

1-1 By: West S.B. No. 25  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 7, 2019; March 7, 2019, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
1-4 April 16, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 16, 2019,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	Creighton	X		
1-10	West	X		
1-11	Bettencourt	X		
1-12	Buckingham	X		
1-13	Flores	X		
1-14	Menéndez	X		
1-15	Powell	X		
1-16	Taylor	X		
1-17	Watson	X		

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 25 By: West

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress,  
1-22 and timely graduation of students in public higher education.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
1-25 amended by adding Sections 51.400 and 51.4033 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 51.400. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-27 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher  
1-28 Education Coordinating Board.

1-29 (2) "General academic teaching institution,"  
1-30 "institution of higher education," and "medical and dental unit"  
1-31 have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

1-32 Sec. 51.4033. REPORT OF NONTRANSFERABLE CREDIT. (a) Not  
1-33 later than December 1 of each year and in the form prescribed by the  
1-34 coordinating board, each general academic teaching institution and  
1-35 medical and dental unit shall provide to the coordinating board a  
1-36 report describing any courses for which a student who transfers to  
1-37 the institution from another institution of higher education is not  
1-38 granted academic credit at the receiving institution.

1-39 (b) A report required by this section must indicate:

1-40 (1) the course name and type;

1-41 (2) which institution of higher education provided  
1-42 academic credit for the course; and

1-43 (3) the reason why the receiving institution did not  
1-44 grant academic credit for the course.

1-45 SECTION 2. Section 51.762, Education Code, is amended by  
1-46 adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

1-47 (j) In adopting a form under this section, the board shall  
1-48 ensure that an applicant may indicate on the form the applicant's  
1-49 consent to an institution of higher education to which the  
1-50 applicant submits an application for admission to a particular  
1-51 degree program using the form to, if the institution denies the  
1-52 applicant admission to that degree program, provide the applicant's  
1-53 application to other institutions of higher education that offer  
1-54 the degree program.

1-55 SECTION 3. Section 51.9685(a)(2), Education Code, is  
1-56 amended to read as follows:

1-57 (2) "Institution of higher education" has [and "public  
1-58 junior college" have] the meaning [meanings] assigned by Section  
1-59 61.003.

1-60 SECTION 4. Section 51.9685, Education Code, is amended by

2-1 amending Subsections (b), (c), and (g) and adding Subsection (c-2)  
 2-2 to read as follows:  
 2-3 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each  
 2-4 student enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an  
 2-5 institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the  
 2-6 institution before ~~[not later than]~~ the end of the ~~[second regular]~~  
 2-7 semester or term immediately following the semester or term in  
 2-8 which the student earned a cumulative total of 30 ~~[45]~~ or more  
 2-9 semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the  
 2-10 student, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate  
 2-11 courses, dual credit courses, and any other course for which the  
 2-12 institution the student attends has awarded the student college  
 2-13 course credit, including course credit awarded by examination.  
 2-14 (c) A student to whom Subsection (b) ~~[this section]~~ applies  
 2-15 who begins the student's first semester or term at an institution of  
 2-16 higher education with 30 ~~[45]~~ or more semester credit hours of  
 2-17 course credit for courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a  
 2-18 degree plan with the institution before ~~[not later than]~~ the end of  
 2-19 that ~~[the student's second regular]~~ semester or term ~~[at the~~  
 2-20 ~~institution]~~.  
 2-21 (c-2) A student enrolled in a dual credit course at an  
 2-22 institution of higher education and to whom Subsection (b) does not  
 2-23 apply shall file a degree plan with the institution not later than:  
 2-24 (1) the end of the second regular semester or term  
 2-25 immediately following the semester or term in which the student  
 2-26 earned a cumulative total of 15 or more semester credit hours of  
 2-27 course credit for dual credit courses successfully completed by the  
 2-28 student; or  
 2-29 (2) if the student begins the student's first semester  
 2-30 or term at the institution with 15 or more semester credit hours of  
 2-31 course credit for dual credit courses successfully completed by the  
 2-32 student, the end of the student's second regular semester or term at  
 2-33 the institution.  
 2-34 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in  
 2-35 consultation with institutions of higher education, shall ~~[may]~~  
 2-36 adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section,  
 2-37 including rules to ensure compliance with this section.  
 2-38 SECTION 5. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
 2-39 amended by adding Sections 51.96852 and 51.96853 to read as  
 2-40 follows:  
 2-41 Sec. 51.96852. RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCES. (a) In this  
 2-42 section:  
 2-43 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher  
 2-44 Education Coordinating Board.  
 2-45 (2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning  
 2-46 assigned by Section 61.003.  
 2-47 (b) Each institution of higher education shall develop at  
 2-48 least one recommended course sequence for each undergraduate  
 2-49 certificate or degree program offered by the institution. Each  
 2-50 recommended course sequence must:  
 2-51 (1) identify the required courses for the applicable  
 2-52 certificate or degree program in the general core curriculum or the  
 2-53 disciplinary core curriculum as described by Section 61.822;  
 2-54 (2) include for each course, if applicable, the course  
 2-55 number or course equivalent under the common course numbering  
 2-56 system approved by the coordinating board under Section 61.832;  
 2-57 (3) be designed to enable a full-time student to  
 2-58 obtain a certificate or degree, as applicable, within:  
 2-59 (A) for a 60-hour degree or certificate program,  
 2-60 two years; or  
 2-61 (B) for a 120-hour degree program, four years;  
 2-62 and  
 2-63 (4) include a specific sequence in which courses  
 2-64 should be completed to ensure completion of the applicable program  
 2-65 within the time frame described by Subdivision (3).  
 2-66 (c) Each institution of higher education shall:  
 2-67 (1) include the recommended course sequences  
 2-68 developed under this section in the institution's course catalog  
 2-69 and on the institution's Internet website; and

