

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2651

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FITZWATER (49).

6407H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 178.780, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to the transfer of lower-division credit among public institutions of higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 178.780, RSMo, is repealed and six new sections enacted in lieu thereof,
2 to be known as sections 178.780, 178.785, 178.786, 178.787, 178.788, and 178.789, to read as
3 follows:

178.780. 1. Tax supported community colleges formed prior to October 13, 1961, and those
2 formed under the provisions of sections 178.770 to 178.890 shall be under the supervision of the
3 coordinating board for higher education.

4 2. The coordinating board for higher education shall:

5 (1) Establish the role of the two-year college in the state;

6 (2) Set up a survey form to be used for local surveys of need and potential for two-year
7 colleges; provide supervision in the conducting of surveys; require that the results of the studies be used
8 in reviewing applications for approval; and establish and use the survey results to set up priorities;

9 (3) Require that the initiative to establish two-year colleges come from the area to be served;

10 (4) Administer the state financial support program;

11 (5) Supervise the community college districts formed under the provisions of sections 178.770
12 to 178.890 and the community colleges now in existence and formed prior to October 13, 1961;

13 (6) Formulate and put into effect uniform policies as to budgeting, record keeping, and student
14 accounting;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

15 (7) Establish uniform minimum entrance requirements and uniform curricular offerings for all
16 community colleges;

17 (8) Make a continuing study of community college education in the state; [and]

18 (9) Be responsible for the accreditation of each community college under its supervision.

19 Accreditation shall be conducted annually or as often as deemed advisable and made in a manner
20 consistent with rules and regulations established and applied uniformly to all community colleges in the
21 state. Standards for accreditation of community colleges shall be formulated with due consideration
22 given to curriculum offerings and entrance requirements of the University of Missouri; **and**

23 **(10) Establish a standard core curriculum and a common course numbering system**
24 **or common course numbering equivalency matrix for lower-division courses to be used at**
25 **community colleges and other public institutions of higher education to facilitate student**
26 **transfers as provided under sections 178.785 to 178.789.**

178.785. The provisions of sections 178.785 to 178.789 shall be known and may be
2 **cited as the "Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act". For purposes of sections**
3 **178.785 to 178.789, the following terms mean:**

4 **(1) "Coordinating board", the coordinating board for higher education established in**
5 **section 173.005;**

6 **(2) "Core curriculum", the curriculum in mathematics, English, communications,**
7 **humanities, biological and physical science, social science, and computer technology that all**
8 **undergraduate students of a public institution of higher education are required to complete**
9 **before receiving an academic undergraduate degree;**

10 **(3) "Faculty member", a person who is employed full-time by a community college or**
11 **other public institution of higher education as a member of the faculty whose primary duties**
12 **include teaching, research, academic service, or administration.**

178.786. 1. The coordinating board for higher education, with the assistance of an
2 **advisory committee composed of representatives from each public community college in this**
3 **state and each public four-year institution of higher education, shall develop a recommended**
4 **lower division core curriculum of at least forty-two semester credit hours, including a**
5 **statement of the content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum. A majority**
6 **of the members of the advisory committee shall be faculty members of a community college**
7 **or a public four-year institution of higher education.**

8 **2. The coordinating board shall approve a common course numbering system for**
9 **lower-division courses at all institutions of higher education in the state to facilitate the**
10 **transfer of those courses among institutions of higher education by promoting consistency in**

11 **course designation and course identification. Each community college and four-year**
12 **institution of higher education shall include in its course listings the applicable course**
13 **numbers from the common course numbering system approved by the coordinating board**
14 **under this subsection.**

15 **3. The coordinating board shall complete the requirements of subsections 1 and 2 of**
16 **this section prior to January 1, 2018, for implementation of the core curriculum transfer**
17 **recommendations for the 2018-19 academic year for all public institutions of higher education.**

178.787. 1. Each community college, as defined in section 163.191, and public four-
2 **year institution of higher education shall adopt a core curriculum of no less than forty-two**
3 **credit hours, including specific courses comprising the curriculum, based on the core**
4 **curriculum recommendations made by the coordinating board for higher education under**
5 **subsections 1 and 2 of section 178.786, for implementation beginning in the 2018-19 academic**
6 **year.**

7 **2. If a student successfully completes the forty-two credit core curriculum at a**
8 **community college or other public institution of higher education, that block of courses may**
9 **be transferred to any other public institution of higher education in this state and shall be**
10 **substituted for the receiving institution's core curriculum. A student shall receive academic**
11 **credit for each of the courses transferred and shall not be required to take additional core**
12 **curriculum courses at the receiving institution.**

13 **3. A student who transfers from one public institution of higher education to a another**
14 **public institution of higher education in the state without completing the core curriculum of the**
15 **sending institution shall receive academic credit from the receiving institution for each of the**
16 **courses that the student has successfully completed in the core curriculum of the sending**
17 **institution. Following receipt of credit for these courses, the student may be required to**
18 **satisfy further course requirements in the core curriculum of the receiving institution.**

178.788. 1. The coordinating board for higher education, in consultation with the
2 **advisory board established in section 178.786, shall develop criteria to evaluate the transfer**
3 **practices of each public institution of higher education in this state and shall evaluate the**
4 **transfer practices of each institution based on this criteria.**

5 **2. The coordinating board shall develop procedures to be followed by institutions of**
6 **higher education in resolving disputes concerning the transfer of course credit and by the**
7 **commissioner of higher education in making a final determination concerning transfer of**
8 **course credit if a transfer is in dispute.**

9 **3. Each institution of higher education shall publish in its course catalogs and on its**
10 **official website the procedures adopted by the board under subsections 1 and 2 of this section.**

11 **4. If an institution of higher education does not accept course credit earned by a**
12 **student at another public institution of higher education, that institution shall give written**
13 **notice to the student and the other institution that the transfer of the course credit is denied.**
14 **The two institutions and the student shall attempt to resolve the transfer of the course credit**
15 **in accordance with rules promulgated by the coordinating board. If the transfer dispute is not**
16 **resolved to the satisfaction of the student or the institution at which the credit was earned**
17 **within forty-five days after the date the student received written notice of the denial, the**
18 **institution that denies the transfer of the course credit shall notify the commissioner of higher**
19 **education of its denial and the reasons for the denial.**

20 **5. The commissioner of higher education or his or her designee shall make the final**
21 **determination about a dispute concerning the transfer of course credit and give written notice**
22 **of the determination as to the involved student and institutions.**

23 **6. The coordinating board shall collect data on the types of transfer disputes that are**
24 **reported and the disposition of each case that is considered by the commissioner of higher**
25 **education or the commissioner's designee.**

26 **7. The provisions of sections 178.785 to 178.789 shall not affect the authority of an**
27 **institution of higher education to adopt its own admission standards or its own grading**
28 **policies.**

178.789. The coordinating board for higher education may promulgate all necessary
2 **rules and regulations for the administration of sections 178.785 to 178.789. Any rule or**
3 **portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority**
4 **delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of**
5 **the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536**
6 **are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
7 **chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**
8 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule**
9 **proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.**

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