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A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1772

5 By: Representatives J. Roebuck, Carnine, Clemmer, D. Hutchinson, Hyde, Pennartz, Perry, T. Rogers,
6 Tyler, Wagner

7 By: Senators G. Baker, J. Key, Salmon
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESSFUL
11 DEGREE COMPLETION BY STRENGTHENING THE TRANSFER OF
12 COURSES BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; TO
13 EXPAND THE ROGER PHILLIPS TRANSFER POLICY; TO CLARIFY
14 WHICH COURSES ARE PREREQUISITE COURSES; TO ESTABLISH
15 A STATEWIDE COMMON COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR
16 POSTSECONDARY COURSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
17

Subtitle

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19
20 TO EXPAND THE ROGER PHILLIPS TRANSFER
21 POLICY; TO STRENGTHEN THE COURSE TRANSFER
22 SYSTEM AND ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE COMMON
23 COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR POSTSECONDARY
24 COURSES.
25

26
27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
28

29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-61-218 is amended to read as follows:
30 6-61-218. Minimum college core – Transferability.

31 ~~In order to~~ To promote a coordinated system of higher education in
32 Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the
33 ~~publicly supported~~ state-supported institutions of higher education, the
34 Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall establish in consultation
35 with ~~the colleges and universities~~ state-supported institutions of higher
36 education a minimum core of courses which shall apply toward the general



1 education core curriculum requirements for associate and baccalaureate
2 degrees at state-supported institutions of higher education and which shall
3 be fully transferable between ~~state~~ all state-supported institutions of
4 higher education.

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6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-61-225 is repealed.

7 ~~6-61-225. Creation of a statewide comprehensive transfer policy.~~

8 ~~(a)(1) By December 1, 2006, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating~~
9 ~~Board shall implement a transfer curriculum for all state public colleges and~~
10 ~~universities.~~

11 ~~(2)(A) The transfer curriculum shall be known as the "State~~
12 ~~Minimum Core Curriculum" and shall incorporate and replace the existing state~~
13 ~~minimum core as set forth in § 6-61-218.~~

14 ~~(B) The curriculum shall include freshman-level and~~
15 ~~sophomore-level general education courses offered at the Arkansas public~~
16 ~~colleges and universities and shall be accepted for full credit in that~~
17 ~~subject-matter area of emphasis at all public colleges and universities.~~

18 ~~(3) Private institutions of higher education in Arkansas may~~
19 ~~participate in the curriculum.~~

20 ~~(4) If a course is included in the curriculum, the course shall~~
21 ~~be accepted for full credit in that area of emphasis at all public colleges~~
22 ~~and universities in Arkansas.~~

23 ~~(b) The board, in consultation with the colleges and universities,~~
24 ~~shall develop the criteria and guidelines for the development of the~~
25 ~~curriculum.~~

26 ~~(c)(1) By December 1, 2006, the board shall publish an Internet-based~~
27 ~~student manual that identifies and describes how general education courses at~~
28 ~~public institutions of higher education transfer to other public institutions~~
29 ~~of higher education within Arkansas.~~

30 ~~(2) General information concerning the curriculum, including the~~
31 ~~web page link, shall be published in all versions of course catalogs of all~~
32 ~~public colleges and universities.~~

33
34 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-61-231 is amended to read as follows:

35 6-61-231. Statewide transfer agreement.

