

House Bill 3025
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.05135 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.05135. STATEWIDE TRANSFER COMPACTS. (a)

In this section:

(1) "Career school or college" has the meaning assigned by Section 132.001.

(2) "Qualified degree-granting career school or college" means a career school or college determined by the board under Subsection (c) to be qualified to participate in a statewide transfer compact developed under this section.

(b) The board, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, shall develop transfer compacts that identify learning objectives for coursework in major degree fields that are acceptable across institutions offering coursework or degrees in those fields in an effort to facilitate the universal articulation of specific courses completed at public junior colleges, public state colleges, public technical institutes, general academic teaching institutions, and qualified degree-granting career schools or colleges and transferred to general academic teaching institutions.

(c) A career school or college may apply to the board to participate in a statewide transfer compact developed under this section. On application by a career school or college, the board shall review the school's or college's curriculum for the purpose of determining whether the school or college is qualified to participate in the compact. The board may determine that the career school or college is qualified to participate in the compact only if the board finds that the school or college:

(1) is authorized to grant degrees in this state;

(2) has adopted and implemented a core curriculum described by Section 61.822, applying the same assumptions and

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defining characteristics applicable to institutions of higher education; and

(3) has appropriately identified for each of its core curriculum courses the equivalent course number under the common course numbering system approved by the board under Section 61.832.

(d) An institution of higher education or qualified degree-granting career school or college shall comply with any applicable compact under Subsection (b) entered into by the institution, school, or college and the board.

(e) A general academic teaching institution designated as a research institution under the board's higher education accountability system that elects not to participate in an applicable transfer compact developed under this section shall:

(1) publish on the institution's website for use by prospective undergraduate students a detailed description, developed by the institution's faculty, of the learning objectives, content, and prior knowledge requirements for at least 12 courses for which credit is frequently transferred to the institution from lower-division institutions of higher education; and

(2) establish honors articulation agreements with at least two public junior colleges designed to strengthen the lower-division course offerings of those public junior colleges and to improve the persistence and success rates of students who transfer to the institution from public junior colleges.

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

(a) To earn a baccalaureate degree, a student may not be required by a general academic teaching institution to complete more than the minimum number of semester credit

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hours required for the degree by the institution's board-recognized accrediting agency [~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its successor~~] unless academic accreditation or professional licensure requirements require the [~~the institution determines that there is a compelling academic reason for requiring~~] completion of additional semester credit hours for the degree.

SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.05151 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.05151. SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE. (a) To earn an associate degree, a student may not be required by an institution of higher education to complete more than the minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree by the institution's board-recognized accrediting agency unless academic accreditation or professional licensure requirements require the completion of additional semester credit hours for the degree.

(b) The board may review one or more of an institution's associate degree programs to ensure compliance with this section.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to an associate degree awarded by an institution to a student enrolled in the institution before the 2013 fall semester.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 4. Section 61.052, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(a) Each governing board shall submit to the board once each year on dates designated by the board a comprehensive list by department, division, and school of all courses, together with a

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description of content, scope, and prerequisites of all these courses, that will be offered by each institution under the supervision of that governing board during the following academic year. The list for each institution must also specifically identify any course included in the common course numbering system under Section 61.832 that has been added to or removed from the institution's list for the current academic year, and the board shall distribute that information as necessary to accomplish the purposes of Section 61.832.

(b) After the comprehensive list of courses is submitted by a governing board under Subsection (a) [~~of this section~~], the governing board shall submit on dates designated by the board any changes in the comprehensive list of courses to be offered, including any changes relating to offering a course included in the common course numbering system.

(b-1) Each governing board must certify at the time of submission under Subsection (a) that the institution does not:

(1) prohibit the acceptance of transfer credit based solely on the accreditation of the sending institution; or

(2) include language in any materials published by the institution, whether in printed or electronic form, suggesting that such a prohibition exists.

SECTION 5. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees composed of representatives of institutions of higher education, shall develop a recommended core curriculum of at least 42 semester credit hours, including a statement of the content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. At least a majority of the members of any

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advisory committee named under this section shall be administrators or faculty members of an institution of higher education. An institution shall consult with the faculty of the institution before nominating or recommending a person to the board as the institution's representative on an advisory committee.

(f) In an effort to facilitate the transfer of major-related coursework beyond the general education core curriculum, the board, with the assistance of the advisory committees described by Subsection (a), shall:

(1) develop a course-specific core curriculum for each broad academic discipline within the general core curriculum; and

(2) identify those degree programs offered at institutions of higher education to which the course-specific core curriculum, if successfully completed by a student at another institution of higher education or at a qualified degree-granting career school or college, as defined by Section 61.05135, is fully transferrable.

SECTION 6. Section 61.832, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) A student who transfers from one institution of higher education to another shall receive academic credit from the receiving institution for each course that the student has successfully completed that serves as an equivalent course under the common course numbering system at the institution from which the student transfers.

SECTION 7. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9685 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9685. REQUIRED FILING OF DEGREE PLAN. (a) In this section:

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No equivalent provision.

