



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

SB3804

Introduced 2/10/2012, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Board of Higher Education Act and the Public Community College Act. Requires the Board of Higher Education, in conjunction with the Illinois Community College Board, to establish a Statewide Articulation and Transfer Committee; sets forth the duties of the committee. Requires the Board of Higher Education to collaborate with the Community College Board to recommend to the General Assembly a revised, statewide articulation agreement that shall govern the articulation and transfer of credit between and among this State's secondary and postsecondary institutions; sets forth related requirements. Requires the Board of Higher Education to establish limits on the number of credits that institutions are allowed to require transferring students to complete on campus for graduation in order to minimize the time needed to complete a transfer degree. Provides that the Illinois Community College Board is authorized and it shall be its duty to periodically review student records from students who, having formerly studied at a State community college, have since transferred to a 4-year institution that is authorized to receive Monetary Award Program funds in order to produce a course articulation report and shall also support the Board of Higher Education in convening a Statewide Articulation and Transfer Committee. Effective immediately.

LRB097 19789 RPM 65876 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 WHEREAS, This State needs to substantially increase the
3 number of skilled students graduating from college each year to
4 meet a goal of 60 percent of adult residents possessing a
5 college credential by 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, The tightened fiscal environment requires a focus
7 on ensuring all State resources are used as efficiently and
8 effectively as possible; and

9 WHEREAS, The demand for the Monetary Award Program greatly
10 exceeds the supply of current funding, requiring measures to be
11 taken to reduce student time to obtain a degree and, thus,
12 reduce educational costs without reducing the quality of
13 education; and

14 WHEREAS, the Illinois Community College Board, the Board of
15 Higher Education, and individual public and private higher
16 education institutions have already created an extensive,
17 voluntary general education and major course articulation
18 program; therefore

19 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
20 **represented in the General Assembly:**

1 Section 5. The Board of Higher Education Act is amended by
2 changing Section 9.30 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 205/9.30)

4 Sec. 9.30. Course transferability program.

5 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Board shall implement and
6 administer a statewide program, using the World Wide Web, to
7 assist students, advisors, faculty, and administrators from
8 public and private institutions of higher education in
9 obtaining consistent and accurate information about transfer
10 courses and their applicability towards degree completion by
11 publishing course equivalency guides, academic programs,
12 courses offered, transfer course evaluations, and degree
13 requirements.

14 (b) Under the program, the Board shall provide appropriate
15 assistance and support to participating public and private
16 institutions of higher education. The Board shall designate
17 participants based on which institutions apply to be part of
18 the program. However, all data shall be managed by each
19 institution of higher education and each institution shall
20 retain complete ownership of the data submitted.

21 (c) The program's Internet website shall contain the
22 following:

23 (1) Transfer course articulations, which shall be
24 updated annually.

25 (2) Institutional reference tables.

1 (3) Degree requirements, which shall be updated
2 annually.

3 (4) Course banks, which shall be updated annually.

4 (5) Academic program pull down menus, which shall be
5 updated annually.

6 (d) In this subsection (d), "committee" means the Statewide
7 Articulation and Transfer Committee.

8 The Board, in conjunction with the Illinois Community
9 College Board and in consultation with the State Board of
10 Education, shall establish a Statewide Articulation and
11 Transfer Committee, which shall report to the Executive
12 Director of the Board of Higher Education and the chair of the
13 Joint Educational Leadership Committee. All committee
14 recommendations and decisions must be submitted to the Board
15 for approval on or before October 1, 2013. The committee may
16 include members of the existing Illinois Articulation
17 Initiative committees and shall consist of members equitably
18 representing public universities, public community colleges,
19 and private, non-profit colleges and universities and members
20 representing the State Board of Education. Furthermore, the
21 committee shall include members from private, non-profit
22 colleges or universities that have previously not participated
23 in the Illinois Articulation Initiative, but enroll one or more
24 students who receive MAP grants. The committee shall, with
25 appropriate consultation with faculty senates of institutions
26 of higher education, do all of the following:

1 (1) Review the report on current articulation provided
2 by the Illinois Community College Board.

3 (2) Form subcommittees or advisory groups composed of
4 secondary and postsecondary education faculty members,
5 including those representing MAP-eligible institutions
6 that have not fully participated in the existing
7 articulation system, to review and approve or revise the
8 existing (as of July 1, 2012) general education core
9 curriculum and major course learning objectives, determine
10 course comparability and credit hours and, if deemed
11 necessary to reach consensus, curricula or textbooks, and
12 consult on the development of a common, statewide
13 identifier for transferable courses, and other topics
14 deemed necessary to carry out the committee's duties and
15 responsibilities.

