education code is amended by  
27 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

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1        (e) the Board is authorized to monitor the use of the Texas  
2        Common Course Numbering System by general academic teaching  
3        institutions to ascertain benefits and problems and provide a  
4        report for implementation and a timeline for full compliance with  
5        statute.

6        SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.