

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to articulation; amending s. 1007.23,
3 F.S.; requiring the statewide articulation agreement to
4 govern the establishment of guidelines for the inclusion
5 of institutions licensed by the Commission for Independent
6 Education in statewide articulation agreements; amending
7 s. 1007.235, F.S.; authorizing school districts to enter
8 into articulation agreements with such independent
9 postsecondary educational institutions; amending s.
10 1007.24, F.S.; requiring representatives from school
11 districts, public postsecondary educational institutions,
12 and participating nonpublic postsecondary educational
13 institutions to participate on faculty committees
14 established to review courses under specified
15 circumstances; expanding eligibility to participate in the
16 statewide course numbering system to all licensees of the
17 Commission for Independent Education; guaranteeing the
18 award of course credit by participating institutions
19 notwithstanding the institution's accrediting agency;
20 requiring the State Board of Education and Board of
21 Governors to enforce compliance with the award of certain
22 credits; requiring adoption of a rule establishing a
23 process for reporting and monitoring noncompliance with
24 the award of certain credits; amending s. 1008.38, F.S.;
25 requiring establishment of a process for the reporting of
26 trend data by the Department of Education on the
27 progression of students into and through postsecondary
28 education and the workforce; revising factors that must be

29 | addressed by the articulation accountability measures;
 30 | providing an effective date.

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

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

36 | 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

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

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

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

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

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

52 | (e) The establishment of guidelines for the inclusion of
 53 | institutions licensed by the Commission for Independent
 54 | Education in statewide articulation agreements;

55 | (f) ~~(e)~~ The use of acceleration mechanisms, including
 56 | nationally standardized examinations through which students may

57 | earn credit;

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

60 | (h)~~(g)~~ Articulation among programs in nursing.

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

63 | 1007.235 District interinstitutional articulation
64 | agreements.--

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

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

72 | 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

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

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

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 | (6) Nonpublic colleges and schools that are fully
 95 | accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency
 96 | recognized by the United States Department of Education and are
 97 | either eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV,
 98 | Florida Resident Access Grant or have been licensed by the
 99 | Commission for Independent Education ~~issued a regular license~~
 100 | ~~pursuant to s. 1005.31,~~ may participate in the statewide course
 101 | numbering system ~~pursuant to this section.~~ Participating
 102 | colleges and schools shall bear the costs associated with
 103 | inclusion in the system and shall meet the terms and conditions
 104 | for institutional participation in the system. The department
 105 | shall adopt a fee schedule that includes the expenses incurred
 106 | through data processing, faculty task force travel and per diem,
 107 | and staff and clerical support time. The ~~Such~~ fee schedule may
 108 | differentiate between the costs associated with initial course
 109 | inclusion in the system and costs associated with subsequent
 110 | course maintenance in the system. Decisions regarding initial
 111 | course inclusion and subsequent course maintenance must be made
 112 | within 360 days after the submission of the required materials

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113 and fees by the institution. The Department of Education may
114 select a date by which colleges must submit requests for new
115 courses to be included, and may delay review of courses
116 submitted after that date until the next year's cycle. Any
117 college that currently participates in the system, and that
118 participated in the system before ~~prior to~~ July 1, 1986, is
119 ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ required to pay the costs associated with initial
120 course inclusion in the system. Fees collected for participation
121 in the statewide course numbering system pursuant to ~~the~~
122 ~~provisions of~~ this section shall be deposited in the
123 Institutional Assessment Trust Fund. Any nonpublic, nonprofit
124 college or university that is eligible to participate in the
125 statewide course numbering system is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ required to
126 pay the costs associated with participation in the system. A ~~No~~
127 college or school may not ~~shall~~ record student transcripts or
128 document courses offered by the college or school in accordance
129 with this subsection unless the college or school is actually
130 participating in the system pursuant to the rules of the State
131 Board of Education. Any college or school that violates ~~deemed~~
132 ~~to be in violation of~~ this section is ~~shall be~~ subject to the
133 provisions in ~~of~~ s. 1005.38.

134 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary
135 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or national
136 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
137 Education and that participate in the statewide course numbering
138 system shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution for
139 courses satisfactorily completed by the student at the previous
140 institutions. Credit shall be awarded if the courses are judged

141 by the appropriate statewide course numbering system faculty
142 committees representing school districts, public postsecondary
143 educational institutions, and participating nonpublic
144 postsecondary educational institutions to be academically
145 equivalent to courses offered at the receiving institution,
146 including equivalency of faculty credentials, regardless of the
147 regional or national accrediting agency and public or nonpublic
148 control of the previous institution. The Department of Education
149 shall ensure that credits to be accepted by a receiving
150 institution are generated in courses for which the faculty
151 possess credentials that are comparable to those required by the
152 accrediting association of the receiving institution. The award
153 of credit may be limited to courses that are entered in the
154 statewide course numbering system. Credits awarded under
155 ~~pursuant to~~ this subsection shall satisfy institutional
156 requirements on the same basis as credits awarded to native
157 students.

158 (9) The State Board of Education and the Board of
159 Governors, as appropriate, shall enforce compliance by
160 participating institutions in the award of credits under
161 subsection (7). Such enforcement shall include adoption of a
162 rule by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
163 Board of Governors, that establishes a process for reporting and
164 monitoring noncompliance by participating institutions.

165 Section 4. Section 1008.38, Florida Statutes, is amended
166 to read:

167 1008.38 Articulation accountability process.--The State
168 Board of Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors,

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169 shall develop articulation accountability measures that ~~which~~
170 assess the status of systemwide articulation processes
171 authorized under s. 1007.23 and shall establish a ~~an~~
172 articulation accountability process for the reporting of trend
173 data by the Department of Education on the progression of
174 students from secondary education into and through public and
175 nonpublic postsecondary education and the workforce. At a
176 minimum, the articulation accountability measures ~~which at a~~
177 ~~minimum~~ shall address:

178 ~~(1) The impact of articulation processes on ensuring~~
179 ~~educational continuity and the orderly and unobstructed~~
180 ~~transition of students between public secondary and~~
181 ~~postsecondary education systems and facilitating the transition~~
182 ~~of students between the public and private sectors.~~

183 (1)~~(2)~~ The adequacy of preparation of public secondary
184 students who matriculate ~~to smoothly articulate~~ to a public
185 postsecondary institution.

186 (2)~~(3)~~ The use and effectiveness of articulated
187 acceleration mechanisms available to secondary students.

188 (3)~~(4)~~ The transition ~~smooth transfer~~ of ~~community college~~
189 ~~associate in arts~~ degree graduates to 4-year baccalaureate
190 degree programs ~~a state university~~.

191 (4)~~(5)~~ An examination of degree requirements that exceed
192 the parameters of 60 credit hours for an associate degree and
193 120 hours for a baccalaureate degree in public postsecondary
194 programs.

195 (5)~~(6)~~ The relationship between the College Level Academic
196 Skills Test Program and articulation to the upper division in

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197 public postsecondary institutions and the adequacy of
198 preparation of lower-division undergraduate students for success
199 in upper-division programs.

200 (6) The transition of career and technical education
201 students into and through programs of study that have
202 established articulation agreements.

203 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.