



Sen. Cristina Castro

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10400SB1958sam001

LRB104 10341 LNS 24082 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1958

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 1958 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 5, 8, 10, 20, and 25 and by adding
6 Sections 21, 22, and 24 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 150/5)

8 Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

9 "Community college" means a public community college in
10 this State.

11 "State university" means a public university in this
12 State.

13 "Transfer articulation agreement" means a formal written
14 agreement between a community college and State university
15 that outlines a process for the seamless transfer of credits
16 from a community college to a State university.

1 (Source: P.A. 99-316, eff. 1-1-16.)

2 (110 ILCS 150/8 new)

3 Sec. 8. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to enhance the
4 transfer of academic credits between community colleges and
5 State universities in Illinois, ensuring equitable and
6 consistent practices, reducing barriers for students, and
7 promoting accountability and transparency in transfer credit
8 acceptance.

9 (110 ILCS 150/10)

10 Sec. 10. Associate degree for transfer.

11 (a) Commencing with the fall term of the 2016-2017
12 academic year, a community college student who earns an
13 associate degree for transfer, an Associate of Arts, or an
14 Associate of Science that is consistent with degree
15 requirements of the Illinois Community College Board and the
16 Board of Higher Education and aligned with the policies and
17 procedures of the Illinois Articulation Initiative, granted
18 pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section is deemed eligible
19 for transfer into the baccalaureate program of a State
20 university if the student meets the requirements of the
21 transfer degree and major-specific prerequisites and obtains a
22 minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

23 (b) As a condition of receipt of State funds, a community
24 college district shall develop and grant associate degrees for

1 transfer that meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this
2 Section. A community college district may not impose any
3 requirements in addition to the requirements of this Section
4 for a student to be eligible for an associate degree for
5 transfer and subsequent admission to a State university
6 pursuant to Section 15 of this Act without the approval of the
7 Illinois Community College Board and the Board of Higher
8 Education.

9 (c) The General Assembly encourages a community college
10 district to enter into transfer ~~consider the~~ articulation
11 agreements ~~and other work~~ between the respective faculties
12 from the affected community college and State universities in
13 implementing the requirements of this Section.

14 (d) The General Assembly encourages community colleges to
15 facilitate the acceptance of credits earned at other community
16 colleges toward an associate degree for transfer pursuant to
17 this Section.

18 (e) This Section does not preclude students who are
19 assessed below collegiate level from acquiring remedial
20 noncollegiate level coursework in preparation for obtaining an
21 associate degree for transfer. Remedial noncollegiate level
22 coursework and all other non-transfer coursework must not be
23 counted as part of the transferable units required pursuant to
24 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this Section.

25 (Source: P.A. 99-316, eff. 1-1-16.)

1 (110 ILCS 150/20)

2 Sec. 20. Coursework.

3 (a) A State university may not require a student
4 transferring pursuant to this Act to take more than 60
5 additional semester units beyond the lower-division major
6 requirements for majors requiring 120 semester units, provided
7 that the student remains enrolled in the same program of study
8 and has completed university major transfer requirements.
9 Specified high unit majors are exempt from this subsection (a)
10 upon agreement by the board of trustees of the State
11 university and the Board of Higher Education.

12 (b) A State university may not require students
13 transferring pursuant to this Act to repeat courses that are
14 articulated with those taken at the community college and
15 counted toward an associate degree for transfer granted
16 pursuant to Section 10 of this Act.

17 (c) ~~A The General Assembly encourages~~ State university
18 shall ~~universities to~~ facilitate the seamless transfer of
19 credits toward a baccalaureate degree pursuant to the intent
20 of this Act.

21 (Source: P.A. 99-316, eff. 1-1-16.)

22 (110 ILCS 150/21 new)

23 Sec. 21. Community college and State university transfer
24 articulation agreements. A State university shall, upon the
25 request of a community college district, enter into a transfer

1 articulation agreement with the community college district to
2 provide a seamless pathway for transfer. The community college
3 may request to enter into multiple articulation agreements
4 with a single State university as appropriate and requested.
5 The agreement between the State university and the community
6 college district may include 2+2 programs, which are designed
7 for students to take half of a degree at the community college
8 and the second half of the degree at the State university, or
9 3+1 programs, which are designed for students to transfer to
10 the State university for completion of their final,
11 senior-level coursework.

