

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE BILL NO. 93

BY SENATOR NEVERS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides for the awarding and transfer of college credit for academic content in career and technical and industry-based certification courses. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:3162(D) and 3165.1, relative to the transfer and articulation of postsecondary academic credits; to provide for the awarding and transfer of college credit for the academic content of career and technical and industry-based certification courses; to provide for the responsibilities and duties of the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3162(D) and 3165.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3162. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council; creation; purpose; membership;

duties and responsibilities

* * *

D. The council, with appropriate consultation and collaboration with the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, shall oversee the development and implementation of a system to award and transfer college credit for the academic content embedded in career and technical education and industry-based certification courses as provided in R.S. 17:3165.1.

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§3165.1. Academic transfer modules; career and technical education and industry-based certification courses

A. To provide a career pathway between career and technical education and industry-based certification programs and academic degree programs offered by public community colleges, the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges shall establish a system to recognize the academic content embedded in career and technical education and industry-based certification courses, award college-level credit for such content, and guarantee the transfer of such credit to any public state community college.

B. The board shall:

(1) Develop "academic transfer modules" to recognize the academic content embedded in career and technical education and industry-based certification courses which can be applied to award a student with partial or full credit in an equivalent academic course offered by any public state community college.

(a) The content of each academic transfer module may be contained in a single course or a sequence of courses.

(b) Each academic transfer module shall be equal to at least one college credit hour and modules can be combined to become the academic equivalent of a complete academic college course.

(2) Align the content contained in each academic transfer module with the content standards and learning competencies established for the equivalent academic college course to which the module will be applied.

(3) Develop testing, as necessary, to validate the content of each academic transfer module to ensure its academic equivalency to the college course to which the module will be applied.

(4) Develop a system whereby academic transfer modules may be

1 **banked until such time as the student enrolls in an academic degree program**
 2 **offered by a public state community college and such modules can be**
 3 **transferred for academic college credit.**

4 **(5) Ensure that career and technical education and industry-based**
 5 **certification course instructors are trained and meet the standards required for**
 6 **such courses and course work to be eligible for transfer for college credit.**

7 **(6) Collaborate and coordinate with the State Board of Elementary and**
 8 **Secondary Education to ensure that students enrolled in career and technical**
 9 **education and industry-based certification courses offered through local public**
 10 **school systems and secondary schools shall also be eligible to earn academic**
 11 **transfer modules pursuant to the provisions of this Section.**

12 **C. The Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges shall**
 13 **submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House**
 14 **Committee on Education, not later than September thirtieth of each year,**
 15 **regarding the status of the implementation of the academic transfer module**
 16 **system as provided by this Section.**

17 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 18 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 19 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 20 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 21 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Present law provides for the seamless transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions and charges the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council (SATC) with the responsibility to coordinate, oversee, and monitor transfer and articulation activities.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires SATC, in consultation and collaboration with the Bd. of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, to oversee the development and implementation of a system award and transfer college credit for the academic content embedded in career and technical education and industry-based certification courses.

Proposed law requires the Bd. of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to develop "academic transfer modules" to recognize the academic content embedded in career and technical education and industry-based certification courses which can be applied to award a student with partial or full credit in an equivalent academic course offered by any public state community college.

Proposed law provides that the content of each academic transfer module may be contained in a single course or a sequence of courses. Further provides that each academic transfer module shall be equal to at least one college credit hour and that modules can be combined to become the academic equivalent of a complete academic college course.

Proposed law further requires the Bd. of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to:

- (1) Align the content contained in each academic transfer module with the content standards and learning competencies established for the equivalent academic college course to which the module will be applied.
- (2) Develop testing, as necessary, to validate the content of each academic transfer module to ensure its academic equivalency to the college course to which the module will be applied.
- (3) Develop a system whereby academic transfer modules may be banked until such time as the student enrolls in an academic degree program offered by a public state community college and such modules can be transferred for academic college credit.
- (4) Ensure that career and technical education and industry-based certification course instructors are trained and meet the standards required for such courses and course work to be eligible for transfer for college credit.
- (5) Collaborate and coordinate with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to ensure that students enrolled in career and technical education and industry-based certification courses offered through local public school systems and secondary schools shall also be eligible to earn academic transfer modules.

Proposed law requires the Bd. of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to submit a written report to the Senate and House committees on education, not later than September thirtieth of each year, regarding the status of the implementation of the academic transfer module system.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3162(D) and 3165.1)