

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1359
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Education
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is a lack of standardization of credit transfer practices between two-year colleges and public universities in Texas. To further expedite the reform of credit transfer practices, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (board), in conjunction with the legislature, has worked to address the difficulties encountered by students in transferring course credits. H.B. 1359 requires the board to develop field of study curriculum for not fewer than 15 degree programs and requires each institution of higher education (institution) to publish its practices in transferring course credits between institutions.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 61.823, Education Code, by adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f), as follows:

(d) Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (board), in developing field of study curricula, to pursue a management strategy that provides for the decentralization of advisory committees to enable concurrent development of curricula for different fields of study.

(e) Requires the board, not later than January 1, 2003, to develop the field of study curriculum for not fewer than 10 degree programs designated by the board not later January 1, 2002, that are high-demand degree programs for transfer students and that are common to more than one general academic teaching institution. Provides that, if the board fails to meet the requirements of this subsection by January 1, 2003, for a designated degree program, all lower division courses required for that degree program are automatically transferable for credit between all institutions of higher education that offer that degree program. Requires the board, not later than January 1, 2003, to report to the legislature regarding the board's progress in developing the field of study curricula required by this subsection.

(f) Requires the board, not later than January 1, 2004, to develop, in addition to the degree programs designated by the board under Subsection (e), the field of study curriculum for not fewer than five degree programs designated by the board not later than January 1, 2003, that are high-demand degree programs for transfer students and that are common to more than one general academic teaching institution. Provides that, if the board fails to meet the requirements of this subsection by January 1, 2004, for a designated degree program, all lower division courses required for the degree program are automatically transferable for credit between all institutions of higher education that offer that degree program. Requires the board, not later than January 1, 2004, to report to the legislature regarding the board's progress in developing the field of study

curricula required by this subsection.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 61S, Education Code, by adding Sections 61.830 and 61.831, as follows:

Sec. 61.830. PUBLICATION OF GUIDELINES ADDRESSING TRANSFER PRACTICES. Requires each institution of higher education to publish guidelines, in its course catalogs and on its website, addressing the practices of the institution regarding the transfer of course credit. Requires the institution, in its guidelines, to identify a course by using any common course numbering system adopted by the board.

Sec. 61.831. PURPOSE OF SUBCHAPTER. Sets forth the purpose of this subchapter.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.