12 The transfer articulation agreement shall be signed by the
13 president or chancellor of the community college and by the
14 president or chancellor of the State university and shall
15 include all of the following:

16 (1) A statement identifying the participating
17 institutions or divisions of institutions that are part of
18 the agreement. The agreements may be program-to-program
19 agreements that align community college associate degree
20 programs with comparable bachelor's degree options,
21 major-to-major agreements that align specific program
22 coursework to external accreditation standards, or
23 institution-to-institution agreements that establish
24 partnerships and alignment between a specific college,
25 discipline, or program area.

26 (2) A list of the eligibility criteria for transfer

1 admissions, including any minimum GPA requirements and
2 prerequisites needed. Any limitations to the agreement for
3 admission to specific academic programs shall also be
4 included.

5 (3) A timeline for timely response on applications for
6 transferring credits.

7 (4) A list of all fees and costs assessed during the
8 transfer and admission process and any scholarships or
9 financial assistance available to students participating
10 in the articulation agreement.

11 (5) A standardized transfer credit framework for
12 general education and lower-division, major-specific
13 courses, which clearly identify specific courses that will
14 transfer between institutions, the number of credits that
15 will transfer, the program at the State university to
16 which credits will apply, if applicable, and an outline of
17 how transferred credits will be applied toward degree
18 requirements.

19 (6) A clearly defined transfer pathway outlining how
20 students at the community college can progress from their
21 program at the community college to the corresponding
22 program at the State university and be granted junior or
23 senior status as appropriate.

24 (7) Guidelines for alignment of course objectives,
25 learning outcomes, and credit hours.

26 (8) Other degree requirements, including, but not

1 limited to, standardized test scores, required clinical
2 hours, or residency requirements.

3 (9) A policy on the reverse transfer of credit and
4 transfer of credit earned for experiential learning,
5 including, but not limited to, prior learning assessment
6 and competency-based education.

7 (10) The academic and non-academic opportunities and
8 supports and, if applicable, guidance that will be
9 provided to students participating in the articulation
10 agreement.

11 (11) Data-sharing requirements and limitations,
12 including, if applicable, assessment policies to measure
13 effectiveness of the agreement.

14 (12) An agreement on the marketing process and
15 responsibilities for programs covered by the articulation
16 agreement, including any limitations imposed by either
17 party.

18 (13) A clear and transparent process for resolving
19 disputes over transfer credit acceptance. The agreement
20 shall outline policies to provide students transparency in
21 how and why credit is accepted or rejected by the State
22 university and how and why credit is or is not applied
23 toward degree requirements. The agreement shall also
24 provide for a process for the student to appeal the State
25 university's failure to accept the student's request for
26 transfer credit.

1 (14) Dates of applicability of the agreement and
2 conditions for renewal or termination of the agreement.

3 An agreement executed under this Section shall not negate
4 any previous transfer articulation agreement a community
5 college has developed with a State university.

6 If, within 180 calendar days of the community college's
7 initial request to enter into a transfer articulation
8 agreement with the State university, the community college and
9 State university do not reach agreement on the transfer
10 articulation agreement, then the community college and State
11 university shall jointly implement the provisions of the Model
12 Transfer Articulation Agreement established under Section 22
13 of this Act.

14 (110 ILCS 150/22 new)

15 Sec. 22. Model Transfer Articulation Agreement and
16 Committee. A Model Transfer Articulation Agreement shall be
17 developed through a Transfer Articulation Committee by March
18 31, 2026. The Committee shall consist of 5 members appointed
19 by the Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education and
20 5 members appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois
21 Community College Board. The Committee shall be co-chaired by
22 the Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education or his
23 or her designee and the Executive Director of the Illinois
24 Community College Board or his or her designee. The Model
25 Transfer Articulation Agreement shall address all of the

1 requirements set forth in Section 21. The Model Transfer
2 Articulation Agreement shall be reviewed and updated every 5
3 years by the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois
4 Community College Board.

