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Transferable Curriculum and the Texas Academic Skills Program - S.B. 148

by Senator Bivins, et al.

House Sponsors: Representatives Rangel and Kamel

§ Requires each institution of higher education to adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 semester credit hours that is transferable among institutions of higher education. Requires each general academic institution to accept the transfer of a field of study curriculum and substitute those courses for the institution's lower division requirements for that degree program.

§ Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to recommend a 42-hour core curriculum and a field of study curriculum with the assistance of an advisory committee composed of representatives of higher education institutions.

§ Requires each higher education institution to adopt a core curriculum based upon the recommendations and rules of THECB. Requires the core curriculum to be no less than 42 semester credit hours and be consistent with the common course-numbering system.

§ Requires the student to receive academic credit for each course completed under the core curriculum and the field of study curriculum, whether the curriculum is fully or partially completed.

§ Requires the institutions of higher education to evaluate their core curriculum and field of study curricula.

§ Requires THECB to evaluate the transfer practices of the institutions of higher education.

§ Establishes provisions deciding transfer disputes involving higher education institutions and students.

§ Requires a student concurrently enrolled at more than one higher education institution to follow the core curriculum or field of study curriculum of the institution in which the student is classified as a degree-seeking student.

§ Requires each undergraduate student who enters a public higher education institution to be tested for reading, writing, and mathematics skills prior to enrolling in any course work. Requires THECB to prescribe circumstances under which a student may enroll in course work.

§ Requires a student who is permitted to enroll without taking the test to take the test no later than the end of the semester of enrollment.

§ Requires the institution to use the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test as prescribed by THECB.

§ Authorizes THECB to prescribe an alternative test instrument for an institution to use to test a student.

Requires each alternative test to be correlated with the TASP test.

§ Requires a student, on completion of the developmental course work or program, to retake that portion of the TASP test for which developmental education was required.

§ Prohibits a student from enrolling in any upper division course, completion of which would give the student more than 60 or more semester credit hours, until the student's TASP test results meet or exceed the minimum standards in each skill area for which developmental education was required or the student has earned a grade of "B" or better in a freshman-level credit course in the subject matter of the assessed deficit. Requires THECB, for that purpose, to establish a list of freshman-level credit courses for each skill area of the test instrument.

§ Prohibits a general academic teaching institution from receiving funding for developmental course work taken by a student in excess of 18 semester credit hours in each skill area. Prohibits a public junior college or public technical institute from receiving funding for developmental course work taken by a student in excess of 27 semester credit hours in each skill area.

§ Requires THECB to develop a performance funding formula by which institutions may receive additional funding for each additional student who successfully completes the developmental courses.

§ Requires THECB to annually publish a summary of the report showing appropriate student test scores, a description of developmental courses required, and student grade point average. Sets forth requirements of the report.

§ Requires THECB to publish annually a report summarizing developmental education by higher education institution for each academic year.

§ Sets forth circumstances under which a student is considered exempt from the TASP requirements.

§ Requires a student who has passed the required exit-level assessment to be encouraged to take the TASP test while enrolled in high school unless the student is exempted from TASP requirements.

§ Requires taking the TASP test under this condition to be voluntary.

§ Sets forth requirements for high school students taking the TASP test.