

- SUBJECT:** Authorizing certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — C. Turner, Frullo, Howard, E. Johnson, Pacheco, Schaefer, Smithee, Wilson
- 1 nay — Stucky
- 2 absent — Button, Walle
- WITNESSES:** For — Robert Vela, Alamo Colleges District; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Raymund Paredes and Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 130.306 restricts public junior colleges from offering more than five baccalaureate degree programs at a time if the college offers a degree in the fields of applied science, applied technology, or nursing. Otherwise, public junior colleges are restricted from offering more than three baccalaureate degree programs at a time.
- DIGEST:** HB 4165 would authorize a public junior college located in a county with a population of more than 1.8 million and located within 180 miles of the Texas-Mexico border (Bexar County) that offered a qualifying baccalaureate degree program to offer no more than six baccalaureate degree programs at any time.
- 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, 2019.

SUPPORTERS HB 4165 would allow community colleges in Bexar County to address
SAY: workforce needs by increasing the educational opportunities available
 through public junior colleges.

By increasing the number of baccalaureate degrees that could be offered in this region, the bill would enable each junior college in the Alamo College District to offer at least one baccalaureate degree program. The district intends to implement two degree programs in internet technology, as well as degree programs in public safety, nursing, teaching, and physical therapy assistance. These degrees would align directly with the workforce needs of San Antonio and would provide residents with a low cost option to gain valuable and marketable skills.

OPPONENTS HB 4165 could give public junior colleges too much discretion to offer
SAY: baccalaureate degree programs. These institutions should remain two year
 institutions that offer associate degrees, as is their statutory intention.