5 (110 ILCS 150/24 new)

6 Sec. 24. Transfer credit review process. Each community
7 college and State university shall publish the institution's
8 process and a timeline for reviewing and making decisions
9 regarding transfer credit requests on the institution's
10 website. The institution shall update its website within 30
11 days after making a change to its process and timeline for
12 reviewing and issuing decisions regarding transfer credit
13 request.

14 (110 ILCS 150/25)

15 Sec. 25. Reporting requirements on course transfer ~~Board~~
16 ~~of Higher Education reviews and reports.~~

17 (a) (Blank). ~~The Board of Higher Education shall review~~
18 ~~the implementation of this Act and file a report on that review~~
19 ~~with the General Assembly on or before May 31, 2017, as~~
20 ~~provided in Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization~~
21 ~~Act.~~

22 (b) (Blank). ~~The Board of Higher Education shall review~~
23 ~~both of the following and file a report on that review with the~~
24 ~~General Assembly within 4 years after the effective date of~~

1 ~~this Act, as provided in Section 3.1 of the General Assembly~~
2 ~~Organization Act.~~

3 ~~(1) The outcomes of implementation of this Act,~~
4 ~~including, but not limited to, all of the following:~~

5 ~~(A) The number and percentage of community college~~
6 ~~students who transferred to a State university and~~
7 ~~earned an associate degree for transfer pursuant to~~
8 ~~this Act.~~

9 ~~(B) The average amount of time and units it takes a~~
10 ~~community college student earning an associate degree~~
11 ~~for transfer pursuant to this Act to transfer to and~~
12 ~~graduate from a State university, as compared to the~~
13 ~~average amount of time and units it took community~~
14 ~~college transfer students prior to the implementation~~
15 ~~of this Act and compared to students using other~~
16 ~~transfer processes available.~~

17 ~~(C) Student progression and completion rates.~~

18 ~~(D) Other relevant indicators of student success.~~

19 ~~(E) The degree to which the requirements for an~~
20 ~~associate degree for transfer take into account~~
21 ~~existing articulation agreements and the degree to~~
22 ~~which community colleges facilitate the acceptance of~~
23 ~~credits between community college districts, as~~
24 ~~outlined in subsections (c) and (d) of Section 10 of~~
25 ~~this Act.~~

26 ~~(F) It is the intent of the General Assembly that~~

~~student outcome data provided under this subsection
(b) include the degree to which State universities
were able to accommodate students admitted under this
Act in being admitted to the State university of their
choice and in a major that is similar to their
community college major.~~

~~(2) Recommendations for statutory changes necessary to
facilitate the goal of a clear and transparent transfer
process.~~

(c) By May 1, 2027, and May 1 of each subsequent year, each
State university shall report to the Board of Higher
Education, in a form prescribed by the Board, all of the
following information:

(1) The total number of community college transfer
students admitted, offered provisional admission, and
denied admission, disaggregated by the student's community
college district of origin.

(2) Of the students admitted, the total number of
credits presented for transfer and the percentage and
number of credits accepted for transfer from each
community college district.

(3) For credits that are denied, the reason for denial
and whether those courses are part of the Illinois
Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum.

(4) Of the credits accepted in paragraph (2), the
total number applied toward the University's meeting

1 general education requirements that are identified as part
2 of the Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education
3 Core Curriculum disaggregated by the student's community
4 college district of origin. For those courses identified
5 as part of the General Education Core Curriculum that are
6 denied transfer credit, including the rationale for
7 denial.

8 (5) If the student has declared a major, the total
9 number of degree program credits that were applied as
10 elective credit, applied as major equivalent credit, or
11 not applied disaggregated by degree program and community
12 college district of origin.

13 For any courses where credit is not applied,
14 identification if they are or are not part of the Illinois
15 Articulation Initiative Major Panels and the rationale for
16 denying the application of credit.

17 The Board of Higher Education shall publish an analysis
18 and report of the information provided by the State
19 universities annually by October 1, 2027, and October 1 of
20 each subsequent year. The report shall be filed with the
21 Governor and General Assembly. An electronic copy of the
22 report shall be accessible on the Board's official website.

23 (Source: P.A. 99-316, eff. 1-1-16.)

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
25 becoming law."