

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 148  
By: Bivins  
Education  
2-4-97  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST**

Currently, 20 percent of students who begin their postsecondary education at public community/junior colleges transfer to four-year institutions to complete their education. In many cases, the students are finding it difficult to transfer a majority of their credit hours to these four-year institutions. As a result, the students are required to repeat courses similar to ones they successfully completed at the community college, therefore rendering the process of attaining a higher education inefficient. C.S.S.B. 148 revises the authoritative powers of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in order to develop a more comprehensive curricula for institutions of higher education.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 148 outlines provisions concerning the development of curricula by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under SECTION 1 (Sections 61.826(a) and 61.827, Education Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 61, Education Code, by adding Subchapter S, as follows:

#### **SUBCHAPTER S. TRANSFER OF CREDIT**

Sec. 61.821. DEFINITIONS. Defines "core curriculum" and "field of study curriculum."

Sec. 61.822. CORE CURRICULUM. Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (board), with the assistance of advisory committees composed of higher education representatives, to develop a core curriculum. Sets forth the requirements for implementation of a core curriculum at an institution of higher education. Sets forth the authorization for a student who successfully completes the core curriculum at an institution of higher education. Sets forth the requirements for a student who transfers courses to an institution of higher education and a student who transfers from one institution of higher education to another.

Sec. 61.823. FIELD OF STUDY CURRICULUM. Sets forth the requirements for implementation of field of study curriculum at an institution of higher education.

Sec. 61.824. INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATIONS. Requires each institution to review and evaluate the institution's core curriculum and applicable field of study curricula at intervals specified by the board and to report the results of the review to the board.

Sec. 61.825. BOARD EVALUATIONS. Requires the board to develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices of each institution of higher education and to evaluate the transfer practices of each institution of higher education based on those criteria.

Sec. 61.826. DISPUTE RESOLUTION. Requires the board, by rule, to adopt policies that

provide for free transferability of lower division course credit among institutions of higher education and sets forth the required procedures to be followed. Sets forth the requirements for an institution of higher education if the institution does not accept course credit earned by a student at another institution of higher education. Sets forth the requirements for the commissioner of higher education (commissioner) regarding disputes concerning the transfer of course credit. Requires the board to collect data on the types of reported transfer disputes and the disposition of each case considered by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee.

Sec. 61.827. RULES. Provides that the board is authorized to adopt rules implementing the provisions of this subchapter.

SECTION 2. Repealer: Sections 51.305 and 61.078, Education Code (Core Curriculum and Transfer of Lower Division Course Credit).

SECTION 3. Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to adopt rules implementing the provisions of this Act, not later than September 1, 1998.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.

#### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Amends SECTION 1, Chapter 61, Education Code, by adding Subchapter S, regarding transfer of credit.

Amends SECTION 2 to repeal Sections 51.305 and 61.078, Education Code (Core Curriculum and Transfer of Lower Division Credit).