



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5051

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Katie Stuart

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 150/23

Amends the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act. Provides that the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board shall develop a policy to foster the reverse transfer of credit for any student who has accumulated at least 30 (rather than 15) hours of academic credit at a community college and a sufficient number of hours of academic credit at a State university in the prescribed courses necessary to meet a community college's requirements to be awarded an associate degree. Provides that each State university shall automatically notify any transfer student accepted to the State university with at least 30 hours of academic credit at a community college of the option for the reverse transfer of credit within the student's first term of enrollment. Provides that a community college shall provide notification to a student wishing to reverse transfer earned academic credit with instructions on application for conferral of an associate degree. Provides that a community college or State university may not charge an application, transfer evaluation, or graduation fee or any other fee associated with conferral of an associate degree through reverse transfer. Provides that a community college shall include each student awarded an associate degree through reverse transfer within its student information system. Effective immediately.

LRB104 19767 LNS 33217 b

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 23 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 150/23)

7 Sec. 23. Reverse transfer of credits.

8 (a) In this Section, "reverse transfer of credit" means  
9 the transfer of earned academic credit from a State university  
10 to a community college for the purpose of obtaining an  
11 associate degree at the community college.

12 (b) ~~The Beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year, the~~  
13 Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College  
14 Board shall develop a policy to foster the reverse transfer of  
15 credit for any student who has accumulated at least 30 ~~45~~ hours  
16 of academic credit at a community college and a sufficient  
17 number of hours of academic credit at a State university in the  
18 prescribed courses necessary to meet a community college's  
19 requirements to be awarded an associate degree.

20 (b-5) Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, each  
21 State university shall automatically notify any transfer  
22 student accepted to the State university with at least 30  
23 hours of academic credit at a community college of the option

1 for the reverse transfer of credit within the student's first  
2 term of enrollment. The notification shall include the State  
3 university's opt-in process for reverse transfer that provides  
4 for the sharing of the student's transcript information  
5 between the community college and State university.

6 (c) A student wishing to reverse transfer earned academic  
7 credit under this Section to obtain an associate degree shall  
8 agree to the exchange of transcript information between each  
9 community college and State university that he or she has  
10 attended. The community college shall provide notification to  
11 the student with instructions on application for conferral of  
12 an associate degree. The ~~A~~ student must submit the ~~an~~  
13 application and his or her transcripts to the ~~a~~ community  
14 college in order to be considered for conferral of an  
15 associate degree. In awarding an associate degree, the  
16 community college shall evaluate the applicant's coursework  
17 completed, along with the transfer credit earned, and shall  
18 determine whether the associate degree requirements have been  
19 met. No later than 30 business days after receiving the ~~an~~  
20 application, the ~~a~~ community college shall notify the ~~an~~  
21 applicant if he or she qualifies for an associate degree based  
22 on the total earned credits.

23 (d) The Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community  
24 College Board, and the Midwestern Higher Education Compact's  
25 Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit shall adopt a  
26 policy regarding the award of academic credit for military

1 training applicable to meeting a community college's  
2 requirements for awarding an associate degree.

3 (d-5) A community college or State university may not  
4 charge an application, transfer evaluation, or graduation fee  
5 or any other fee associated with conferral of an associate  
6 degree through reverse transfer under this Section.

7 (d-10) A community college shall include each student  
8 awarded an associate degree through reverse transfer under  
9 this Section within its student information system.

10 (e) The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois  
11 Community College Board shall adopt rules to implement this  
12 Section.

13 (Source: P.A. 100-824, eff. 8-13-18.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
15 becoming law.