

SUBJECT: Requiring development of field of study curricula

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Rangel, F. Brown, Farabee, Goolsby, Morrison, E. Reyna, Uher,  
West

0 nays

1 absent — J. Jones

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Teri Flack, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; Rey Garcia,  
Texas Association of Community Colleges

DIGEST: CSHB 1359 would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to maximize the efficiency of its management strategy, including by decentralizing its advisory committees to enable concurrent development of curricula for different fields of study.

Not later than January 1, 2003, the board would have to develop curricula for at least 10 degree programs designated as high-demand programs for transfer students and available at more than one institution and would have to submit a report to the Legislature on the board's progress. If the board failed to meet this requirement for a designated program, all lower-division courses in the program automatically would become transferable for credit at other institutions offering that program. The same requirements would apply to the board on January 1, 2004, when it would have to have developed curricula for five more degree programs.

Each institution of higher education would have to publish in its course catalog its practices for transferring credit. The board would have to develop a uniform numbering system for lower-division courses available at more than one institution.

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This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2001.

NOTES:

The committee substitute eliminated a requirement in the original bill that the board attempt to remedy difficulties encountered by students in transferring course credit.