

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to statewide articulation agreements;
3 amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring that a statewide
4 articulation agreement govern the transfer of credit
5 between public institutions and nonpublic institutions
6 that are issued an annual license by the Commission for
7 Independent Education; amending s. 1007.235, F.S.;
8 authorizing school districts to enter into
9 interinstitutional articulation agreements with
10 independent postsecondary institutions; amending s.
11 1007.24, F.S.; requiring that at least one representative
12 from school districts, public postsecondary institutions,
13 and participating nonpublic postsecondary institutions
14 participate on each discipline committee that is
15 established to review courses; requiring that faculty
16 committees identify 25 courses that are most commonly
17 requested for a transfer of credit; requiring that the
18 committees develop frameworks and establish outcomes for
19 each identified course; guaranteeing the transfer of
20 course credit among participating institutions if the
21 course meets certain requirements; requiring that the
22 State Board of Education adopt rules establishing
23 penalties for noncompliance with the policies and
24 procedures relating to the transfer of credit; requiring
25 that the rules establish a mechanism for students and
26 institutions to report suspected violations, establish a
27 minimum fine to be paid by a noncompliant institution, and
28 require that the funds generated by the fine be equally

29 | divided between the affected student's financial aid
 30 | account and the Department of Education; providing an
 31 | effective date.

32 |

33 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34 |

35 | Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1007.23, Florida
 36 | Statutes, is amended to read:

37 | 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

38 | (1) The State Board of Education and the Board of
 39 | Governors shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement,
 40 | which the State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. The
 41 | agreement must preserve Florida's "2+2" system of articulation,
 42 | facilitate the seamless articulation of student credit across
 43 | and among Florida's public and independent educational entities,
 44 | and reinforce the provisions of this chapter by governing:

45 | (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary
 46 | education;

47 | (b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates from
 48 | community colleges and state universities;

49 | (c) Admission of applied technology diploma program
 50 | graduates from community colleges or career centers;

51 | (d) Admission of associate in science degree and associate
 52 | in applied science degree graduates from community colleges;

53 | (e) Transfer of credit between public institutions and
 54 | nonpublic institutions that are issued an annual license by the
 55 | Commission for Independent Education;

56 | (f)~~(e)~~ The use of acceleration mechanisms, including

HB 751

2009

57 nationally standardized examinations through which students may
58 earn credit;

59 (g)~~(f)~~ General education requirements and statewide course
60 numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; and

61 (h)~~(g)~~ Articulation among programs in nursing.

62 Section 2. Subsection (8) is added to section 1007.235,
63 Florida Statutes, to read:

64 1007.235 District interinstitutional articulation
65 agreements.--

66 (8) School districts may enter into interinstitutional
67 articulation agreements with independent postsecondary
68 institutions that are licensed by the Commission for Independent
69 Education.

70 Section 3. Subsections (2), (6), and (7) of section
71 1007.24, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (9) is
72 added to that section, to read:

73 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

74 (2) The Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the
75 Chancellor of the State University System, shall appoint faculty
76 committees representing faculties of participating institutions
77 to recommend a single level for each course, including
78 postsecondary career education courses, included in the
79 statewide course numbering system. At least one representative
80 from school districts, public postsecondary institutions, and
81 participating nonpublic postsecondary institutions shall
82 participate on each discipline committee established to review
83 courses.

84 (a) Any course designated as an upper-division-level

HB 751

2009

85 course must be characterized by a need for advanced academic
86 preparation and skills that a student would be unlikely to
87 achieve without significant prior coursework.

88 (b) A course that is offered as part of an associate in
89 science degree program and as an upper-division course for a
90 baccalaureate degree shall be designated for both the lower and
91 upper division.

92 (c) A course designated as lower-division may be offered
93 by any community college.