36 (a) As used in this section:

1 (1) "Designated transfer degree" means one (1) of the following
2 associate degrees that is eligible for the full transfer under this section
3 of credits earned and hours completed:

4 (A) Associate of arts;

5 (B) Associate of science; or

6 (C) Associate of arts in teaching;

7 (2) "~~Lower-division~~ Lower-division credits" means freshman and
8 sophomore level course credits;

9 (3) "Public institution of higher education" means an Arkansas
10 state-supported two-year or four-year college or university; ~~and~~

11 (4)(A) "State minimum core curriculum" means sixty (60) semester
12 hours of lower-division coursework that include the thirty-five-hour general
13 education core, major program prerequisites, and elective requirements that
14 satisfy the requirements of an associate of arts degree, an associate of
15 science degree, an associate of arts in teaching degree, and selected
16 baccalaureate degrees at all public institutions of higher education as
17 determined by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

18 (B) The board, in collaboration with state-supported
19 institutions of higher education, shall select the baccalaureate degree
20 programs of study that shall be included in the state minimum core curriculum
21 based on the demand for the program of study, both in terms of the number or
22 students enrolled in the program of study and the need for students to enroll
23 in a program of study to meet the economic development needs of the state.

24 (C) The completed state minimum core curriculum may vary
25 for each student depending on his or her program of study; and

26 (5) "Transfer student" means a student transferring from a
27 completed designated transfer degree program or a completed state minimum
28 core curriculum to a baccalaureate program at a four-year public institution
29 of higher education.

30 (b)(1) The purpose of this section is to eliminate obstacles to
31 transfers of credits among public institutions of higher education in
32 Arkansas by providing a seamless transfer of academic credits from a
33 completed designated transfer degree program or a completed state minimum
34 core curriculum to a baccalaureate degree program without the loss of earned
35 credits and without the receiving public institution of higher education
36 requiring additional ~~lower-division~~ lower-division general education credits.

1 (2) All public institutions of higher education shall provide
2 comprehensive academic advising to all students regarding transfer options
3 available under this section.

4 (c) ~~By January 1, 2010, the The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating~~
5 ~~Board~~ board shall develop a statewide transfer agreement that:

6 (1) Designates the following as transfer degrees at public
7 institutions of higher education in Arkansas:

8 (A) Associate of arts;

9 (B) Associate of science; and

10 (C) Associate of arts in teaching;

11 (2) Requires a four-year public institution of higher education
12 to accept all hours completed and credits earned for a designated transfer
13 degree or a completed state minimum core curriculum upon a student's transfer
14 to a baccalaureate degree program at the four-year public institution of
15 higher education;

16 (3) Contains the transfer curriculum for each designated
17 transfer degree that is approved by the board under subsection (d) of this
18 section;

19 (4)(A) Requires a four-year public institution of higher
20 education to admit a transfer student to junior status in a baccalaureate
21 degree program at the four-year public institution of higher education.

22 (B)(i) A four-year public institution of higher education
23 receiving a transfer student shall not require additional ~~lower-division~~
24 lower-division credits for the transfer student if the additional course is
25 considered a general education ~~lower-division~~ lower-division course.

26 (ii) The receiving four-year public institution of
27 higher education may only require the additional ~~lower-division~~ lower-
28 division course if the additional lower division course is:

29 (a) A prerequisite for courses in the transfer
30 student's baccalaureate degree program;

31 (b) A discipline-specific course that is
32 required by the transfer student's baccalaureate degree program and the
33 student has not completed a course at the two-year public institution of
34 higher education that is comparable to the discipline-specific course at the
35 four-year public institution of higher education in the Arkansas Course
36 Transfer System; or

1 (c) A requirement of an independent licensing
2 or accrediting body.

3 (C) This subsection ~~(e)~~ does not remove the requirement
4 that a transfer student must meet total baccalaureate degree program ~~credit~~
5 ~~hour~~ credit-hour and course requirements in order to be eligible for a
6 baccalaureate degree.

7 (D) The receiving four-year public institution of higher
8 education shall determine whether to accept a grade of "D" for academic
9 course credit for a student transferring from a ~~two-year~~ public institution
10 of higher education; and

11 (5)(A)~~(i)~~ ~~Requires a four-year~~ Allows public institutions of
12 higher education to develop transfer guidelines and articulation agreements
13 for each ~~two-year public institution of higher education that has a campus~~
14 ~~within fifty (50) miles of the four-year public institution of higher~~
15 ~~education~~ degree programs not otherwise covered under this section.