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9685 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9685. REQUIRED FILING OF DEGREE PLAN. (a) In this section:

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(1) "Degree plan" means a statement of the course of study requirements that an undergraduate student at an institution of higher education must complete in order to be awarded an associate or bachelor's degree from the institution, established through collaboration between the student and an academic advisor for the student's degree program and approved by the academic advisor.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each student enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the institution not later than the semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any other course for which the institution the student attends has awarded the student college course credit, including by examination.

(c) A student to whom this section applies who begins the student's first semester or term at an institution of higher education with 45 or more semester credit hours of course credit for courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a degree plan with the institution during the student's first semester at the institution.

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(1) "Degree plan" means a statement of the course of study requirements that an undergraduate student at an institution of higher education must complete in order to be awarded an associate or bachelor's degree from the institution.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each student enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the institution not later than the end of the second regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any other course for which the institution the student attends has awarded the student college course credit, including course credit awarded by examination.

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

(d) An institution of higher education shall provide to students to whom this section applies information regarding the degree plan filing requirement under this section and options for consulting with an academic advisor for that purpose, which may include consultation through electronic

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(d) A student to whom this section applies may not register for any course offered by the institution of higher education for a semester or term succeeding the semester or term in which the student is required to file a degree plan under this section unless the student has filed a degree plan with the institution.

(e) After filing a degree plan with an institution of higher education as required by this section, a student to whom this section applies may not change the student's degree plan or enroll in a course that is not included in the student's degree plan unless the student has consulted with the student's academic advisor and satisfied any applicable prerequisite or other requirement imposed by the institution regarding that degree plan change or course enrollment, as applicable.

(f) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with institutions of higher education, may adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section.

SECTION 8. The change in law made by this Act to Section 61.0515(a), Education Code, applies beginning with undergraduate students who initially enroll in a general academic teaching institution for the 2013 fall semester.

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communication.

(e) At each registration for a semester or term, a student who is required to have filed a degree plan under this section before that semester or term shall verify to the institution that:
(1) the student has filed a degree plan with the institution; and
(2) the courses for which the student is registering are consistent with that degree plan.

(f) If a student to whom this section applies does not timely file a degree plan, the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled shall notify the student that the degree plan is required by law and require the student to consult with an academic advisor for that purpose in accordance with the consulting options under Subsection (d) during the semester or term in which the student receives the notice. The student may not obtain an official transcript from the institution until the student has filed a degree plan with the institution.

(g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with institutions of higher education, may adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section.

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SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act to Section 61.052, Education Code, apply to the comprehensive lists of courses offered by public institutions of higher education beginning with lists required to be submitted for the 2012-2013 academic year.

SECTION 10. Not later than May 31, 2012, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall develop core curricula for broad academic disciplines included within the general core curriculum that conform to the requirements of Section 61.822, Education Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 11. Section 61.832(e), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2011 fall semester.

SECTION 12. Section 51.9685, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with undergraduate students who initially enroll in a general academic teaching institution for the 2011 fall semester.

No equivalent provision.

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No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. Section 54.203, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-3) to read as follows:
(a-3) Notwithstanding Subsection (a)(4), a person who meets the requirements of Subsection (a)(4), other than the requirement that the person must have served on active military duty for more than the stated number of days, is entitled to the exemption provided by Subsection (a)(4) regardless of the length of the member's active military duty if the person was a member of the Texas National Guard or the Texas Air National Guard who was assigned to a theater of combat operation with the armed forces of the United States.
[FA1]

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No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

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SECTION __. Section 54.203(a-3), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with tuition and fees at a public institution of higher education for the 2011 fall semester. Tuition and fees for a term or semester before the 2011 fall semester are covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. [FA1]

SECTION __. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.833 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.833. CREDIT TRANSFER FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE. (a) In this section, "lower-division institution of higher education" means a public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute.

(b) This section applies to a student enrolled in a general academic teaching institution who:

(1) transferred to the institution from or previously attended a lower-division institution of higher education;

(2) earned at least 30 credit hours for course work successfully completed at the lower-division institution of higher education; and

(3) has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 credit hours for course work successfully completed.

(c) As soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled in a general academic teaching institution has met the criteria established by Subsection (b)(3), the institution by e-mail or other reasonable method shall request authorization from the student for the institution to release the student's transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education that the student previously attended for the purpose of determining whether the student has earned the credits required for an associate degree awarded by the lower-division institution of

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higher education. On receipt of a student's authorization under this subsection, the general academic teaching institution shall release the student's transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education.

(d) After receiving a student transcript from a general academic teaching institution under Subsection (c), a lower-division institution of higher education shall review the transcript and, if the lower-division institution of higher education determines the student has earned the credits required to receive an associate degree awarded by the lower-division institution of higher education, may award the student the degree. [FA2]

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. The change in law made by this Act by adding Section 61.833, Education Code, applies to a student who not earlier than the 2011 fall semester transfers to or otherwise initially enrolls in a general academic teaching institution after attending a lower-division institution of higher education. [FA2]

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 2. Section 51.9685, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with undergraduate students who initially enroll in a public institution of higher education for the 2012 fall semester.

SECTION 13. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

SECTION 3. Same as House version.