

SUBJECT: Requiring certain students to develop a degree plan

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 10 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Frullo, Howard, E. Johnson,  
Pacheco, Schaefer, Walle, Wilson

0 nays

1 absent — Smithee

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

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

BACKGROUND: Interested parties have noted that high-quality academic advising could help reduce the number of excess semester credit hours students obtain.

DIGEST: CSHB 3808 would decrease the minimum semester credit hours earned by a student enrolled at a public institution of higher education in an associate's or bachelor's degree program that would trigger the requirement to file a degree plan with the institution.

Each student enrolled at an institution of higher education in an applicable degree program or course would be required to file a degree plan with the institution before the end of the semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 30 semester credit hours, rather than 45. Students who began their first semester or term at a higher education institution with more than 30 semester credit hours would be required to file a degree plan before the end of that semester or term.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would be required to

adopt rules to enforce these changes.

The bill would alter requirements in the Education Code related to the filing of degree plans for students enrolled in a multidisciplinary studies associate degree program to conform with the bill's provisions.

The bill would repeal provisions in the Education Code related to the filing of a degree plan at a public junior college.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

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.