3-1 (2) submit the recommended course sequences developed  
 3-2 under this section to the coordinating board as provided by  
 3-3 coordinating board rule.

3-4 Sec. 51.96853. TRANSFER OF CREDIT FROM LOWER-DIVISION  
 3-5 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS.

3-6 (a) In this section:

3-7 (1) "Articulation agreement" means a formal written  
 3-8 agreement between a lower-division institution of higher education  
 3-9 and a general academic teaching institution identifying courses  
 3-10 offered by the lower-division institution that must be accepted for  
 3-11 credit toward specific course requirements at the general academic  
 3-12 teaching institution.

3-13 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the  
 3-14 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

3-15 (3) "Lower-division institution of higher education"  
 3-16 means a public junior college, public state college, or public  
 3-17 technical institute, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003.

3-18 (b) Each general academic teaching institution may enter  
 3-19 into an articulation agreement with a lower-division institution of  
 3-20 higher education for a certificate or degree program for which  
 3-21 students transferring from the lower-division institution to the  
 3-22 general academic teaching institution receive transfer credit.

3-23 (c) The agreement must, to the greatest extent practicable,  
 3-24 use fields of study curricula developed by the Texas Higher  
 3-25 Education Coordinating Board under Section 61.823.

3-26 (d) A general academic teaching institution may extend an  
 3-27 existing articulation agreement entered into under Subsection (b)  
 3-28 to another lower-division institution of higher education with  
 3-29 respect to the transfer of courses from that lower-division  
 3-30 institution of higher education to the general academic teaching  
 3-31 institution, on request by that lower-division institution of  
 3-32 higher education.

3-33 (e) An articulation agreement established under this  
 3-34 section may enable a transfer student to receive up to 60 semester  
 3-35 credit hours for courses completed at the lower-division  
 3-36 institution of higher education.

3-37 (f) A general academic teaching institution's participation  
 3-38 in an articulation agreement under this section does not affect the  
 3-39 institution's admissions policies.

3-40 SECTION 6. Section 51.9715(b), Education Code, is amended  
 3-41 to read as follows:

3-42 (b) An institution of higher education may release student  
 3-43 information in accordance with Subsection (a) only through[+]

3-44 [~~(1)~~] the National Student Clearinghouse[~~, or~~

3-45 [~~(2) a similar national electronic data sharing and~~  
 3-46 ~~exchange platform operated by an agent of the institution that~~  
 3-47 ~~meets nationally accepted standards, conventions, and practices].~~

3-48 SECTION 7. Section 61.059(p), Education Code, is amended to  
 3-49 read as follows:

3-50 (p) In its instruction and operations formula applicable to  
 3-51 an institution of higher education, the board may not include any  
 3-52 semester credit hours earned for dual course credit by a high school  
 3-53 student for high school and college credit at the institution  
 3-54 unless those credit hours are earned through any of the following:

3-55 (1) a course in the core curriculum of the institution  
 3-56 providing course credit;

3-57 (2) a course offered by the institution providing  
 3-58 course credit in:

3-59 (A) a field of study curriculum developed by the  
 3-60 board under Section 61.823; or

3-61 (B) a program of study curriculum established by  
 3-62 the board under Section 61.8235;

3-63 (3) a career and technical education course that  
 3-64 applies to any certificate or associate's degree offered by the  
 3-65 institution providing course credit; or

3-66 (4) [~~(3)~~] a foreign language course.