16 ~~(ii)~~ ~~If a two-year public institution of higher~~
17 ~~education does not have a campus that is within fifty (50) miles of a four-~~
18 ~~year public institution of higher education, the four-year public institution~~
19 ~~of higher education that is nearest to the two-year public institution of~~
20 ~~higher education shall develop the transfer guidelines under this subdivision~~
21 ~~(e)(5).~~

22 (B) ~~The guidelines shall outline courses for each four-~~
23 ~~year public institution baccalaureate degree program that will prepare~~
24 ~~students for entry into that baccalaureate degree program without additional~~
25 ~~general education credits.~~

26 ~~(C)~~ Transfer guidelines are only for the purpose of
27 student advising and do not exempt a four-year public institution of higher
28 education from the requirements of subdivision (c)(4) of this section.

29 (d)(1) The board, with the assistance and cooperation of the public
30 institutions of higher education, shall develop:

31 ~~(1)~~(A) A transfer curriculum for each designated transfer
32 degree;

33 ~~(2)~~(B) Policies and procedures for reviewing and updating the
34 statewide transfer agreement; and

35 ~~(3)~~(A)(C)(i) Policies and procedures for the Department of
36 Higher Education to collect data from public institutions of higher education

1 to ensure that:

2 ~~(i)~~(a) All public institutions of higher education
3 comply with this section; and

4 ~~(ii)~~(b) The statewide transfer agreement is
5 fostering both a seamless transfer process and the academic success of
6 transfer students at Arkansas public institutions of higher education.

7 ~~(B)~~(ii) The department shall determine annually the data
8 to be collected and shall establish by rule the procedures for a public
9 institution of higher education to provide the data requested.

10 (2) The board, in collaboration with public institutions of
11 higher education and faculty advisory panels of public institutions of higher
12 education, shall identify:

13 (A) Degree programs offered by public institutions of
14 higher education;

15 (B) Postsecondary career education programs offered by
16 two-year public institutions of higher education, including those designated
17 as college-credit courses applicable toward a certificate or degree;

18 (C) Courses that meet the thirty-five-hour general
19 education core requirements within the subject areas of communication,
20 mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences that shall be
21 accepted at all public institutions of higher education as general education
22 courses;

23 (D) Lower-division courses offered by four-year public
24 institutions of higher education accepted for credit toward a degree and
25 identify those courses as either general education or required as a
26 prerequisite for a degree; and

27 (E)(i) Common prerequisite courses and course
28 substitutions for degree programs across all public institutions of higher
29 education.

30 (ii) Required thirty-five-hour general education
31 core courses shall be offered and accepted by all public institutions of
32 higher education.

33 (3) All public institutions of higher education shall
34 collaborate to form four-year faculty advisory panels and two-year faculty
35 advisory panels that recommend major program prerequisites, course
36 substitutions, and elective requirements for programs of study that shall be

1 included in the state minimum core curriculum.

2 (e)(1) The board shall publish an Internet-based student manual that
3 identifies the state minimum core curriculum and describes how the state
4 minimum core curriculum transfers to other public institutions of higher
5 education within Arkansas.

6 (2) General information concerning the state minimum core
7 curriculum, including the web-page link, shall be published in all versions
8 of course catalogs of all public institutions of higher education.

9 (f)(1) The state minimum core curriculum shall be fully implemented no
10 later than July 1, 2012.

11 (2) A public institution of higher education that is not in full
12 compliance with this section shall not be eligible to accept state aid from
13 the Higher Education Grants Fund Account on behalf of a student.

14
15 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 2, is amended
16 to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

17 6-61-232. Maximum semester hours required for a degree program.

18 (a)(1) An associate degree program shall require no more than sixty
19 (60) semester hours of lower division college credit, which may be satisfied
20 by completing the state minimum core curriculum under § 6-61-231.

