

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to articulation agreements; amending
3 s. 1007.23, F.S.; requiring the Articulation
4 Coordinating Committee to convene a workgroup by a
5 specified date to develop specified articulation
6 agreements; providing requirements for the workgroups;
7 requiring state universities and Florida College
8 System institutions to adopt specified articulation
9 agreements by a specified date; amending s. 1007.24,
10 F.S.; requiring Florida College System institutions to
11 award transfer credit for certain courses; prohibiting
12 Florida College System institutions from requiring a
13 student to repeat certain coursework; revising the
14 application of transfer course credit; amending s.
15 1007.25, F.S.; providing requirements for an associate
16 in arts specialized transfer degree; requiring the
17 State Board of Education to establish criteria for the
18 review and approval of new specialized transfer
19 degrees; requiring the Division of Florida Colleges to
20 review proposals and, in the event of deficiencies, to
21 provide certain written notice to the Florida College
22 System institution; providing requirements for the
23 approval process; providing that, upon approval of a
24 new associate in arts specialized transfer degree,
25 Florida College System institutions may offer the

26 | degree and shall report certain data; requiring the
 27 | State Board of Education to adopt rules; conforming a
 28 | provision to changes made by the act; providing an
 29 | effective date.
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31 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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33 | Section 1. Present subsections (8) and (9) of section
 34 | 1007.23, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (9)
 35 | and (10), a new subsection (8) is added to that section, and
 36 | subsection (6) of that section is amended, to read:

37 | 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

38 | (6) The articulation agreement must guarantee the
 39 | statewide articulation of appropriate courses within associate
 40 | in science degree programs to baccalaureate degree programs.
 41 | Courses within an associate in applied science degree program
 42 | may articulate into a baccalaureate degree program on an
 43 | individual or block basis as authorized in local
 44 | interinstitutional articulation agreements.

45 | (a) By September 1, 2023, the Articulation Coordinating
 46 | Committee shall convene a workgroup composed of State University
 47 | System, Florida College System institution, and district career
 48 | center faculty to facilitate the seamless transfer of the
 49 | associate in science degree and reduce time to credential
 50 | completion. The workgroup shall develop a minimum of four

51 statewide "2+2" associate in science programs to baccalaureate
52 degree articulation agreements in high-demand fields that
53 articulate the associate in science degree into a related
54 baccalaureate degree. These agreements must be developed for
55 programs that are widely offered at Florida College System
56 institutions and state universities and must guarantee the
57 transfer, acceptance, and credit application of the full
58 associate in science degree toward the baccalaureate degree
59 program requirements. The workgroup shall develop
60 recommendations for the inclusion of additional general
61 education courses in the "2+2" associate in science degree and
62 the acceptance of general education and program-specific courses
63 in transfer. The workgroup shall provide its proposed
64 articulation agreements to the Articulation Coordinating
65 Committee for consideration by August 1, 2024.

66 (b) In addition to awarding credit in accordance with the
67 statewide "2+2" associate in science programs to baccalaureate
68 degree articulation agreements developed pursuant to paragraph
69 (a), each state university shall, by the start of the 2024-2025
70 academic year, adopt a minimum of one local "2+2" associate in
71 science programs to baccalaureate degree articulation agreement
72 with one or more Florida College System institutions. The
73 agreements must guarantee the transfer, acceptance, and credit
74 application of the full associate in science degree program of
75 study toward the baccalaureate degree program requirements. By

76 August 1, 2024, each state university must submit the local
77 "2+2" associate in science programs to baccalaureate degree
78 articulation agreement to the Department of Education.

79 (8) To strengthen educator preparation programs in this
80 state and provide seamless pathways to continued educational
81 opportunities, by September 1, 2023, the Articulation
82 Coordinating Committee shall convene a workgroup responsible for
83 developing recommendations for seamless student transfer from
84 one educational level to the next in teacher preparation
85 programs for education paraprofessionals and individuals who
86 have earned the child development associate credential. The
87 workgroup shall also develop recommendations for the seamless
88 transfer of teacher apprentices for the completion of their
89 baccalaureate degree.

90 (a) The workgroup must be composed of State University
91 System and Florida College System institution faculty and
92 faculty of career centers established under s. 1001.44.

93 (b) The workgroup shall review existing statewide,
94 regional, and intrainstitutional agreements to identify seamless
95 pathways and course sequences through the attainment of
96 baccalaureate degree and develop a statewide articulation
97 agreement that includes articulated postsecondary credit for the
98 child development associate credential as specified in paragraph
99 (7)(a) and college-level training, experience, and education
100 acquired while serving as an education paraprofessional as

101 defined in s. 1012.01(2)(e), and a teacher apprentice to include
102 the award of credit toward a baccalaureate degree for experience
103 acquired in the teacher apprenticeship program.

104 (c) The workgroup shall provide its recommendation and
105 proposed articulation agreement to the Articulation Coordinating
106 Committee by March 1, 2024. State universities and Florida
107 College System institutions must accept and apply articulated
108 credit as stipulated in the articulation agreement.

109 Section 2. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 1007.24,
110 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

111 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.—

112 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary
113 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or national
114 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
115 Education and that participate in the statewide course numbering
116 system shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution for
117 courses satisfactorily completed by the student at the previous
118 institutions. Credit shall be awarded if the courses are judged
119 by the appropriate statewide course numbering system faculty
120 committees representing school districts, public postsecondary
121 educational institutions, and participating nonpublic
122 postsecondary educational institutions to be academically
123 equivalent to courses offered at the receiving institution,
124 including equivalency of faculty credentials, regardless of the
125 public or nonpublic control of the previous institution. The

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126 Department of Education shall ensure that credits to be accepted
127 by a receiving institution are generated in courses for which
128 the faculty possess credentials that are comparable to those
129 required by the accrediting association of the receiving
130 institution. The award of credit may be limited to courses that
131 are entered in the statewide course numbering system.
132 Institutions shall award transfer credit toward program
133 requirements for courses that contain similar learning outcomes
134 as identified in the statewide course numbering system. Credits
135 awarded pursuant to this subsection ~~shall~~ satisfy institutional
136 requirements on the same basis as credits awarded to native
137 students. Institutions may not require a student to repeat
138 equivalent coursework as described in this section if the
139 student earned credit for the coursework at a prior institution.

