

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; amending s. 1007.24, F.S.;
3 providing for assistance in program planning from the
4 Department of Education for all nonpublic postsecondary
5 institutions; requiring public and nonpublic postsecondary
6 educational institutions that are accredited and
7 participate in financial assistance programs to
8 participate in the statewide course numbering system;
9 revising the period within which the department must make
10 certain decisions regarding course inclusion and
11 maintenance; removing a provision exempting certain
12 nonprofit institutions from paying the costs associated
13 with participating in the statewide course numbering
14 system; deleting a penalty imposed for certain violations;
15 requiring faculty credentials to meet the requirements of
16 the Department of Education; providing that credits may
17 not be denied based on the accrediting agency of the
18 previous institution under certain circumstances;
19 authorizing the Department of Education to impose an
20 administrative fine; requiring that fines be deposited
21 into the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund; amending s.
22 1007.32, F.S.; prohibiting institutions participating in
23 financial assistance programs from denying transfer
24 credits or degrees from other institutions under certain
25 circumstances; requiring institutions to publicly disclose
26 their policies regarding credit transfers and degree
27 recognition; providing an effective date.
28

29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30
 31 Section 1. Subsections (1), (5), (6), and (7) of section
 32 1007.24, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

33 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

34 (1) The Department of Education shall develop, coordinate,
 35 and maintain a statewide course numbering system for
 36 postsecondary and dual enrollment education in school districts,
 37 public postsecondary educational institutions, and ~~participating~~
 38 nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions that will
 39 improve program planning, increase communication among all
 40 delivery systems, and facilitate student acceleration and the
 41 transfer of students and credits between public school
 42 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and
 43 ~~participating~~ nonpublic educational institutions. The continuing
 44 maintenance of the system shall be accomplished with the
 45 assistance of appropriate faculty committees representing public
 46 and participating nonpublic educational institutions.

47 (5) The registration process at each public and nonpublic
 48 postsecondary educational institution ~~state university and~~
 49 ~~community college~~ shall include the courses at their designated
 50 levels and statewide course number.

51 (6) Postsecondary institutions ~~Nonpublic colleges and~~
 52 ~~schools~~ that are fully accredited by a regional or national
 53 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
 54 Education and participate in financial assistance programs
 55 established in chapter 1009 shall ~~and are either eligible to~~
 56 ~~participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access~~

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57 ~~Grant or have been issued a regular license pursuant to s.~~
58 ~~1005.31,~~ may participate in the statewide course numbering
59 system pursuant to this section. Participating institutions
60 ~~colleges and schools~~ shall bear the costs associated with
61 inclusion in the system and shall meet the terms and conditions
62 for institutional participation in the system. The department
63 shall adopt a fee schedule that includes the expenses incurred
64 through data processing, faculty task force travel and per diem,
65 and staff and clerical support time. Such fee schedule may
66 differentiate between the costs associated with initial course
67 inclusion in the system and costs associated with subsequent
68 course maintenance in the system. Decisions regarding initial
69 course inclusion and subsequent course maintenance must be made
70 within 180 ~~360~~ days after submission of the required materials
71 and fees by the institution. The Department of Education may
72 select a date by which colleges must submit requests for new
73 courses to be included, and may delay review of courses
74 submitted after that date until the next ~~year's~~ cycle. Any
75 institution ~~college~~ that currently participates in the system,
76 and that participated in the system prior to July 1, 1986, shall
77 not be required to pay the costs associated with initial course
78 inclusion in the system. Fees collected for participation in the
79 statewide course numbering system pursuant to the provisions of
80 this section shall be deposited in the Institutional Assessment
81 Trust Fund. ~~Any nonpublic, nonprofit college or university that~~
82 ~~is eligible to participate in the statewide course numbering~~
83 ~~system shall not be required to pay the costs associated with~~
84 ~~participation in the system.~~ An institution may not ~~No~~ college

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85 ~~or school shall~~ record student transcripts or document courses
86 offered by the institution ~~college or school~~ in accordance with
87 this subsection unless the institution ~~college or school~~ is
88 actually participating in the system pursuant to rules of the
89 State Board of Education. ~~Any college or school deemed to be in~~
90 ~~violation of this section shall be subject to the provisions of~~
91 ~~s. 1005.38.~~

92 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary
93 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or national
94 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
95 Education and that participate in the statewide course numbering
96 system shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution for
97 courses satisfactorily completed by the student at the previous
98 institutions. Credit shall be awarded if the courses are judged
99 by the appropriate statewide course numbering system faculty
100 committees representing school districts, public postsecondary
101 educational institutions, and participating nonpublic
102 postsecondary educational institutions to be academically
103 equivalent to courses offered at the receiving institution,
104 including equivalency of faculty credentials, regardless of the
105 public or nonpublic control of the previous institution. The
106 Department of Education shall ensure that credits to be accepted
107 by a receiving institution are generated in courses for which
108 the faculty possess credentials that are appropriate to the
109 subject matter of the courses taught. A determination by the
110 sending institution's recognized accrediting agency as to the
111 adequacy of faculty credentials meets this requirement and shall
112 be accepted by the Department of Education. ~~comparable to those~~

113 ~~required by the accrediting association of the receiving~~
 114 ~~institution.~~ The award of credit may be limited to courses that
 115 are entered in the statewide course numbering system. Credits
 116 awarded pursuant to this subsection shall satisfy institutional
 117 requirements on the same basis as credits awarded to native
 118 students. Credits may not be denied based on the agency or
 119 association that accredited the institution at which students
 120 previously completed courses if the agency or association is
 121 recognized by the United States Department of Education. The
 122 Department of Education shall impose an administrative fine of
 123 \$5,000 for each violation of this section and make public the
 124 imposition of each such fine. The fine shall be deposited into
 125 the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.

126 Section 2. Section 1007.32, Florida Statutes, is amended
 127 to read:

128 1007.32 Transfer students.--

129 (1) Each university shall provide registration
 130 opportunities for transfer students that allow such students
 131 access to high demand courses comparable to that provided native
 132 students.

133 (2) Each university that provides an orientation program
 134 for freshman enrollees shall also provide orientation programs
 135 for transfer students.

136 (3) Institutions participating in financial assistance
 137 programs established in chapter 1009 may not deny credits for
 138 courses satisfactorily completed which students seek to
 139 transfer, and an institution may not deny recognition of degrees
 140 completed and awarded from other institutions participating in

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141 such financial assistance programs on the basis of the agency or
142 association that accredited the institution at which the student
143 earned such credits if the agency or association is recognized
144 by the United States Department of Education or on the basis of
145 the public or nonpublic control of the institution. Institutions
146 shall publicly disclose their policies and procedures on credit
147 transfers and degree recognition, which disclosure must include
148 a statement as to the institution's participation in the course
149 numbering system established in this chapter and a statement
150 that credits will not be denied on the basis of the
151 accreditation of the institution at which students previously
152 completed courses and degrees as required in this subsection or
153 on the basis of the public or nonpublic control of the
154 institution.

155 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.