

HB 744 -- COMMUNITY COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

SPONSOR: Brattin

This bill will allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees when such programs are approved by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

The coordinating board may authorize such degree programs at one or more community colleges that have demonstrated a workforce need. The coordinating board must also take the following into account when making an approval determination: how those degree programs compliment other programs and courses offered at the community college, whether those degree programs would unnecessarily duplicate other degrees offered, the ability of the community college to support the program with student enrollment and the adequacy of the community college's resources.

The coordinating board, in its recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for public community colleges, must recommend that a public community college receive substantially the same state support for community college level and baccalaureate degree level courses offered as that provided to a general public four-year institution of higher education for substantially similar courses. However, for the first two years in which a baccalaureate degree program is offered, the degree program may be funded solely by a public community college's proportionate share of state appropriations, local funds, and private sources.

Each biennium, each public community college offering a baccalaureate degree must conduct a review of such program and prepare a report, the contents of which are described within the bill, and deliver it to the coordinating board.