

SENATE BILL NO. 261

BY SENATORS FIELDS, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CLOUD, CONNICK, CORTEZ, FESI, FOIL, HARRIS, HEWITT, JACKSON, LUNEAU, MCMATH, FRED MILLS, POPE, PRICE, SMITH, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

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 * * *

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

19 * * *

20 (11) Oversee the development, implementation, and maintenance of
21 statewide transfer pathways.

22 (12) Develop statewide transfer agreements to govern the granting and
23 transfer of credit awarded through competency-based and prior learning
24 assessments.

1 (13) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between
2 transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and
3 acceptance of credits earned at another institution.

4 (14) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies and practices
5 approved by the council are compliant with the rules and regulations established by
6 all appropriate institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United States
7 Department of Education.

8 (15) Periodically, but at least annually, review articulation and transfer
9 policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education who
10 shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.

11 (16) Perform such other duties as may be provided by law or the
12 commissioner of higher education.

13 * * *

14 §3163. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Agreement

15 * * *

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

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

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

22 (3) Guarantee that every graduate of a community college awarded an
23 associate of arts or an associate of science degree approved by the council for
24 transfer to a four-year postsecondary ~~educational~~ institution shall be deemed to have
25 met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and ~~must~~ **shall** be
26 granted admission to the upper division of any ~~state public~~ four-year ~~college or~~
27 ~~university~~ **public postsecondary institution**, in accordance with each institution's
28 general transfer admission requirements, except to a limited access program or a
29 program that has audition or other specialized admission requirements, as approved
30 by the Board of Regents.

1 ~~(3)~~**(4)** Provide that graduates awarded an associate of arts or an associate of
2 science degree approved by the council for transfer and who transfer to a four-year
3 ~~college or university~~ **postsecondary institution** shall not be required to take any
4 additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.

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

9 ~~(5)~~**(6)** Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical
10 education programs and workforce development programs and transfer of course
11 credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.

12 ~~(6)~~**(7)** Provide for acceptance by postsecondary educational institutions of
13 credits earned in accelerated programs such as dual enrollment and the Advanced
14 Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination programs.

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

18 ~~(7)~~**(9)** Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses under the statewide course
19 numbering system.

20 ~~(8)~~**(10)** Establish a common college transcript.

21 §3164. Common Course Numbering System

22 * * *

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

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

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

* * *

§3164.1. Transfer Pathways

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

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

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

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

E. A student who completes all of the requirements of a transfer pathway and who transfers to a highly demanded program at a four-year public postsecondary institution shall not be required to complete more than the total credits required for the baccalaureate degree in the highly demanded program, less the sixty hours of credit earned in the transfer pathway.

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

1 §3165. Common core curriculum; general education courses; common prerequisites;
2 other degree requirements

3 * * *

4 B. The postsecondary education management boards shall identify their core
5 curricula. The public ~~technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges~~
6 ~~and universities~~ **postsecondary institutions** shall work with the State Board of
7 Elementary and Secondary Education and public schools and school districts to
8 assure that high school curricula ~~coordinate~~ **align** with the core curricula ~~and~~ to
9 prepare students for postsecondary study.

10 * * *

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

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____