82nd Legislative Session

Legislation Impacting Alamo Colleges

H.B. 9 – Branch – Success Based Funding
Relating to student success-based funding for and reporting regarding public institutions of higher education. In devising its funding formulas and making its recommendations to the legislature relating to institutional appropriations of incentive funds, THECB shall incorporate success measures achieved during the preceding state fiscal biennium which may include the following: successful completion of developmental education in mathematics; developmental education in English; the first college-level mathematics course with a grade of "C" or higher; the first college-level English course with a grade of "C" or higher; the first 30 semester credit hours at the institution; transfer to a four-year college or university after successful completion of at least 15 semester credit hours; and the total number associate degrees or certificates awarded. THECB may use the above outcome measures in making funding recommendations to the legislature when incentive funds become available.

H.B. 33 – Branch – Textbooks Affordability
Relating to measures to increase the affordability of textbooks used for courses at public or private institutions of higher education. Each institution of higher education shall: with respect to each course, provide the following information for each textbook: the retail price; the author; the publisher; the most recent copyright date; and the International Standard Book Number assigned, if any; publish the textbook list with the course schedule on the institution's Internet website and with any course schedule the institution provides in hard copy format to the students of the institution; and make that information available to college bookstores and other bookstores that generally serve the students of the institution. An institution of higher education is not required to publish a textbook list if a college bookstore publishes that list and any revisions to that list on the bookstore's Internet website on behalf of the institution.

H.B. 650 – Castro – Abandoned Property
Relating to property held by certain junior colleges and presumed abandoned. H.B. 650 creates an "opt-in" provision for public junior colleges that choose to take part in the process for reporting and processing unclaimed property presumed abandoned and valued at $100 or less.

H.B. 736 – Diane Patrick | Branch – Online Information
Relating to online information and resources regarding public institutions of higher education and career schools and colleges. Amends current law relating to required online information regarding public institutions of higher education to include enrollment, costs, and funding.

H.B. 1163 – Keffer – Tuition and Fees Exemption
Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain peace officers and firefighters. Amends current law relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain peace officers and firefighters

H.B. 1206 – Guillen – Trustees Training
Relating to training for members of governing boards of public junior college districts. Currently, a training program is required for all members appointed to the governing boards of institutions of higher education. C.S.H.B. 1206 extends this training requirement to elected members and sets out more specific content guidelines for such a training program.

Requires that topics covered by the training program to focus on the official role and duties of the members of governing boards and to provide training in the areas of budgeting, policy development, and governance, include information about best practices in campus financial management, financial ratio analysis, and case studies using financial indicators.

H.B. 1244 – Castro – Developmental Education
Relating to developmental education and the assessment of student readiness under the Texas Success Initiative and to students enrolled in developmental education at public institutions of higher education. Requires THECB to prescribe a single standard to measure student readiness.

An institution of higher education must base developmental coursework on research-based best practices that include: assessment; differentiated placement and instruction; faculty development; support services; program evaluation; integration of technology with an emphasis on instructional support programs; non-course-based developmental education interventions; and course pairing of developmental education courses with credit-bearing courses. THECB shall develop and provide professional development programs to faculty and staff who provide developmental coursework to students.

H.B. 1341 – Walle – Payment of Tuition and Fees
Relating to the manner of payment of tuition and mandatory fees at public institutions of higher education. Requires the governing board of each institution of higher education to provide for the payment of tuition and mandatory fees for a semester or term of 10 weeks or longer, rather than for the fall and spring semesters, through one of the following alternatives: full payment of tuition and mandatory fees not later than the date established by the institution; payment in installments under one or more payment plan options that require the first payment to be made not later than the date established by the institution.

Authorizes a student who fails to make full payment prior to the end of the semester or term, to be denied credit for the work done that semester or term. Requires the governing board to notify a student of any delinquent tuition or fee payment as soon as practicable.

H.B. 1495 – Munoz, Jr. – Department of Information Resources
Relating to the application of the Information Resources Management Act to public junior colleges and public junior college districts. H.B. 1495 seeks to clarify that Department of Information Resources (DIR) statutory obligations and rules do not apply to a public junior college and a public junior college district, with certain exceptions. Junior colleges must still comply with applicable federal requirements relating to information technology.