94 (d) By July 1, 2010, faculty committees shall identify the
95 25 courses that are most commonly requested for a transfer of
96 credit. The committees shall develop frameworks and establish
97 outcomes for each course. If a course is taught using the
98 standardized frameworks and meets the established outcomes, the
99 course shall be guaranteed a transfer of credit among
100 participating institutions.

101 (6) Nonpublic colleges and schools that are fully
102 accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency
103 recognized by the United States Department of Education and are
104 either eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV,
105 Florida Resident Access Grant or have been licensed by the
106 Commission for Independent Education ~~issued a regular license~~
107 ~~pursuant to s. 1005.31~~, may participate in the statewide course
108 numbering system ~~pursuant to this section~~. Participating
109 colleges and schools shall bear the costs associated with
110 inclusion in the system and shall meet the terms and conditions
111 for institutional participation in the system. The department
112 shall adopt a fee schedule that includes the expenses incurred

HB 751

2009

113 through data processing, faculty task force travel and per diem,
114 and staff and clerical support time. The ~~Such~~ fee schedule may
115 differentiate between the costs associated with initial course
116 inclusion in the system and costs associated with subsequent
117 course maintenance in the system. Decisions regarding initial
118 course inclusion and subsequent course maintenance must be made
119 within 360 days after the submission of the required materials
120 and fees by the institution. The Department of Education may
121 select a date by which colleges must submit requests for new
122 courses to be included, and may delay review of courses
123 submitted after that date until the next year's cycle. Any
124 college that currently participates in the system, and that
125 participated in the system before ~~prior to~~ July 1, 1986, is
126 ~~shall not be~~ required to pay the costs associated with initial
127 course inclusion in the system. Fees collected for participation
128 in the statewide course numbering system pursuant to ~~the~~
129 ~~provisions of~~ this section shall be deposited in the
130 Institutional Assessment Trust Fund. Any nonpublic, nonprofit
131 college or university that is eligible to participate in the
132 statewide course numbering system is ~~shall not be~~ required to
133 pay the costs associated with participation in the system. A ~~No~~
134 college or school may not ~~shall~~ record student transcripts or
135 document courses offered by the college or school in accordance
136 with this subsection unless the college or school is actually
137 participating in the system pursuant to the rules of the State
138 Board of Education. Any college or school that violates ~~deemed~~
139 ~~to be in violation of~~ this section is ~~shall be~~ subject to the
140 provisions in ~~of~~ s. 1005.38.

141 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary
 142 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or national
 143 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
 144 Education and that participate in the statewide course numbering
 145 system shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution for
 146 courses satisfactorily completed by the student at the previous
 147 institutions. Credit shall be awarded if the courses are judged
 148 by the appropriate statewide course numbering system faculty
 149 committees representing school districts, public postsecondary
 150 educational institutions, and participating nonpublic
 151 postsecondary educational institutions to be academically
 152 equivalent to courses offered at the receiving institution,
 153 including equivalency of faculty credentials, regardless of the
 154 accrediting body and public or nonpublic control of the previous
 155 institution. The Department of Education shall ensure that
 156 credits to be accepted by a receiving institution are generated
 157 in courses for which the faculty possess credentials that are
 158 comparable to those required by the accrediting association of
 159 the receiving institution. The award of credit may be limited to
 160 courses that are entered in the statewide course numbering
 161 system. Credits awarded under ~~pursuant to~~ this subsection shall
 162 satisfy institutional requirements on the same basis as credits
 163 awarded to native students.

164 (9) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules that
 165 provide penalties for participating institutions that do not
 166 comply with the transfer of credit policies and procedures in
 167 this section. The rules must:

168 (a) Establish a mechanism for students and institutions to

HB 751

2009

169 report suspected violations;

170 (b) Establish a minimum fine that a noncompliant
171 institution must pay; and

172 (c) Require that the funds generated by the fine be
173 equally divided between the affected student's financial aid
174 account and the department for the purpose of implementing the
175 statewide course numbering system.

176 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.