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## **SB25 will help students graduate faster with less debt**

*West/Turner transferability bill is headed to Governor Abbott*

**AUSTIN** – Today, Senator Royce West (SD 23 - Dallas) and Representative Chris Turner (HD 101 - Grand Prairie) held a joint press conference to discuss **SB25**, a critical measure aimed at addressing the transferability of college course credits and helping Texans finish college sooner and with less debt. The measure passed both chambers unanimously and is headed to the Governor's desk.

"**SB25** has been a long time coming. What we as legislators have been able to accomplish in working with colleges and universities makes sense and will benefit all involved," said West. "It will help students accomplish their academic goals faster in working toward their degrees. For our institutions, it better aligns undergraduate coursework with degree requirements and will help eliminate inefficiencies in time and resources. College hours that do not count toward degrees equals hundreds, even thousands of dollars spent -- with little return on investment. **SB25** is a win for students and families, a win for colleges and universities and a win for Texas."

"To keep up with workforce demands, it's critical that at least 60 percent of 25 to 34 year-olds have a degree or certificate by the year 2030 and that they do so without being saddled with unnecessary debt. This measure will go a long way to help make that happen by saving Texas college students time and money, by giving them more direction on what courses to take and what courses will transfer to a four-year institution," said Rep. Turner. "It's been an honor to work on this piece of legislation and partner with Senator West to pass this bill."

The measure will require public junior colleges and general academic institutions to develop course sequences for each degree and certificate program offered. Provisions in the bill will require students to file a degree plan earlier in their college careers so that they have a set path toward graduation earlier in the process. It will also ensure that critical data regarding the transferability of credit hours is made available to members of the Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

***SB25** received strong bipartisan support and was co-authored by several members of the Senate, and joint-sponsored and co-sponsored by every member of the House Committees on Higher Education and Public Education. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, several general academic institutions and public two-year colleges and staff of House and Senate leadership worked with both legislators on this critical measure.*

**Link to today's press conference:**

[http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=45&clip\\_id=14662](http://tlcsenate.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=45&clip_id=14662)