16 (3) On or before July 1, 2013, make recommendations to
17 the Board of Higher Education with respect to improvements
18 to the existing articulation system, including the
19 revisions to the existing articulation agreement to
20 improve articulation of general education core curriculum
21 and approved Illinois Articulation Initiative major
22 coursework to institutions enrolling one or more students
23 receiving the MAP grant. The committee shall also make
24 recommendations to the Board of Higher Education for
25 creation of a simple, statewide, common course identifier,
26 that shall make identification of statewide transferrable

1 courses immediately obvious to students, without changing
2 or conflicting with individual institutional course
3 numbering systems. These recommendations shall also take
4 into account existing dual credit, 2 Plus 2, and common
5 course standard initiatives.

6 (4) As needed, develop policies to align articulation
7 and transfer policies established by individual
8 educational institutions or community college districts,
9 including, but not limited to, admissions criteria and
10 advising and counseling.

11 (5) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies
12 and practices approved by the committee are compliant with
13 the rules and regulations of all relevant, recognized,
14 accrediting agencies.

15 (6) Perform other duties as required by the Board and
16 the General Assembly.

17 On or before January 1, 2014, the Board shall collaborate
18 with the Community College Board to recommend to the General
19 Assembly a revised, statewide articulation agreement that
20 shall govern the articulation and transfer of credit between
21 and among this State's secondary and postsecondary
22 institutions. The statewide articulation agreement shall, at
23 minimum, do all of the following:

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

26 (B) Guarantee that every student who has completed the

1 general education core curriculum approved by the
2 committee at an institution of higher education shall be
3 deemed to have met all general education and core
4 curriculum requirements and shall not be required to take
5 any additional general education courses to fulfill
6 baccalaureate degree requirements.

7 (C) Encourage MAP-eligible institutions to accept for
8 equal credit transferrable major courses identified by the
9 committee and completed by transferring students at
10 another MAP-eligible institution.

11 (D) Provide for acceptance by postsecondary
12 educational institutions of credits earned in accelerated
13 programs, such as dual enrollment, the International
14 Baccalaureate, and Advanced Placement programs.

15 (E) Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses
16 registered under the statewide general education core
17 curriculum.

18 (F) Establish the statewide transferable course
19 identifier, which shall be a required designation for
20 course catalogs and transcripts to clearly indicate which
21 courses fall under the general education core curriculum
22 and major core curriculum.

23 (G) Require institutions of higher education to
24 request from the Board and the Illinois Community College
25 Board, in writing, prior to the beginning of the semester,
26 approval to refrain from honoring any course entered in the

1 general education core curriculum.

2 The Board shall also establish limits on the number of
3 credits that institutions are allowed to require transferring
4 students to complete on campus for graduation in order to
5 minimize the time needed to complete a transfer degree. The
6 Board shall adopt those policies and procedures considered
7 necessary to fulfill these duties well and in a timely manner.
8 The policies and procedures are binding on all educational
9 institutions enrolling one or more students who receive MAP
10 grants, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

11 Nothing in this subsection (d) shall be construed to
12 contradict the standards already governed by State and federal
13 privacy laws.

14 (Source: P.A. 94-420, eff. 8-2-05.)

15 Section 10. The Public Community College Act is amended by
16 changing Section 2-11 as follows:

17 (110 ILCS 805/2-11) (from Ch. 122, par. 102-11)

18 Sec. 2-11. (a) The State Board in cooperation with the
19 four-year colleges is empowered to develop articulation
20 procedures to the end that maximum freedom of transfer among
21 community colleges and between community colleges and
22 degree-granting institutions be available, and consistent with
23 minimum admission policies established by the Board of Higher
24 Education.

1 (b) The State Board is authorized and it shall be its duty
2 to periodically review student records from students who,
3 having formerly studied at a State community college, have
4 since transferred to a 4-year institution that is authorized to
5 receive Monetary Award Program funds under Section 35 of the
6 Higher Education Student Assistance Act in order to do all of
7 the following:

8 (1) Conduct a study of student transcripts, making all
9 legal and appropriate allowance for student privacy, to
10 better understand how and when students are receiving
11 credit for general education and major coursework,
12 including, but not limited to, those courses that form the
13 general education core curriculum.

14 (2) Produce a report indicating where improvements are
15 needed to maximize course articulation between 2-year and
16 4-year colleges in order to reduce student time to obtain a
17 degree.

18 (3) Report these findings to the General Assembly and
19 the Board of Higher Education, with the initial report due
20 on November 1, 2012.

21 The State Board shall also support the Board of Higher
22 Education in convening a Statewide Articulation and Transfer
23 Committee under Section 9.30 of the Board of Higher Education
24 Act, whose primary purpose is to agree upon a general education
25 core curriculum and major learning objectives and create a plan
26 for implementation of a statewide articulation agreement and

1 common, statewide transferable course identifier.

2 Nothing in this subsection (b) shall be construed to
3 contradict the standards already governed by State and federal
4 privacy laws.

5 (Source: P.A. 78-669.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
7 becoming law.

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Statutes amended in order of appearance

3

110 ILCS 205/9.30

4

110 ILCS 805/2-11

from Ch. 122, par. 102-11