



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Bill 4: Higher Education Mergers

SUMMARY

Permits merger of community college and public university. Directs community college and public university to submit proposal for merger to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for approval. If commission approves merger, directs commission to submit report on merger to Legislative Assembly.

PROPOSAL

If a community college and public university choose to merge, they may jointly submit a proposal to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. This proposal should outline the timeline for the merger, a plan to merge the administrative, legal, academic and financial processes and procedures, and a transition plan for employees, liabilities, duties, obligations, records and property. I should also address the financial impacts of the merger, and describe the combined budget of the merged entity, as well as addressing the effects and benefits of the merger on students and academic programs.

NOTES

This is an entirely voluntary bill, aimed at permitting institutions of higher education to merge if they find that it would enable them to better serve their community through expanded academic programs, easier campus access, or more affordable programs. Nothing in this bill gives the Legislature or HECC the authority to force a merger, and a merger could only happen after both institutions agree to it.

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