

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

3rd Printing

H.B. No. 3025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures to facilitate the timely completion of degrees by students of public institutions of 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 51.9685 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9685. REQUIRED FILING OF DEGREE PLAN. (a) In this section:

(1) "Degree plan" means a statement of the course of study requirements that an undergraduate student at an institution of higher education must complete in order to be awarded an associate or bachelor's degree from the institution.

(2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (c), each student enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the institution not later than the end of the second regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the student, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any other course for which the institution the student attends has awarded the student college course credit,

1 including course credit awarded by examination.

2 (c) A student to whom this section applies who begins the
3 student's first semester or term at an institution of higher
4 education with 45 or more semester credit hours of course credit for
5 courses described by Subsection (b) shall file a degree plan with
6 the institution not later than the end of the student's second
7 regular semester or term at the institution.

8 (d) An institution of higher education shall provide to
9 students to whom this section applies information regarding the
10 degree plan filing requirement under this section and options for
11 consulting with an academic advisor for that purpose, which may
12 include consultation through electronic communication.

13 (e) At each registration for a semester or term, a student
14 who is required to have filed a degree plan under this section
15 before that semester or term shall verify to the institution that:

16 (1) the student has filed a degree plan with the
17 institution; and

18 (2) the courses for which the student is registering
19 are consistent with that degree plan.

20 (f) If a student to whom this section applies does not
21 timely file a degree plan, the institution of higher education in
22 which the student is enrolled shall notify the student that the
23 degree plan is required by law and require the student to consult
24 with an academic advisor for that purpose in accordance with the
25 consulting options under Subsection (d) during the semester or term
26 in which the student receives the notice. The student may not
27 obtain an official transcript from the institution until the

1 student has filed a degree plan with the institution.

2 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in
3 consultation with institutions of higher education, may adopt rules
4 as necessary for the administration of this section.

5 SECTION 2. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 61.833 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 61.833. CREDIT TRANSFER FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE. (a) In
8 this section, "lower-division institution of higher education"
9 means a public junior college, public state college, or public
10 technical institute.

11 (b) This section applies to a student enrolled in a general
12 academic teaching institution who:

13 (1) transferred to the institution from or previously
14 attended a lower-division institution of higher education;

15 (2) earned at least 30 credit hours for course work
16 successfully completed at the lower-division institution of higher
17 education; and

18 (3) has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 credit
19 hours for course work successfully completed.

20 (c) As soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled
21 in a general academic teaching institution has met the criteria
22 established by Subsection (b)(3), the institution by e-mail or
23 other reasonable method shall request authorization from the
24 student for the institution to release the student's transcript to
25 the lower-division institution of higher education that the student
26 previously attended for the purpose of determining whether the
27 student has earned the credits required for an associate degree

1 awarded by the lower-division institution of higher education. On
2 receipt of a student's authorization under this subsection, the
3 general academic teaching institution shall release the student's
4 transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education.

5 (d) After receiving a student transcript from a general
6 academic teaching institution under Subsection (c), a
7 lower-division institution of higher education shall review the
8 transcript and, if the lower-division institution of higher
9 education determines the student has earned the credits required to
10 receive an associate degree awarded by the lower-division
11 institution of higher education, may award the student the degree.

12 SECTION 3. Section 51.9685, Education Code, as added by
13 this Act, applies beginning with undergraduate students who
14 initially enroll in a public institution of higher education for
15 the 2012 fall semester.

16 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act by adding
17 Section 61.833, Education Code, applies to a student who not
18 earlier than the 2011 fall semester transfers to or otherwise
19 initially enrolls in a general academic teaching institution after
20 attending a lower-division institution of higher education.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

House Bill 3025
 Conference Committee Report
 Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION	SENATE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.05135.	No equivalent provision.	Same as Senate version.
SECTION 2. Section 61.0515(a), Education Code, is amended.	No equivalent provision.	Same as Senate version.
SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.05151.	No equivalent provision.	Same as Senate version.
SECTION 4. Section 61.052, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (b-1).	No equivalent provision.	Same as Senate version.
SECTION 5. Section 61.822, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (f).	No equivalent provision.	Same as Senate version.
SECTION 6. Section 61.832, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e).	No equivalent provision.	Same as Senate version.
SECTION 7. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9685 as follows:	SECTION 1. Same as House version except as follows:	SECTION 2. Same as Senate version.
(a)(1) "Degree plan" means a statement of the course of study requirements that an undergraduate student at an institution of higher education must complete in order to be awarded an	(a)(1) Same as House version except omits reference to the establishment of a degree plan.	Same as Senate version.