3-67 SECTION 8. Section 61.821(1), Education Code, is amended to  
 3-68 read as follows:

3-69 (1) "Core curriculum" means the lower division

4-1 curriculum in liberal arts, humanities, and sciences and political,  
 4-2 social, and cultural history that provides the knowledge and  
 4-3 academic competencies foundational for all future learning and that  
 4-4 all undergraduate students of an institution of higher education  
 4-5 are required to complete before receiving an academic undergraduate  
 4-6 degree.

4-7 SECTION 9. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by  
 4-8 adding Subsections (a-2), (a-3), (f), and (g) and amending  
 4-9 Subsections (b), (c), and (d) to read as follows:

4-10 (a-2) The recommended core curriculum developed under  
 4-11 Subsection (a-1) must have the following components:

4-12 (1) a general core curriculum of at least 24 semester  
 4-13 credit hours that includes:

4-14 (A) six semester credit hours in each of the  
 4-15 following component areas:

4-16 (i) American or Texas history, as provided  
 4-17 by Section 51.302;

4-18 (ii) government or political science, as  
 4-19 provided by Section 51.301; and

4-20 (iii) communication; and

4-21 (B) three semester credit hours in each of the  
 4-22 following component areas:

4-23 (i) language, philosophy, or culture; and

4-24 (ii) creative arts; and

4-25 (2) for each broad academic discipline, an academic  
 4-26 discipline core curriculum of not more than 18 semester credit  
 4-27 hours specific to that discipline and that includes relevant  
 4-28 courses in mathematics and physical sciences.

4-29 (a-3) In developing an academic discipline core curriculum  
 4-30 as described by Subsection (a-2), the board shall consult with  
 4-31 relevant faculty at institutions of higher education.

4-32 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a core  
 4-33 curriculum of ~~no less than~~ 42 semester credit hours, including  
 4-34 specific courses comprising the curriculum. The core curriculum  
 4-35 shall:

4-36 (1) include a general core curriculum and, for each  
 4-37 broad academic discipline offered by the institution, an academic  
 4-38 discipline core curriculum as described by Subsection (a-2); and

4-39 (2) be consistent with the common course numbering  
 4-40 system approved by the board and with the statement,  
 4-41 recommendations, and rules issued by the board. ~~[An institution~~  
 4-42 ~~may have a core curriculum of other than 42 semester credit hours~~  
 4-43 ~~only if approved by the board.]~~

4-44 (c) If a student successfully completes the 42-hour core  
 4-45 curriculum at an institution of higher education, that block of  
 4-46 courses may be transferred to any other institution of higher  
 4-47 education and must be substituted for the receiving institution's  
 4-48 core curriculum. A student shall receive academic credit for each  
 4-49 of the courses transferred and may not be required to take  
 4-50 additional core curriculum courses at the receiving institution  
 4-51 ~~[unless the board has approved a larger core curriculum at the~~  
 4-52 ~~institution].~~

4-53 (d) A student who transfers from one institution of higher  
 4-54 education to another without completing the core curriculum of the  
 4-55 sending institution shall receive academic credit from the  
 4-56 receiving institution toward that institution's general core  
 4-57 curriculum or academic discipline core curriculum, as applicable,  
 4-58 for each of the courses that the student has successfully completed  
 4-59 in the core curriculum of the sending institution. Following  
 4-60 receipt of credit for these courses, the student may be required to  
 4-61 satisfy any remaining ~~further~~ course requirements in the core  
 4-62 curriculum of the receiving institution.

4-63 (f) Each institution of higher education shall:

4-64 (1) identify in the institution's course catalog and  
 4-65 on the institution's Internet website each course offered by the  
 4-66 institution that fulfills a course requirement in the institution's  
 4-67 general core curriculum or academic discipline core curriculum and  
 4-68 the specific course requirement that the course fulfills;

4-69 (2) provide to the board in accordance with board rule

5-1 the institution's general core curriculum and academic discipline  
 5-2 core curriculum and the information described by Subdivision (1);  
 5-3 and

5-4 (3) advise each student enrolled at the institution  
 5-5 regarding the importance of taking coherent sequences of courses in  
 5-6 the core curriculum that are aligned with the student's academic  
 5-7 and career goals.

