

- SUBJECT:** Requiring certain students to file a degree plan
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Frullo, Howard, E. Johnson, Pacheco, Schaefer, Smithee, Walle, Wilson
- 0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 3 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** *On House companion bill, HB 4010:*
For — Jacob Fraire, Texas Association of Community Colleges;
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rex Peebles, Higher Education Coordinating Board)
- BACKGROUND:** Interested parties have suggested that high school students who are enrolled in certain dual credit courses at a public junior college but not enrolled in a degree program could be better equipped to focus their academic efforts if they were required to file a degree plan.
- DIGEST:** SB 1324 would require a student enrolled in a course for joint high school and junior college credit at a public junior college to file a degree plan with the college not later than:
- the end of the second regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 15 or more semester credit hours for dual credit courses; or
 - the end of the student's second regular semester or term at the college if the student began the student's first semester or term at

the college with 15 or more semester credit hours of course credit for dual credit courses.

Students who were enrolled in an associate or bachelor's degree program or who had accumulated 45 or more semester credit hours before the student's first semester would be exempt from this requirement.

SB 1324 would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), in consultation with public institutions of higher education, to adopt rules as necessary for the administration of provisions related to required filing of a degree plan. The rules would have to require institutions to report information regarding the filing of degree plans to the coordinating board.

The bill also would revise provisions relating to the time at which a student enrolled in a multidisciplinary studies associate degree program was required to meet with an academic advisor to complete a degree plan to reflect the degree plan filing requirements for a student enrolled in any other associate degree program.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 academic 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.