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SENATE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

associate or bachelor's degree from the institution, *established through collaboration between the student and an academic advisor for the student's degree program and approved by the academic advisor.*

(b) Requires each student enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education to file a degree plan with the institution not later than the semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the student, including a course for which the institution the student attends has awarded the student college course credit, including by examination.

(c) Requires a student to whom this section applies who begins the student's first semester or term at an institution of higher education with 45 or more semester credit hours of course credit for courses described by Subsection (b) to file a degree plan with the institution *during* the student's *first semester* at the institution.

No equivalent provision.

(b) Same as House version except requires a degree plan to be filed *not later than the end of the second regular semester* or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more semester credit hours for coursework successfully completed by the student, including a course for which the institution the student attends has awarded the student college course credit, including *course credit awarded* by examination.

(c) Same as House version except requires a degree plan to be filed with the institution *not later than the end of* the student's *second regular semester or term* at the institution.

(d) Requires an institution of higher education to provide to students to whom this section applies information regarding the degree plan filing requirement under this section and options for consulting with an academic advisor for that purpose, which may include consultation through electronic communication.

Same as Senate version.

Same as Senate version.

Same as Senate version.

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(d) Prohibits a student to whom this section applies from registering for any course offered by the institution of higher education for a semester or term succeeding the semester or term in which the student is required to file a degree plan under this section unless the student has filed a degree plan with the institution.

No equivalent provision.

No equivalent provision.

(e) Prohibits a student to whom this section applies from changing the student's degree plan or enrolling in a course that is not included in the student's degree plan under certain circumstances.

(f) Authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating

SENATE VERSION (IE)

No equivalent provision.

(e) Requires a student who is required to have filed a degree plan under this section before each registration for a semester or term to verify to the institution that the student has filed a degree plan with the institution and the courses for which the student is registering are consistent with that degree plan.

(f) Requires the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled, if a student to whom this section applies does not timely file a degree plan, to notify the student that the degree plan is required by law and require the student to consult with an academic advisor for that purpose, in accordance with the consulting options during the semester or term in which the student receives the notice. Prohibits the student from obtaining an official transcript from the institution until the student has filed a degree plan with the institution.

No equivalent provision.

(g) Same as House version.

CONFERENCE

Same as Senate version.

Same as Senate version.

Same as Senate version.

Same as Senate version.

(g) Same as House version.

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HOUSE VERSION	SENATE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
board to adopt necessary rules.		
SECTIONS 8-11. Transition provisions.	No equivalent provision.	Same as Senate version.
No equivalent provision.	SECTION __. Section 54.203, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-3) entitling a person who meets the requirements of Subsection (a)(4), other than the requirement that the person must have served on active military duty for more than the stated number of days, to the exemption provided by Subsection (a)(4) regardless of the length of the member's active military duty if the person was a member of the Texas National Guard or the Texas Air National Guard who was assigned to a theater of combat operation with the armed forces of the United States. [FA1]	Same as House version.
No equivalent provision.	SECTION __. Section 54.203(a-3), Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with tuition and fees at a public institution of higher education for the 2011 fall semester. Tuition and fees for a term or semester before the 2011 fall semester are covered by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. [FA1]	Same as House version.
No equivalent provision.	SECTION __. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.833 as follows: Sec. 61.833. Credit Transfer for Associate Degree. (a) Defines "lower-division institution of higher education." (b) Makes this section applicable to a student enrolled in a general academic teaching institution who transferred to the institution from or previously attended a lower-division	SECTION 3. Same as Senate version.