H.B. 2758 – Pena – Emergency Alert System
Each institution of higher education and private or independent institution of higher education shall establish an emergency alert system. At the time a student initially enrolls or registers for courses or a staff member begins employment, the institution shall: obtain a personal telephone number or e-mail address from the student or staff member to be used to notify the individual in the event of an emergency; and register the student or staff member in the institution's emergency alert system. The personal identifying information obtained from an individual for the purpose of the emergency alert system of an institution of higher education,

including an e-mail address or telephone number, is confidential and not subject to disclosure.

H.B. 2937 – Lewis – Security Sensitive Position Record Information
Relating to access to the criminal history record information of certain individuals by public or private institutions of higher education and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board THECB).

Entitles the THECB and each institution of higher education to obtain from the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas (DPS) criminal history record information maintained by DPS that relates to a person who is an applicant for a security-sensitive position at THECB or institution. Requires that all criminal history record information obtained about an individual be destroyed by the chief of police of the institution of higher education as soon as practicable after the individual becomes employed in a security-sensitive position or, if the individual is not hired for a security-sensitive position information is used for its authorized purpose.

H.B. 3025 – Branch – Degree Plan Filing and Credit Transfer for Associate Degree
Relating to measures to facilitate the timely completion of degrees by students of public institutions of higher education. Each student enrolled in an associate or bachelor 's degree program at an institution of higher education shall file a degree plan with the institution not later than the end of the second regular semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 45 or more semester credit hours including transfer courses, international baccalaureate courses, dual credit courses, and any other course including course credit awarded by examination.

CREDIT TRANSFER FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE. As soon as practicable after a student who is enrolled in a four year school institution has earned a cumulative total of at least 90 credit hours, the institution by e-mail or other reasonable method shall request authorization from the student for the institution to release the student 's transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education that the student previously attended for the purpose of determining whether the student has earned the credits required for an associate degree. On receipt of a student's authorization, the four year school shall release the student's transcript to the lower-division institution of higher education. After receiving a student transcript from a four year school, a lower-division institution of higher education shall review the transcript and, if the lower-division institution of higher education determines the student has earned the credits required to receive an associate degree awarded by the lower-division institution of higher education, may award the student the degree.

H.B. 3577 – Gonzales, Larry – TEOG or TEXAS Grant
Relating to eligibility requirements for the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG). A person who would be awarded both a TEOG grant and a TEXAS grant for the same semester or other term is entitled to receive only the grant of the greater amount.

H.B. 3578 – Gonzales, Larry – Authorized Use of Loans
Relating to clarification of the authorized uses for loans under public institution of higher education emergency loan programs to include tuition, fees, and textbook. The loan amount

per student may not exceed an amount equal to the tuition, mandatory fees, and cost of textbooks for the courses in which the student is actually enrolling.

S.B. 5 – Zaffirini – Administration and Business Affairs
Relating to the administration and business affairs of public institutions of higher education including the preparation of an annual financial report by each institution of higher education, the collection of delinquent obligations, disposition of small credit balances, internet access to financial transactions, electronic and digital signatures, payroll deductions and other. A local government and an institution of higher education may contract with one another to perform any governmental functions and services.

In consultation with public institutions of higher education, the offices of the governor and the Legislative Budget Board shall review the forms for higher education legislative appropriations requests to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, provide better transparency of funding sources, eliminate unnecessary or duplicative requirements, and otherwise reduce the cost or difficulty of providing information related to appropriations requests.

S.B. 32 – Zaffrini – Consolidation of all Tuition Exemptions and Waivers
Consolidate all tuition exemptions and waivers into one chapter of the Texas Education Code. Sec. 61.073 – ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR TUITION AND FEE EXEMPTIONS – Funds shall be appropriated to the board for allocation to each junior college in an amount equal to the total of all tuition and fees forgone each semester as a result of the tuition and fee exemptions required by law in Sections 54.301, 54.331, 54.341, 54.343, 54.351, 54.352, 54.353, 54.3531 and 54.364.

S.B. 36 – Zaffirini – Academic Advising Assessment
Relating to methods for increasing student success and degree completion at public institutions of higher education. THECB shall establish a method for assessing the quality and effectiveness of academic advising services available to students at each institution of higher education. The method of assessment must: include the use of student surveys; and identify objective, quantifiable measures for determining the quality and effectiveness of academic advising services at an institution of higher education. Not later than September 1, 2012, the THECB shall establish a method of assessment.

