

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 2122  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2017; March 28, 2017, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
1-4 May 8, 2017, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 8, 2017,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2122 By: West

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the coordination of the transfer of course credit  
1-20 between public institutions of higher education.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Sections 51.9685(b), (c), and (d), Education  
1-23 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-24 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), not  
1-25 later than the end of the first regular semester or term immediately  
1-26 following the semester or term in which the student earned the  
1-27 following number of semester credit hours for coursework  
1-28 successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses,  
1-29 international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any  
1-30 other course for which the institution the student attends has  
1-31 awarded the student college course credit, including course credit  
1-32 awarded by examination, each student enrolled [~~in an associate or~~  
1-33 ~~bachelor's degree program~~] at an institution of higher education  
1-34 shall:

1-35 (1) following a semester or term in which the student  
1-36 earned a cumulative total of 15 or more semester credit hours,  
1-37 receive formal advising regarding the student's degree plan; and

1-38 (2) following a semester or term in which the student  
1-39 earned a cumulative total of 30 or more semester credit hours, file  
1-40 a degree plan with the institution [~~not later than the end of the~~  
1-41 ~~second regular semester or term immediately following the semester~~  
1-42 ~~or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more~~  
1-43 ~~semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the~~  
1-44 ~~student, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate~~  
1-45 ~~courses, dual credit courses, and any other course for which the~~  
1-46 ~~institution the student attends has awarded the student college~~  
1-47 ~~course credit, including course credit awarded by examination]~~.

1-48 (c) A student to whom this section applies who begins the  
1-49 student's first semester or term at an institution of higher  
1-50 education with 30 [~~45~~] or more semester credit hours of course  
1-51 credit for courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a degree  
1-52 plan with the institution not later than the end of the student's  
1-53 second regular semester or term at the institution.

1-54 (d) An institution of higher education shall provide to  
1-55 students to whom this section applies information regarding the  
1-56 requirement for formal advising and the degree plan filing  
1-57 requirement under this section and options for consulting with an  
1-58 academic advisor for those purposes [~~that purpose~~], which may  
1-59 include consultation through electronic communication.

1-60 SECTION 2. Section 61.059(p), Education Code, is amended to

2-1 read as follows:

2-2 (p) In its instruction and operations formula applicable to  
 2-3 an institution of higher education, the board may not include any  
 2-4 semester credit hours earned for dual course credit by a high school  
 2-5 student for high school and college credit at the institution  
 2-6 unless those credit hours are earned through any of the following:

2-7 (1) a course in the core curriculum of the institution  
 2-8 providing course credit;

2-9 (2) a career and technical education course that  
 2-10 applies to any certificate or associate's degree offered by the  
 2-11 institution providing course credit; ~~[or]~~

2-12 (3) a foreign language course; or

2-13 (4) a course in a field of study curriculum approved by  
 2-14 the board under Section 61.823 offered by the institution providing  
 2-15 course credit.

2-16 SECTION 3. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by  
 2-17 amending Subsections (a), (a-1), and (b) and adding Subsections  
 2-18 (a-2), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

2-19 (a) The board shall develop and implement a policy regarding  
 2-20 [encourage] the transferability of lower division course credit  
 2-21 among institutions of higher education.

2-22 (a-1) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees  
 2-23 composed of representatives of institutions of higher education,  
 2-24 shall develop a recommended core curriculum of at least 42 semester  
 2-25 credit hours, including a statement of the content, component  
 2-26 areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. The core curriculum  
 2-27 must provide the knowledge and academic competencies foundational  
 2-28 for all future learning. Courses in the core curriculum shall be  
 2-29 general education courses, broad in scope, and may not narrowly  
 2-30 focus on knowledge and competencies specific to a particular  
 2-31 occupation or profession.

2-32 (a-2) At least a majority of the members of any advisory  
 2-33 committee named under this section shall be faculty members of an  
 2-34 institution of higher education. An institution shall consult with  
 2-35 the faculty of the institution before nominating or recommending a  
 2-36 person to the board as the institution's representative on an  
 2-37 advisory committee.

2-38 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core  
 2-39 curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours, including  
 2-40 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum  
 2-41 must be approved by the board and shall be consistent with the  
 2-42 common course numbering system approved by the board under Section  
 2-43 61.832 and with the statement, recommendations, and rules issued by  
 2-44 the board. [An institution may have a core curriculum of other than  
 2-45 42 semester credit hours only if approved by the board.]

2-46 (f) The board shall establish a database and collect  
 2-47 information as determined by the board to annually identify the 25  
 2-48 degree programs that have the greatest transfer student enrollment.  
 2-49 Each general academic teaching institution must identify for each  
 2-50 of those degree programs:

2-51 (1) a list of the lower-division courses offered by  
 2-52 institutions of higher education that are considered by the board  
 2-53 to be general academic transfer courses that may be offered for  
 2-54 state funding by public junior colleges, public state colleges, and  
 2-55 public technical institutes;

2-56 (2) the required courses for the degree program that  
 2-57 satisfy the core curriculum requirements at the institution; and

2-58 (3) any additional lower-division requirements for  
 2-59 the degree program at the institution.

2-60 (g) Courses identified by a general academic teaching  
 2-61 institution under Subsection (f) are only required to be applied to  
 2-62 the appropriate degree program for a student in the period of the  
 2-63 institution's course catalog beginning with the student's first  
 2-64 enrollment in an institution of higher education.

2-65 SECTION 4. Section 61.823, Education Code, is amended by  
 2-66 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

2-67 (f) Each public junior college, public state college, and  
 2-68 public technical institute that offers a degree program for which a  
 2-69 field of study curriculum is developed shall adopt the field of

3-1 study curriculum.

3-2 SECTION 5. Section 61.832, Education Code, is amended by  
3-3 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

3-4 (e) The board may monitor the use of the common course  
3-5 numbering system by general academic teaching institutions to  
3-6 ascertain benefits and problems with the implementation of the  
3-7 system and issue an annual report, including a timeline for  
3-8 statutory compliance, to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the  
3-9 speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of the senate  
3-10 finance committee, and the chair of each standing committee in the  
3-11 legislature with jurisdiction over higher education.

3-12 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply  
3-13 beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year.

3-14 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3-15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3-16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3-17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3-18 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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