

Multidisciplinary Associates Degrees

SB 1189, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, is about the establishment of a multidisciplinary studies associate degree program at public junior colleges. The last section of the new statute (TEC 130.0104) reads as follows:

(d) The coordinating board shall adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this section, including rules ensuring that:

(1) a multidisciplinary studies associate degree program is established at each public junior college; and

(2) the common application form adopted under Section 51.762 contains a description of multidisciplinary studies associate degree programs established under this section.

SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall adopt the rules required by Section 130.0104, Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act. For that purpose, the coordinating board may adopt the initial rules in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

(b) The governing board of each public junior college district shall offer a multidisciplinary studies associate degree program at each junior college in the district as required by Section 130.0104, Education Code, as added by this Act, beginning with the 2016 fall semester.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

House Bill 4046

HB 4046, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, deals with the Public Information Act. In pertinent part, it states:

(b) Information is confidential and excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it is information in a student record at an educational institution funded wholly or partly by state revenue. This subsection does not prohibit the disclosure or provision of information included in an education record if the disclosure or provision is authorized by 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g or other federal law.

(c) [(b)] A record covered by [under] Subsection (b) [(a)] shall be made available on the request of:

(1) educational institution personnel;

(2) the student involved or the student's parent, legal guardian, or spouse; or

(3) a person conducting a child abuse investigation required by Subchapter D, Chapter 261, Family Code.