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CONFERENCE

institution of higher education, earned at least 30 credit hours for course work successfully completed at the lower-division institution of higher education, and has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 credit hours for course work successfully completed.

(c) Requires the institution by e-mail or other reasonable method, as soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled in a general academic teaching institution has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 credit hours for course work successfully completed, to request authorization from the student for the institution to release the student's transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education that the student previously attended for the purpose of determining whether the student has earned the credits required for an associate degree awarded by the lower-division institution of higher education. Requires the general academic teaching institution to release the student's transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education on receipt of the student's authorization.

(d) Requires a lower-division institution of higher education to review the transcript after receiving it from a general academic teaching institution and, if the lower-division institution of higher education determines the student has earned the credits required to receive an associate degree awarded by the lower-division institution of higher education, authorizes the institution to award the student the degree.
[FA2]

SECTION 12. Section 51.9685, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with undergraduate students who initially enroll in a *general academic teaching institution for the 2011 fall semester*

SECTION 2. Section 51.9685, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with undergraduate students who initially enroll in a *public institution of higher education for the 2012 fall semester*.

SECTION 4. Same as Senate version.

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SENATE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

No equivalent provision.

SECTION __. The change in law made by this Act by adding Section 61.833, Education Code, applies to a student who not earlier than the 2011 fall semester transfers to or otherwise initially enrolls in a general academic teaching institution after attending a lower-division institution of higher education.
[FA2]

SECTION 5. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 13. Effective date.

SECTION 3. Same as House version.

SECTION 6. Same as House version.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 28, 2011

TO: Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, Senate
Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB3025 by Branch (Relating to measures to facilitate the timely completion of degrees by students of public institutions of higher education.), **Conference Committee Report**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Under provisions of the bill, students would be required to file a degree plan with an institution of higher education not later than the end of the second regular semester or term, in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more semester credit hours, including transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, and dual credit courses.

The bill would require institutions to provide information regarding the degree plan filing requirement and options for consulting with an academic advisor for that purpose, which may include electronic communication. For a student, to whom this section applies, that does not timely file a degree plan, the bill would require the institution to notify the student that the degree plan is required by law and require the student to consult with an advisor during the semester when the notice was received. The student may not obtain an official transcript until the student has filed a degree plan with the institution. This section would apply to undergraduate students who initially enroll in 2012 fall semester.

This bill also amends Section 61.833 of the Education Code that would require institutions to alert transfer students when they have successfully completed a total of at least 90 credit hours to earn their associate degree. Lower-division institutions, after receiving a student transcript from a general academic institution would be required to review the transcript for determining whether the student earned the credit required to receive an associate degree.

This analysis assumes that the provisions of this bill could be implemented using current resources.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

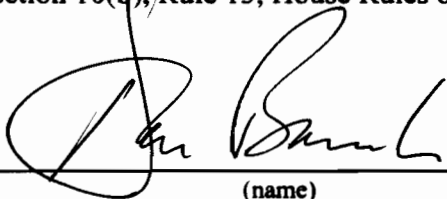
Source Agencies: 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 758 Texas State University System, 769 University of North Texas System Administration, 783 University of Houston System Administration, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration

LBB Staff: JOB, KK, JI, SDE, GO, RT

Certification of Compliance with Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure

Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, requires that a copy of a conference committee report signed by a majority of each committee of the conference must be furnished to each member of the committee in person or if unable to deliver in person by placing a copy in the member's newspaper mailbox at least one hour before the report is furnished to each member of the house under Section 10(a) of this rule. The paper copies of the report submitted to the chief clerk under Section 10(b) of this rule must contain a certificate that the requirement of this subsection has been satisfied, and that certificate must be attached to the printed copy of the report furnished to each member under Section 10(d) of this rule. Failure to comply with this subsection is not a sustainable point of order under this rule.

I certify that a copy of the conference committee report on H. B. 3025 was furnished to each member of the conference committee in compliance with Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, before submission of the paper copies of the report to the chief clerk under Section 10(b), Rule 13, House Rules of Procedure.



(name)

5-28-2011

(date)