

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 261

BY SENATOR FIELDS

POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides for public postsecondary education transfer pathways.  
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3162(C)(11) through (14), 3163(B), 3164(C), and 3165(B),  
3 to enact R.S. 17:3162(C)(15) and (16) and 3164.1, and to repeal R.S. 17:3129.8,  
4 relative to transfer pathways; to provide for a comprehensive system of articulation  
5 and transfer of credit between and among secondary and postsecondary education;  
6 to provide relative to the duties of the statewide articulation and transfer council; to  
7 provide relative to the guarantees in statewide articulation agreements; to provide  
8 relative to the Board of Regents' duties in the common course numbering system; to  
9 provide for the creation of statewide transfer pathways in major programs; and to  
10 provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:3162(C)(11) through (14), 3163(B), 3164(C), and 3165(B) are  
13 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3162(C)(15) and (16) and 3164.1 are hereby  
14 enacted to read as follows:

15 §3162. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council; creation; purpose; membership;  
16 duties and responsibilities

17 \* \* \*

1 C. The council shall, with appropriate faculty consultation:

2 \* \* \*

3 **(11) Oversee the development, implementation, and maintenance of**  
4 **statewide transfer pathways.**

5 **(12) Develop statewide transfer agreements to govern the granting and**  
6 **transfer of credit awarded through competency-based and prior learning**  
7 **assessments.**

8 ~~(11)~~**(13)** Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between  
9 transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and  
10 acceptance of credits earned at another institution.

11 ~~(12)~~**(14)** Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies and practices  
12 approved by the council are compliant with the rules and regulations established by  
13 all appropriate institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United States  
14 Department of Education.

15 ~~(13)~~**(15)** Periodically, but at least annually, review articulation and transfer  
16 policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education who  
17 shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.

18 ~~(14)~~**(16)** Perform such other duties as may be provided by law or the  
19 commissioner of higher education.

20 \* \* \*

21 §3163. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Agreement

22 \* \* \*

23 B. The statewide articulation agreement shall, at a minimum:

24 (1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common degree  
25 program prerequisites.

26 **(2) Guarantee the transfer of all courses contained in a transfer pathway,**  
27 **established pursuant to R.S. 17:3164.1, as credit in courses that satisfy general**  
28 **education or program requirements.**

29 **(3)** Guarantee that every graduate of a community college awarded an

1 associate of arts or an associate of science degree approved by the council for  
2 transfer to a four-year postsecondary ~~educational~~ institution shall be deemed to have  
3 met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and must be  
4 granted admission to the upper division of any ~~state public~~ four-year ~~college or~~  
5 ~~university~~ **public postsecondary institution**, in accordance with each institution's  
6 general transfer admission requirements, except to a limited access program or a  
7 program that has audition or other specialized admission requirements, as approved  
8 by the Board of Regents.

9 ~~(3)~~**(4)** Provide that graduates awarded an associate of arts or an associate of  
10 science degree approved by the council for transfer and who transfer to a four-year  
11 ~~college or university~~ **postsecondary institution** shall not be required to take any  
12 additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.

13 ~~(4)~~**(5)** Provide that graduates awarded an associate of arts or an associate of  
14 science degree approved by the council for transfer shall receive priority for  
15 admission to a ~~state~~ four-year ~~college or university~~ **public postsecondary institution**  
16 over out-of-state students.

17 ~~(5)~~**(6)** Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical  
18 education programs and workforce development programs and transfer of course  
19 credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.

20 ~~(6)~~**(7)** Provide for acceptance by postsecondary educational institutions of  
21 credits earned in accelerated programs such as dual enrollment and the Advanced  
22 Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination programs.

23 **(8) Provide for acceptance by public postsecondary educational**  
24 **institutions of credits earned through competency-based education and prior**  
25 **learning assessments.**

26 ~~(7)~~**(9)** Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses under the statewide course  
27 numbering system.

28 ~~(8)~~**(10)** Establish a common college transcript.

29 §3164. Common Course Numbering System

1 \* \* \*

2 C.(1) Courses that have **substantially** the same academic content and are  
3 taught by faculty with comparable credentials shall be considered equivalent courses  
4 and shall be given the same course designation.

5 (2) Equivalent courses shall be guaranteed to transfer to any ~~educational~~  
6 institution participating in the statewide course numbering system.

7 **(3) The Board of Regents, in consultation with the Statewide Articulation**  
8 **and Transfer Council, shall define equivalency criteria to be used in the**  
9 **common course numbering system.**

10 \* \* \*

11 **§3164.1. Transfer Pathways**

12 **A. The Board of Regents, in collaboration with the Statewide**  
13 **Articulation and Transfer Council, shall develop, coordinate, and maintain**  
14 **transfer pathways for baccalaureate programs that are highly demanded across**  
15 **the state. The Board of Regents shall define and identify highly demanded**  
16 **programs.**

17 **B. Each transfer pathway shall consist of sixty hours of instruction that**  
18 **can be transferred and applied toward the requirements for a baccalaureate**  
19 **degree in a highly demanded program at a four-year public postsecondary**  
20 **institution.**

21 **C. Each transfer pathway shall contain courses from the common course**  
22 **numbering system, developed pursuant to R.S. 17:3164, that satisfy graduation**  
23 **requirements for an associate of art or an associate of science degree approved**  
24 **by the council for transfer to a four-year postsecondary institution.**

25 **D. All courses in a transfer pathway shall transfer and apply toward the**  
26 **general education requirements and requirements for graduation within the**  
27 **highly demanded program offered at any four-year public postsecondary**  
28 **institution.**

29 **E. A student who completes all of the requirements of a transfer pathway**

1 and who transfers to a highly demanded program at a four-year public  
 2 postsecondary institution shall not be required to complete more than the total  
 3 credits required for the baccalaureate degree in the highly demanded program,  
 4 less the sixty hours of credit earned in the transfer pathway.

5 F. Credit for a course in a transfer pathway that is included in the  
 6 statewide common course numbering system may be earned through  
 7 accelerated programs such as dual enrollment, Advanced Placement,  
 8 International Baccalaureate, College-Level Examination Program, and  
 9 competency-based education, or prior learning assessment that have been  
 10 deemed equivalent by the Board of Regents.

11 §3165. Common core curriculum; general education courses; common prerequisites;  
 12 other degree requirements

13 \* \* \*

14 B. The postsecondary education management boards shall identify their core  
 15 curricula. The public ~~technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges~~  
 16 ~~and universities~~ **postsecondary institutions** shall work with the State Board of  
 17 Elementary and Secondary Education and public schools and school districts to  
 18 assure that high school curricula ~~coordinate~~ **aligns** with the core curricula ~~and~~ to  
 19 prepare students for postsecondary study.

20 \* \* \*

21 Section 2. R.S. 17:3129.8 is hereby repealed.

22 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 23 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 24 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 25 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 26 effective on the day following such approval.

