

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas
41-3214

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto Senate Bill No. 1343 as passed by the Eighty-first Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

Currently, higher education institutions may not receive formula funds for excess credit hours taken by students beyond the established cap, and they may charge students higher tuition rates for those hours. The cap is 30 hours above those required for the degree.

Senate Bill No. 1343 would exclude all dual-credit courses and all credit hours earned by students prior to receiving an associate degree from counting toward the excess credit hour cap, and would increase the cap to 90 or more hours above those required for a degree.

I have signed House Bill No. 101, which passed this session, because I agree with its provisions to exclude dual-credit courses from the excess credit hour cap.

A provision in Senate Bill No. 1343 that would exclude all community college hours from the cap would not effectively address the real problem that many transfer students face: the fact that some credits do not count toward their baccalaureate degrees. This wastes students' time and money, and taxpayer dollars.

The best solution is to improve matriculation agreements and student advising so that students are able to transfer more hours to count toward their degrees. Instead, House Bill No. 1343 increases the cap to 90 or more hours above those required for a degree, removing important incentives for students and community colleges to focus on degree completion. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is currently studying this issue, and I encourage the board members to continue looking for ways to ensure that more hours transfer. I am confident that they will find solutions that will benefit students and institutions.

Since the Legislature by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 19th day of June, 2009.


Rick Perry

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF ...
SECRETARY OF STATE
7 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 19 2009

ATTESTED BY:


COBY SHORTER, III
Deputy Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK
JUN 19 2009