

By: Wu

H.B. No. 2072

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress,  
and timely graduation of students in public higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
amended by adding Section 51.96852 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.96852. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM LOWER-DIVISION  
INSTITUTIONS; ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Articulation agreement" means a formal written  
agreement between a public junior college and a general academic  
teaching institution identifying courses offered by the public  
junior college that must be accepted for credit toward specific  
course requirements at the general academic teaching institution.

(2) "General academic teaching institution," "public  
junior college," "public state college," and "public technical  
institute" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(3) "Lower-division institution of higher education"  
means a public junior college, public state college, or public  
technical institute.

(b) Each general academic teaching institution shall:

(1) publish on the institution's Internet 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

1 offered by the institution for which credit is frequently  
2 transferred to the institution from lower-division institutions of  
3 higher education;

4 (2) identify the public junior colleges from which the  
5 general academic teaching institution regularly receives transfer  
6 students; and

7 (3) establish, for at least five degree plans for  
8 which credit is frequently transferred to the institution from  
9 lower-division institutions of higher education, articulation  
10 agreements with each public junior college from which the general  
11 academic teaching institution has received an average of at least  
12 five percent of the institution's transfer students in the three  
13 preceding academic years.

14 (c) A general academic teaching institution's participation  
15 in an articulation agreement under this section does not affect the  
16 institution's admissions policies.

17 (d) In consultation with general academic teaching  
18 institutions and public junior colleges, the Texas Higher Education  
19 Coordinating Board, using the negotiated rulemaking procedures  
20 under Chapter 2008, Government Code, shall adopt any rules the  
21 coordinating board considers necessary for the administration of  
22 this section.

23 SECTION 2. Section 61.0515, Education Code, is amended by  
24 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
25 follows:

26 (a) To earn a baccalaureate degree, a student may not be  
27 required by a general academic teaching institution to complete

1 more than the minimum number of semester credit hours required for  
2 the degree by the institution's board-recognized accrediting  
3 agency [~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its~~  
4 ~~successor~~] unless the institution determines that there is a  
5 compelling academic reason for requiring completion of additional  
6 semester credit hours for the degree.

7 (d) The board shall adopt any rules the board considers  
8 necessary for the administration of this section. In adopting  
9 rules under this subsection, the board shall use the negotiated  
10 rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government Code.

11 SECTION 3. Section 61.05151, Education Code, is amended by  
12 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as  
13 follows:

14 (a) To earn an associate degree, a student may not be  
15 required by an institution of higher education to complete more  
16 than the minimum number of semester credit hours required for the  
17 degree by the institution's board-recognized accrediting agency  
18 [~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its successor~~]  
19 unless the institution determines that there is a compelling  
20 academic reason for requiring completion of additional semester  
21 credit hours for the degree.

22 (d) The board shall adopt any rules the board considers  
23 necessary for the administration of this section. In adopting  
24 rules under this subsection, the board shall use the negotiated  
25 rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government Code.

26 SECTION 4. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by  
27 amending Subsection (a-1) and adding Subsection (f) to read as

1 follows:

2 (a-1) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees  
3 composed of representatives of institutions of higher education,  
4 shall develop a recommended core curriculum of at least 42 semester  
5 credit hours, including a statement of the content, component  
6 areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. Administrators of an  
7 institution of higher education may serve as representatives of the  
8 institution on any advisory committee under this section. At least  
9 a majority of the members of any advisory committee named under this  
10 section shall be faculty members of an institution of higher  
11 education. An institution shall consult with the faculty of the  
12 institution before nominating or recommending a person to the board  
13 as the institution's representative on an advisory committee.

14 (f) In an effort to facilitate the transfer of major-related  
15 coursework beyond the general education core curriculum, the board,  
16 with the assistance of the advisory committees described by  
17 Subsection (a-1), shall:

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

20 (2) identify those degree programs offered at  
21 institutions of higher education to which the course-specific core  
22 curriculum, if successfully completed by a student at another  
23 institution of higher education, is fully transferable.

24 SECTION 5. Not later than May 31, 2021, each general  
25 academic teaching institution shall publish on the institution's  
26 Internet website the information required by Section 51.96852,  
27 Education Code, as added by this Act, and establish articulation

1 agreements in accordance with that section.

2 SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections  
3 [61.0515\(a\)](#) and [61.05151\(a\)](#), Education Code, apply beginning with  
4 undergraduate students who initially enroll in an institution of  
5 higher education for the 2021 fall semester. An undergraduate  
6 student who initially enrolls in an institution of higher education  
7 before that semester is covered by the law in effect before the  
8 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for  
9 that purpose.

10 SECTION 7. Not later than May 31, 2021, the Texas Higher  
11 Education Coordinating Board shall develop core curricula for broad  
12 academic disciplines included within the general core curriculum  
13 that conform to the requirements of Section [61.822](#), Education Code,  
14 as amended by this Act.

15 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.