S.B. 74 – Nelson – Disposition of Surplus Data Processing Equipment
Relating to the disposition of surplus or salvage data processing equipment of a university system or an institution of higher education. A university system or institution higher education may donate data processing equipment that is surplus or salvage property to a public or private hospital located in a rural county.

S.B. 100 – Van de Putte – Voting Procedures and Elections
Relating to the adoption of certain voting procedures and to certain elections. Each general or special election in this state shall be held on one of the following dates: 1)the second Saturday in May in an odd-numbered year; 2)the second Saturday in May in an even-numbered year, for an election held by a political subdivision other than a county (a county elections administrator is not required to enter into a contract to furnish election services for an election held on this date); or 3)the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

The governing body of a political subdivision, other than a county, that holds its general election for officers on a date other than the November uniform election date may, not later than December 31, 2012, change the date on which it holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date.

S.B. 244 – Dan Patrick – Continuing Education for Certain Peace Officers
Relating to the continuing education requirements for certain peace officers. S.B. 244 amends the Education Code to authorize the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas to establish and offer a continuing education program for individuals who are second in command to police chiefs.

S.B. 419 – West – Dual Credit Physical Education Courses
Relating to prohibiting contact hours state funding to public junior colleges for physical education courses offered for joint high school and junior college credit.

S.B. 639 – Van de Putte – Tuition and Fee Exemptions for Military Dependents
Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain military personnel, veterans, and dependents residing in this state.

S.B. 773 – Zaffirini – Telecommunications Service Discounts
Relating to telecommunications service discounts for educational institutions, libraries, hospitals, and telemedicine centers. The bill increase, from 105 percent to 100 percent of the long run incremental cost, including installation, of providing a private network service under a customer specific contract to certain entities. The bill extends from January 1, 2012, to January 1, 2016, the date before which such an electing company's rates for private network services are prohibited from being increased.

S.B. 898 – Carona – Energy Efficiency Goals
Relating to energy efficiency programs in institutions of higher education and certain governmental entities. Requires each political subdivision, institution of higher education, and state agency to set a goal of reducing the entity's electric consumption by at least five percent each state fiscal year for each of the 10 state fiscal years beginning September 1, 2011.

S.B. 1009 – Huffman – Withdrawal Notification of Students on F or M Visa
Requires public institutions of higher education to notify the federal Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) immediately if a student attending under and F or M student visa withdraws from the institution or withdraws from all courses in which the student is enrolled.

S.B. 1107 – Davis – Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination
Relating to the vaccination against bacterial meningitis of entering students at public and private or independent institutions of higher education. The bill amends the Education Code to specify that the term "entering student," includes a new student, defined by state law as a first-time student of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, including a student who transfers to the institution from another institution.

The bill exempts from such provisions a student of an institution of higher education who is enrolled only in online or other distance education courses or who is 30 years of age or older.

S.B. 1327 – Watson – Confidentiality of Information
Relating to the confidentiality of information obtained by a compliance office of an institution of higher education. Clarifies that information developed in a compliance investigation at an institution of higher education may be shared with appropriate enforcement agencies

S.B. 1414 – Duncan – Sexual Abuse and Child Molestation Training
Relating to sexual abuse and child molestation training for employees of programs for minors held on campuses of institutions of higher education.

S.B. 1726 – Zaffirini – Measurable Learning Outcomes
Relating to the development of measureable learning outcomes for undergraduate courses at public institutions of higher education. Requires each institution of higher education to identify, adopt, and make available for public inspection measurable learning outcomes for each undergraduate course offered by the institution other than: a course with a highly variable subject content that is tailored specifically to an individual student, such as an independent study or directed reading course; or a laboratory, practicum, or discussion section that is an intrinsic and required component of a lecture course.

Authorizes an institution of higher education to adopt learning outcomes for a course that are the same as or based on those identified for that course by the institution's recognized accrediting agency. Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), in consultation with institutions of higher education, to adopt any rules THECB considers appropriate for the administration of this section.

S.B. 1736 – Van de Putte – College Credit for Heroes Program
Relating to the establishment of the College Credit for Heroes program. C.S.S.B. 1736 would maximize academic or workforce education credit awarded by institutions of higher education to veterans for military experience by establishing the College Credit for Heroes program.