

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to articulation; amending s. 1007.23,  
3           F.S.; requiring the statewide articulation agreement to  
4           govern the transfer of credit between public educational  
5           institutions and independent postsecondary educational  
6           institutions licensed by the Commission for Independent  
7           Education; amending s. 1007.235, F.S.; authorizing school  
8           districts to enter into articulation agreements with such  
9           independent postsecondary educational institutions;  
10          amending s. 1007.24, F.S.; requiring representatives from  
11          school districts, public postsecondary educational  
12          institutions, and participating nonpublic postsecondary  
13          educational institutions to participate on faculty  
14          committees established to review courses under specified  
15          circumstances; expanding eligibility to participate in the  
16          statewide course numbering system to all licensees of the  
17          Commission for Independent Education; guaranteeing the  
18          award of course credit by participating institutions  
19          notwithstanding the institution's accrediting agency;  
20          requiring the State Board of Education and Board of  
21          Governors to enforce compliance with the award of certain  
22          credits; requiring adoption of a rule establishing a  
23          process for reporting and monitoring noncompliance with  
24          the award of certain credits; amending s. 1008.38, F.S.;  
25          requiring establishment of a process for the reporting of  
26          trend data by the Department of Education on the  
27          progression of students into and through postsecondary  
28          education and the workforce; revising factors that must be

29 |           addressed by the articulation accountability measures;  
 30 |           providing an effective date.

31 |  
 32 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33 |  
 34 |           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1007.23, Florida  
 35 | Statutes, is amended to read:

36 |           1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

37 |           (1) The State Board of Education and the Board of  
 38 | Governors shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement,  
 39 | which the State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. The  
 40 | agreement must preserve Florida's "2+2" system of articulation,  
 41 | facilitate the seamless articulation of student credit across  
 42 | and among Florida's public and nonpublic educational entities,  
 43 | and reinforce the provisions of this chapter by governing:

44 |           (a) Articulation between secondary and postsecondary  
 45 | education;

46 |           (b) Admission of associate in arts degree graduates from  
 47 | community colleges and state universities;

48 |           (c) Admission of applied technology diploma program  
 49 | graduates from community colleges or career centers;

50 |           (d) Admission of associate in science degree and associate  
 51 | in applied science degree graduates from community colleges;

52 |           (e) Transfer of credit between public educational  
 53 | institutions and independent postsecondary educational  
 54 | institutions that are licensed by the Commission for Independent  
 55 | Education;

56 |           (f)~~(e)~~ The use of acceleration mechanisms, including

57 nationally standardized examinations through which students may  
58 earn credit;

59 ~~(g)(f)~~ General education requirements and statewide course  
60 numbers as provided for in ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25; and

61 ~~(h)(g)~~ Articulation among programs in nursing.

62 Section 2. Subsection (8) is added to section 1007.235,  
63 Florida Statutes, to read:

64 1007.235 District interinstitutional articulation  
65 agreements.--

66 (8) School districts may enter into articulation  
67 agreements with independent postsecondary educational  
68 institutions that are licensed by the Commission for Independent  
69 Education.

70 Section 3. Subsections (2), (6), and (7) of section  
71 1007.24, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (9) is  
72 added to that section, to read:

73 1007.24 Statewide course numbering system.--

74 (2) The Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the  
75 Chancellor of the State University System, shall appoint faculty  
76 committees representing faculties of participating institutions  
77 to recommend a single level for each course, including  
78 postsecondary career education courses, included in the  
79 statewide course numbering system. At least one representative  
80 from school districts, public postsecondary educational  
81 institutions, and participating nonpublic postsecondary  
82 educational institutions shall be appointed to each faculty  
83 committee established to review courses if the district or  
84 institution offers courses in the discipline.

85 (a) Any course designated as an upper-division-level  
 86 course must be characterized by a need for advanced academic  
 87 preparation and skills that a student would be unlikely to  
 88 achieve without significant prior coursework.

89 (b) A course that is offered as part of an associate in  
 90 science degree program and as an upper-division course for a  
 91 baccalaureate degree shall be designated for both the lower and  
 92 upper division.

93 (c) A course designated as lower-division may be offered  
 94 by any community college.

95 (6) Nonpublic colleges and schools that are fully  
 96 accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency  
 97 recognized by the United States Department of Education and are  
 98 either eligible to participate in the William L. Boyd, IV,  
 99 Florida Resident Access Grant or have been licensed by the  
 100 Commission for Independent Education ~~issued a regular license~~  
 101 ~~pursuant to s. 1005.31,~~ may participate in the statewide course  
 102 numbering system ~~pursuant to this section.~~ Participating  
 103 colleges and schools shall bear the costs associated with  
 104 inclusion in the system and shall meet the terms and conditions  
 105 for institutional participation in the system. The department  
 106 shall adopt a fee schedule that includes the expenses incurred  
 107 through data processing, faculty task force travel and per diem,  
 108 and staff and clerical support time. The ~~Such~~ fee schedule may  
 109 differentiate between the costs associated with initial course  
 110 inclusion in the system and costs associated with subsequent  
 111 course maintenance in the system. Decisions regarding initial  
 112 course inclusion and subsequent course maintenance must be made

