

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.H.B. 2999
By: Lewis (Zaffirini)
Higher Education
5/20/2011
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would allow general academic teaching institutions to offer a fixed tuition rate program for students who transfer from a two-year institution with an associate degree.

C.S.H.B. 2999 amends current law relating to a fixed tuition rate program for certain students who transfer to a state university after completing an associate degree program.

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 Subchapter A, Chapter 54, Education Code, by adding Section 54.016, as follows:

Sec. 54.016. FIXED TUITION RATE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN TRANSFER STUDENTS AT GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS. (a) Defines, in this section, "coordinating board," "general academic teaching institution," and "lower-division institution of higher education."

(b) Authorizes a general academic teaching institution to develop a fixed tuition rate program for qualified students who agree to transfer to the institution within 12 months after successfully earning an associate degree at a lower-division institution of higher education. Requires a general academic teaching institution, under a program developed under this section, to:

(1) guarantee to a participating student enrolled in an associate degree program at a lower-division institution of higher education, on successful completion of the associate degree program, transfer admission to the general academic teaching institution within the period prescribed above; and

(2) notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, charge tuition to a participating student for any semester or other academic term during a period of at least 24 months following the student's initial enrollment in the institution at the same rate the general academic teaching institution would have charged to the student during the later of:

(A) the fall semester of the student's freshman year at another institution of higher education had the student entered the general academic teaching institution as a freshman student; or

(B) the fall semester of the second academic year preceding the academic year of the student's initial enrollment in the general academic teaching institution.

(c) Requires a general academic teaching institution that develops a fixed tuition rate program under this section to prescribe eligibility requirements for participation in the program and notify applicants for transfer admission from lower-division institutions of higher education regarding the program.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2011.