

HB 2651 -- HIGHER EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM TRANSFER ACT

SPONSOR: Fitzwater (49)

This bill establishes a standard core curriculum and a common course numbering system for lower division courses at community colleges and public four-year institutions of higher learning. The coordinating board of higher education will work in conjunction with an advisory committee, composed of representatives from community colleges and public four year institutions, to develop a recommended core curriculum.

The core curriculum must be comprised of at least 42 semester credit hours and will cover mathematics, English, communications, humanities, biological and physical science, social science, and computer technology. All undergraduate students of the above institutions must complete the core curriculum as a requirement of graduation.

Each community college and public four-year institution must adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 credit hours. Such curriculum must include specific courses and be based on the core curriculum recommended by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education.

The Coordinating Board must also approve a common course numbering system for lower-division courses at all institutions of higher learning in the state. Community colleges and four-year institutions must include in its course listings the corresponding numbers from the common course numbering system.

Students will be able to transfer credits earned under the core curriculum, as described within the bill. The coordinating board must also develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices each public institution of higher learning in the state and subsequently evaluate each institution. Institutions of higher education must publish in its course catalogs and on its website the evaluation policies of the Coordinating Board.