140 (8) Participating postsecondary institutions receiving
141 transfer course credit must accept and apply general education
142 courses and credit in accordance with this section, s. 1007.25,
143 and other provisions of law, including credit earned through
144 dual enrollment, course equivalencies, and other acceleration
145 mechanisms, as first satisfying general education core course
146 credit requirements and other general education subject area
147 course credit requirements, as appropriate ~~before applying the~~
148 ~~course credit as elective credit.~~ Transfer course credit not
149 applied in satisfying general education requirements must be
150 applied as satisfying institutional and program-specified

151 requirements before it is applied as elective credit.

152 Section 3. Subsections (9) and (12) of section 1007.25,
153 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

154 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
155 other degree requirements.—

156 (9) (a) An associate in arts degree must ~~shall~~ require no
157 more than 60 semester hours of college credit and include 36
158 semester hours of general education coursework. Beginning with
159 students initially entering a Florida College System institution
160 or state university in the 2014-2015 academic year and
161 thereafter, coursework for an associate in arts degree must
162 ~~shall~~ include demonstration of competency in a foreign language
163 pursuant to s. 1007.262. Except for developmental education
164 required pursuant to s. 1008.30, all required coursework must
165 ~~shall~~ count toward the associate in arts degree or the
166 baccalaureate degree.

167 (b) An associate in arts specialized transfer degree must
168 include 36 semester hours of general education coursework and
169 require 60 semester hours or more of college credit. Specialized
170 transfer degrees are designed for Florida College System
171 institution students who need supplemental lower-level
172 coursework in preparation for transfer as provided under
173 subsection (7). The State Board of Education shall establish
174 criteria for the review and approval of new specialized transfer
175 degrees. The approval process must require:

176 1. Each Florida College System institution to submit a
177 notice of its intent to propose a new associate in arts
178 specialized degree program to the Division of Florida Colleges.
179 The notice must include the recommended credit hours, rationale
180 for the specialization, the demand for students entering the
181 field, and the coursework being proposed to be included beyond
182 the 60 semester hours required or the general transfer degree,
183 if applicable. Notices of intent may be submitted by a Florida
184 College System institution at any time.

185 2. The Division of Florida Colleges to forward the notice
186 of intent within 10 business days after receipt to the
187 Chancellor of the State University System and all Florida
188 College System institutions. State universities and Florida
189 College System institutions have 60 days after receipt of the
190 notice to submit comments on the proposed associate in arts
191 specialized transfer degree.

192 3. After the submission of comments pursuant to
193 subparagraph 2., the requesting Florida College System
194 institution to submit a proposal that, at a minimum, includes:

195 a. Evidence that the coursework for the associate in arts
196 specialized transfer degree includes demonstration of competency
197 in foreign language as provided in s. 1007.262 and demonstration
198 of civic literacy competency as provided in subsection (5).

199 b. Demonstration that all required coursework will count
200 toward the associate in arts degree or the baccalaureate degree.

201 c. An analysis of demand and unmet need for students
202 entering the specialized field of study at the baccalaureate
203 level.

204 d. Justification for the program length if it exceeds 60
205 credit hours, including references to the common prerequisite
206 manual or other requirements for the baccalaureate degree. This
207 includes documentation of alignment between the exit
208 requirements of a Florida College System institution and the
209 admissions requirements of a baccalaureate degree program at a
210 state university to which students would typically transfer.

211 e. Articulation agreements for graduates of the associate
212 in arts specialized transfer degree.

213 f. Responses to comments received under subparagraph 2.

214 (c) The Division of Florida Colleges shall review the
215 proposal and, within 30 days after receipt, shall provide
216 written notification to the Florida College System institution
217 of any deficiencies and provide it with an opportunity to
218 correct the deficiencies. Within 45 days following receipt of a
219 completed proposal by the Division of Florida Colleges, the
220 Commissioner of Education shall recommend approval or
221 disapproval of the new specialized transfer degree to the State
222 Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall consider
223 the recommendation at its next meeting.

224 (d) Once the State Board of Education approves an
225 associate in arts specialized transfer degree, a Florida College

226 System institution may offer the degree and shall report data on
 227 student and program performance in a manner prescribed by the
 228 Department of Education.

229 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules,
 230 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54, to prescribe format and
 231 content requirements and submission procedures for notices of
 232 intent, proposals, and compliance reviews under this subsection.

233 (12) A student who received an associate in arts degree
 234 ~~for successfully completing 60 semester credit hours~~ may
 235 continue to earn additional credits at a Florida College System
 236 institution. The university must provide credit toward the
 237 student's baccalaureate degree for an additional Florida College
 238 System institution course if, according to the statewide course
 239 numbering, the Florida College System institution course is a
 240 course listed in the university catalog as required for the
 241 degree or as prerequisite to a course required for the degree.
 242 Of the courses required for the degree, at least half of the
 243 credit hours required for the degree must ~~shall~~ be achievable
 244 through courses designated as lower division, except in degree
 245 programs approved by the State Board of Education for programs
 246 offered by Florida College System institutions and by the Board
 247 of Governors for programs offered by state universities.

248 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.