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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In 1993, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Transfer Coordinators of Illinois Colleges and Universities brought together faculty from public and independent, associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions across the state to develop the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI); and

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WHEREAS, The goal of IAI is to facilitate the transfer of courses from one participating college or university to another in order to complete a baccalaureate degree; the three key concepts providing the underlying foundation for IAI are: (1) that "associate and baccalaureate degree-granting institutions are equal partners" in educating college freshmen and sophomores, (2) that "faculties should take primary responsibility for developing and maintaining program and course articulation", and (3) that "institutions are expected to work together to assure that lower-division baccalaureate programs are comparable in scope, quality, and academic rigor"; and

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WHEREAS, Today's college students can get the degree they desire, close to home, and with the assurance of a successful career right here in Illinois; and

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1           WHEREAS, Cutting-edge academic programs, such as  
2           iTransfer.org and MyCreditsTransfer, are available to serve  
3           recent high school graduates and those who are balancing their  
4           education with working, parenting, and service to our country;  
5           and

6           WHEREAS, While Illinois is a leading state for college  
7           completion rates for adult learners and transfer students from  
8           community colleges, Illinois needs to increase the number of  
9           high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of  
10          the economy and an increasingly global society; and

11          WHEREAS, With the rising costs of higher education for  
12          Illinois students and families, the State needs to ensure that  
13          the General Education Core Curriculum courses Illinois  
14          residents enroll in at higher education institutions and as a  
15          part of dual credit in high school in Illinois will transfer  
16          with full credit for the student and be accepted at an Illinois  
17          public or private institution as they pursue a baccalaureate  
18          degree; and

19          WHEREAS, Illinois can do this by improving transitions all  
20          along the education pipeline; for postsecondary education,  
21          this means strengthening articulation through stable funding  
22          and the expansion of transfer tools, such as Transferology and  
23          the IAI through development of an objective measure of transfer

1 and acceptance of credits; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
4 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Board of Higher Education and the  
5 Illinois Community College Board jointly identify any  
6 shortcomings in attaining the goals of Public Act 99-636 that  
7 the General Education Core Curriculum courses transfer between  
8 institutions with full credit towards a baccalaureate degree;  
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we direct each four-year institution within  
11 the IAI to review the transfer credits of all incoming transfer  
12 students at its institution to find any instances where courses  
13 are not deemed transferable with full credit, including those  
14 courses that serve as prerequisites within a major; and be it  
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That we direct each public institution that  
17 participates in the Illinois Articulation Initiative to work  
18 with the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois  
19 Community College Board to assure their compliance with the law  
20 that their General Education Core curricula: (1) are aligned  
21 with the IAI course codes, (2) accept, with full credit, toward  
22 a baccalaureate degree any courses students have taken in the  
23 General Education Core Curriculum Package for other public

1 institutions in Illinois, (3) do not require transferring  
2 students to retake general education as prerequisites core  
3 curriculum courses that were part of the IAI curriculum  
4 packages, or take additional general education courses beyond  
5 the package, and (4) the course numbering systems at each  
6 institution adequately reflect the corresponding course codes  
7 used by the Illinois Articulation Initiative; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we direct the Illinois Board of Higher  
9 Education and the Illinois Community College Board to work with  
10 the Illinois State Board of Education and each institution to  
11 educate and inform high school counselors across the State on  
12 the workings of the IAI and the General Education Core  
13 Curriculum and its course transferability processes and  
14 procedures; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we direct the Illinois Board of Higher  
16 Education and the Illinois Community College Board to develop a  
17 report on the results of this review of the Illinois  
18 Articulation Initiative and recommend to the Governor and the  
19 General Assembly any actions necessary to achieve the stated  
20 goals of this resolution by January 9, 2019; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the report filed with the General Assembly  
22 shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk  
23 of the House of Representatives in electronic form only, in the

1 manner that the Secretary and Clerk shall direct.