5-8 (g) To assist in advising a student regarding the selection  
 5-9 of coherent sequences of courses in the core curriculum that are  
 5-10 aligned with the student's academic and career goals, the board  
 5-11 shall make available to each institution of higher education and to  
 5-12 school counselors and other postsecondary advisors employed by a  
 5-13 school district or charter school information regarding:

5-14 (1) the general core curriculum and academic  
 5-15 discipline core curriculum required under Subsection (b); and

5-16 (2) the transferability of course credit between  
 5-17 institutions of higher education for courses in the core curriculum  
 5-18 as provided by this section.

5-19 SECTION 10. Section 61.823, Education Code, is amended by  
 5-20 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

5-21 (f) A public junior college or public technical institute  
 5-22 shall adopt in whole or in part each field of study curriculum  
 5-23 developed by the board under this section for an academic area in  
 5-24 which the college or institute offers courses.

5-25 SECTION 11. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
 5-26 amended by adding Section 61.8231 to read as follows:

5-27 Sec. 61.8231. STUDY ON TRANSFER ADMISSION GUARANTEE.

5-28 (a) The board shall conduct a study on the feasibility of  
 5-29 guaranteeing transfer admission to an institution of higher  
 5-30 education for students who complete certain courses in the core  
 5-31 curriculum or a field of study curriculum at another institution of  
 5-32 higher education.

5-33 (b) Not later than September 1, 2020, the board shall submit  
 5-34 to the members of the legislature a report on the results of the  
 5-35 study and recommendations for legislative or other action. The  
 5-36 report must include recommendations regarding eligibility criteria  
 5-37 for a student to receive or an institution of higher education to  
 5-38 participate in the transfer admission guarantee.

5-39 (c) This section expires September 1, 2021.

5-40 SECTION 12. Section 61.827, Education Code, is amended to  
 5-41 read as follows:

5-42 Sec. 61.827. RULES. (a) The board is authorized to adopt  
 5-43 rules implementing the provisions of this subchapter.

5-44 (b) In adopting rules regarding the recommended core  
 5-45 curriculum developed under Section 61.822, the board shall use the  
 5-46 negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government  
 5-47 Code.

5-48 SECTION 13. Section 61.833(a)(2), Education Code, is  
 5-49 amended to read as follows:

5-50 (2) "Reverse transfer data sharing platform" means[+  
 5-51 ~~[(A)] the National Student Clearinghouse[+or~~  
 5-52 ~~[(B) a similar national electronic data sharing~~  
 5-53 ~~and exchange platform operated by an agent of the institution that~~  
 5-54 ~~meets nationally accepted standards, conventions, and practices].~~

5-55 SECTION 14. Section 130.0104(c), Education Code, is amended  
 5-56 to read as follows:

5-57 (c) In complying with the requirements regarding the filing  
 5-58 of a degree plan under [Notwithstanding] Section 51.9685, [before  
 5-59 the beginning of the regular semester or term immediately following  
 5-60 the semester or term in which] a student enrolled [successfully  
 5-61 completes a cumulative total of 30 or more semester credit hours for  
 5-62 coursework] in a multidisciplinary studies associate degree  
 5-63 program established under this section[, the student] must meet  
 5-64 with an academic advisor to complete a degree plan[, as defined by  
 5-65 Section 51.9685(a)(1),] that:

5-66 (1) accounts for all remaining credit hours required  
 5-67 for the completion of the degree program; and

5-68 (2) emphasizes:

5-69 (A) the student's transition to a particular

6-1 four-year college or university that the student chooses; and  
6-2 (B) preparations for the student's intended  
6-3 field of study or major at the four-year college or university.

6-4 SECTION 15. Section 51.9685(c-1), Education Code, is  
6-5 repealed.

6-6 SECTION 16. Each public institution of higher education and  
6-7 medical and dental unit required to submit a report under Section  
6-8 51.4033, Education Code, as added by this Act, shall submit the  
6-9 first report not later than December 1, 2020.

6-10 SECTION 17. Sections 51.762, 51.9715, 61.822, and 61.833,  
6-11 Education Code, as amended by this Act, and Sections 51.96852 and  
6-12 51.96853, Education Code, as added by this Act, apply beginning  
6-13 with the 2020-2021 academic year.

6-14 SECTION 18. Not later than December 31, 2020, the Texas  
6-15 Higher Education Coordinating Board shall develop a recommended  
6-16 core curriculum that conforms to the requirements of Section  
6-17 61.822, Education Code, as amended by this Act.

6-18 SECTION 19. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

6-19

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