

By Senator Wise

5-1554-07

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

1           their policies regarding credit transfers and  
2           degree recognition; providing an effective  
3           date.  
4

5 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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7           Section 1. Subsections (1), (5), (6), and (7) of  
8 section 1007.24, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

9           1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

10           (1) The Department of Education shall develop,  
11 coordinate, and maintain a statewide course numbering system  
12 for postsecondary and dual enrollment education in school  
13 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and  
14 ~~participating~~ nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions  
15 that will improve program planning, increase communication  
16 among all delivery systems, and facilitate student  
17 acceleration and the transfer of students and credits between  
18 public school districts, public postsecondary educational  
19 institutions, and ~~participating~~ nonpublic educational  
20 institutions. The continuing maintenance of the system shall  
21 be accomplished with the assistance of appropriate faculty  
22 committees representing public and participating nonpublic  
23 educational institutions.

24           (5) The registration process at each public and  
25 nonpublic postsecondary educational institution ~~state~~  
26 ~~university and community college~~ shall include the courses at  
27 their designated levels and statewide course number.

28           (6) Postsecondary institutions ~~Nonpublic colleges and~~  
29 ~~schools~~ that are fully accredited by a regional or national  
30 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department  
31 of Education and participate in financial assistance programs

1 ~~established in chapter 1009 shall and are either eligible to~~  
2 ~~participate in the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident~~  
3 ~~Access Grant or have been issued a regular license pursuant to~~  
4 ~~s. 1005.31, may~~ participate in the statewide course numbering  
5 system pursuant to this section. Participating institutions  
6 ~~colleges and schools~~ shall bear the costs associated with  
7 inclusion in the system and shall meet the terms and  
8 conditions for institutional participation in the system. The  
9 department shall adopt a fee schedule that includes the  
10 expenses incurred through data processing, faculty task force  
11 travel and per diem, and staff and clerical support time. Such  
12 fee schedule may differentiate between the costs associated  
13 with initial course inclusion in the system and costs  
14 associated with subsequent course maintenance in the system.  
15 Decisions regarding initial course inclusion and subsequent  
16 course maintenance must be made within 180 ~~360~~ days after  
17 submission of the required materials and fees by the  
18 institution. The Department of Education may select a date by  
19 which colleges must submit requests for new courses to be  
20 included, and may delay review of courses submitted after that  
21 date until the next ~~year's~~ cycle. Any institution ~~college~~ that  
22 currently participates in the system, and that participated in  
23 the system prior to July 1, 1986, shall not be required to pay  
24 the costs associated with initial course inclusion in the  
25 system. Fees collected for participation in the statewide  
26 course numbering system pursuant to the provisions of this  
27 section shall be deposited in the Institutional Assessment  
28 Trust Fund. ~~Any nonpublic, nonprofit college or university~~  
29 ~~that is eligible to participate in the statewide course~~  
30 ~~numbering system shall not be required to pay the costs~~  
31 ~~associated with participation in the system. An institution~~

1 ~~may not~~ ~~No college or school shall~~ record student transcripts  
2 or document courses offered by the institution ~~college or~~  
3 ~~school~~ in accordance with this subsection unless the  
4 institution ~~college or school~~ is actually participating in the  
5 system pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education. ~~Any~~  
6 ~~college or school deemed to be in violation of this section~~  
7 ~~shall be subject to the provisions of s. 1005.38.~~

8 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary  
9 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or  
10 national accrediting agency recognized by the United States  
11 Department of Education and that participate in the statewide  
12 course numbering system shall be awarded credit by the  
13 receiving institution for courses satisfactorily completed by  
14 the student at the previous institutions. Credit shall be  
15 awarded if the courses are judged by the appropriate statewide  
16 course numbering system faculty committees representing school  
17 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions, and  
18 participating nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions  
19 to be academically equivalent to courses offered at the  
20 receiving institution, including equivalency of faculty  
21 credentials, regardless of the public or nonpublic control of  
22 the previous institution. The Department of Education shall  
23 ensure that credits to be accepted by a receiving institution  
24 are generated in courses for which the faculty possess  
25 credentials that are appropriate to the subject matter of the  
26 courses taught. A determination by the sending institution's  
27 recognized accrediting agency as to the adequacy of faculty  
28 credentials meets this requirement and shall be accepted by  
29 the Department of Education. ~~comparable to those required by~~  
30 ~~the accrediting association of the receiving institution~~ The  
31 award of credit may be limited to courses that are entered in

1 | the statewide course numbering system. Credits awarded  
2 | pursuant to this subsection shall satisfy institutional  
3 | requirements on the same basis as credits awarded to native  
4 | students. Credits may not be denied based on the agency or  
5 | association that accredited the institution at which students  
6 | previously completed courses if the agency or association is  
7 | recognized by the United States Department of Education. The  
8 | Department of Education shall impose an administrative fine of  
9 | \$5,000 for each violation of this section and make public the  
10 | imposition of each such fine. The fine shall be deposited into  
11 | the Institutional Assessment Trust Fund.

12 |           Section 2. Section 1007.32, Florida Statutes, is  
13 | amended to read:

14 |           1007.32 Transfer students.--

15 |           (1) Each university shall provide registration  
16 | opportunities for transfer students that allow such students  
17 | access to high demand courses comparable to that provided  
18 | native students.

19 |           (2) Each university that provides an orientation  
20 | program for freshman enrollees shall also provide orientation  
21 | programs for transfer students.

22 |           (3) Institutions participating in financial assistance  
23 | programs established in chapter 1009 may not deny credits for  
24 | courses satisfactorily completed which students seek to  
25 | transfer, and an institution may not deny recognition of  
26 | degrees completed and awarded from other institutions  
27 | participating in such financial assistance programs on the  
28 | basis of the agency or association that accredited the  
29 | institution at which the student earned such credits if the  
30 | agency or association is recognized by the United States  
31 | Department of Education or on the basis of the public or

1 nonpublic control of the institution. Institutions shall  
2 publicly disclose their policies and procedures on credit  
3 transfers and degree recognition, which disclosure must  
4 include a statement as to the institution's participation in  
5 the course numbering system established in this chapter and a  
6 statement that credits will not be denied on the basis of the  
7 accreditation of the institution at which students previously  
8 completed courses and degrees as required in this subsection  
9 or on the basis of the public or nonpublic control of the  
10 institution.

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

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14 SENATE SUMMARY

15 Requires postsecondary institutions that are accredited  
16 and participate in financial assistance programs to  
17 participate in the statewide course numbering system.  
18 Requires the Department of Education to make course  
19 decisions within 180 days after submission. Removes a  
20 provision exempting participating institutions from  
21 paying certain costs. Requires faculty credentials to  
22 meet requirements of the Department of Education.  
23 Provides that credits may not be denied based on the  
24 accrediting agency of the previous institution.  
25 Authorizes the Department of Education to impose an  
26 administrative fine for violations. Provides fines shall  
27 be deposited into a specified trust fund. Prohibits  
28 institutions participating in financial assistance  
29 programs from denying transfer credits or degrees from  
30 other institutions. Requires institutions to publicly  
31 disclose their policies on credit transfers and degree  
recognition.