

SUBJECT: Requiring a study of course credit transfers between public colleges

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Lozano, Raney, Alonzo, Alvarado, Button, Howard, Morrison, Turner
0 nays
1 absent — Clardy

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 22 — 29-0

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Elizabeth Caudill, Dallas Regional Chamber; Priscilla Camacho, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce; Miranda Goodsheller, Texas Association of Business; Dustin Meador, Texas Association of Community Colleges; Mike Meroney, Texas Workforce Coalition, BASF Corporation, Huntsman Corporation)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

BACKGROUND: Some observers have suggested that partnerships between colleges and universities to allow certain course credits to transfer between institutions, also called articulation agreements, can be difficult for students to navigate.

DIGEST: SB 802 would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a study to identify best practices to ensure that courses transferred to an institution of higher education for course credit, including courses for dual credit, apply toward a degree program.

The study would have to evaluate existing articulation agreements governing the transfer of credit between institutions and identify the

institutions that were implementing the best practices. On request, an institution of higher education would have to provide information to the board for this study.

The board would have to submit the results of the study and any recommended legislative action to the Legislature by November 1, 2018.

The 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, 2017.