113 within 360 days after the submission of the required materials  
 114 and fees by the institution. The Department of Education may  
 115 select a date by which colleges must submit requests for new  
 116 courses to be included, and may delay review of courses  
 117 submitted after that date until the next year's cycle. Any  
 118 college that currently participates in the system, and that  
 119 participated in the system before ~~prior to~~ July 1, 1986, is  
 120 ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ required to pay the costs associated with initial  
 121 course inclusion in the system. Fees collected for participation  
 122 in the statewide course numbering system pursuant to ~~the~~  
 123 ~~provisions of~~ this section shall be deposited in the  
 124 Institutional Assessment Trust Fund. Any nonpublic, nonprofit  
 125 college or university that is eligible to participate in the  
 126 statewide course numbering system is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ required to  
 127 pay the costs associated with participation in the system. A ~~No~~  
 128 college or school may not ~~shall~~ record student transcripts or  
 129 document courses offered by the college or school in accordance  
 130 with this subsection unless the college or school is actually  
 131 participating in the system pursuant to the rules of the State  
 132 Board of Education. Any college or school that violates ~~deemed~~  
 133 ~~to be in violation of~~ this section is ~~shall be~~ subject to the  
 134 provisions in ~~of~~ s. 1005.38.

135 (7) Any student who transfers among postsecondary  
 136 institutions that are fully accredited by a regional or national  
 137 accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of  
 138 Education and that participate in the statewide course numbering  
 139 system shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution for  
 140 courses satisfactorily completed by the student at the previous

141 institutions. Credit shall be awarded if the courses are judged  
 142 by the appropriate statewide course numbering system faculty  
 143 committees representing school districts, public postsecondary  
 144 educational institutions, and participating nonpublic  
 145 postsecondary educational institutions to be academically  
 146 equivalent to courses offered at the receiving institution,  
 147 including equivalency of faculty credentials, regardless of the  
 148 regional or national accrediting agency and public or nonpublic  
 149 control of the previous institution. The Department of Education  
 150 shall ensure that credits to be accepted by a receiving  
 151 institution are generated in courses for which the faculty  
 152 possess credentials that are comparable to those required by the  
 153 accrediting association of the receiving institution. The award  
 154 of credit may be limited to courses that are entered in the  
 155 statewide course numbering system. Credits awarded under  
 156 ~~pursuant to~~ this subsection shall satisfy institutional  
 157 requirements on the same basis as credits awarded to native  
 158 students.

159 (9) The State Board of Education and the Board of  
 160 Governors, as appropriate, shall enforce compliance by  
 161 participating institutions in the award of credits under  
 162 subsection (7). Such enforcement shall include adoption of a  
 163 rule by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
 164 Board of Governors, that establishes a process for reporting and  
 165 monitoring noncompliance by participating institutions.

166 Section 4. Section 1008.38, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 167 to read:

168 1008.38 Articulation accountability process.--The State

169 Board of Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors,  
 170 shall develop articulation accountability measures that ~~which~~  
 171 assess the status of systemwide articulation processes  
 172 authorized under s. 1007.23 and shall establish a ~~an~~  
 173 articulation accountability process for the reporting of trend  
 174 data by the Department of Education on the progression of  
 175 students from secondary education into and through public and  
 176 nonpublic postsecondary education and the workforce. At a  
 177 minimum, the articulation accountability measures ~~which at a~~  
 178 ~~minimum~~ shall address:

179 ~~(1) The impact of articulation processes on ensuring~~  
 180 ~~educational continuity and the orderly and unobstructed~~  
 181 ~~transition of students between public secondary and~~  
 182 ~~postsecondary education systems and facilitating the transition~~  
 183 ~~of students between the public and private sectors.~~

184 (1) ~~(2)~~ The adequacy of preparation of public secondary  
 185 students who matriculate ~~to smoothly articulate~~ to a public  
 186 postsecondary institution.

187 (2) ~~(3)~~ The use and effectiveness of articulated  
 188 acceleration mechanisms available to secondary students.

189 (3) ~~(4)~~ The transition ~~smooth transfer~~ of ~~community college~~  
 190 ~~associate in arts~~ degree graduates to 4-year baccalaureate  
 191 degree programs ~~a state university~~.

192 (4) ~~(5)~~ An examination of degree requirements that exceed  
 193 the parameters of 60 credit hours for an associate degree and  
 194 120 hours for a baccalaureate degree in public postsecondary  
 195 programs.

196 (5) ~~(6)~~ The relationship between the College Level Academic

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197 Skills Test Program and articulation to the upper division in  
198 public postsecondary institutions and the adequacy of  
199 preparation of lower-division undergraduate students for success  
200 in upper-division programs.

201 (6) The transition of career and technical education  
202 students into and through programs of study that have  
203 established articulation agreements.

204 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.