21 (2) An associate degree program may require more than sixty (60)
22 semester hours of lower division college credit if prior approval has been
23 granted by the board of trustees of the state-supported institution of higher
24 education and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

25 (b)(1) A baccalaureate degree program shall require no more than one
26 hundred twenty (120) semester hours of college credit, which shall include
27 the state minimum core curriculum under § 6-61-231.

28 (2) A baccalaureate degree program may require more than one
29 hundred twenty (120) semester hours of college credit if:

30 (A) Prior approval has been granted by the board of
31 trustees of the state-supported four-year institution of higher education and
32 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board; or

33 (B) It is a requirement of an independent licensing or
34 accrediting body.

35 (c) All required coursework shall count toward the associate of arts
36 degree, associate of science degree, associate of arts in teaching degree, or

1 selected baccalaureate degrees.

2
3 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, is amended to add an
4 additional subchapter to read as follows:

5 Subchapter 14 – Common Course Numbering System

6 6-61-1401. Purpose.

7 The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in collaboration with
8 all state-supported institutions of higher education, shall implement a
9 statewide common course numbering system that:

10 (1) Provides improved program planning;

11 (2) Increases communication among all delivery systems;

12 (3) Facilitates the transfer of students and credits between
13 state-supported institutions of higher education; and

14 (4) Promotes consistency in course designation and
15 identification.

16
17 6-61-1402. Courses included in the common course numbering system.

18 (a)(1) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in
19 collaboration with all state-supported institutions of higher education,
20 shall develop and approve a statewide common course numbering system for
21 lower division general education courses found within the Arkansas Course
22 Transfer System.

23 (2) A state-supported institution of higher education that is
24 not in full compliance with this subchapter shall not be eligible to accept
25 state aid from the Higher Education Grants Fund Account on behalf of a
26 student.

27 (b)(1) A course designated as an upper-division course level may be
28 offered by any four-year state-supported institution of higher education and
29 shall be characterized by a need for advanced academic preparation and skills
30 that a student would be unlikely to achieve without significant prior
31 coursework.

32 (2) Upper-division courses are not required to be included in
33 the common course numbering system.

34 (c) A course designated as a lower-division course level may be
35 offered by any state-supported institution of higher education.

36 (d) The common course numbering system shall include *the thirty-five*

1 hour general education core and major program prerequisites that are included
2 in the state minimum core curriculum under § 6-61-231.

3
4 6-61-1403. Additions or alterations.

5 (a) The Director of the Department of Higher Education shall recommend
6 to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board any additions or
7 alterations to the common course numbering system.

8 (b) The board, with input from the President's Council, shall consider
9 the recommended additions and alterations to the common course numbering
10 system.

11 (c) The board may adopt or refuse to adopt suggested additions or
12 alterations to the common course numbering system.

13
14 6-61-1404. Course listings.

15 Each state-supported institution of higher education shall include the
16 common course numbers approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating
17 Board in all:

18 (1) Course listings;

19 (2) Course documents;

20 (3) Catalogs;

21 (4) Websites; and

22 (5) Other published materials that designate course listings.

23
24 6-61-1405. Participation by institutions of higher education that are
25 not state-supported.

26 An institution of higher education that is not state-supported may
27 participate in the common course numbering system if the institution has
28 approved courses listed in the state minimum core curriculum under § 6-61-
29 231.

30
31 6-61-1406. Courses review.

32 The Department of Higher Education shall:

33 (1) Regularly schedule reviews of courses that are listed in the
34 common course numbering system;

35 (2) Establish review procedures; and

36 (3) Adopt policies to carry out this section.

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6-61-1407. Data collection.

(a) The Department of Higher Education shall adopt policies for the collection of data to ensure that all institutions of higher education that participate in the common course numbering system comply with this subchapter.

(b) The department shall determine the data to be collected and annually notify each participating institution of higher education in a timely manner.

SECTION 6. Not to be codified.

(a) Each state-supported institution of higher education shall fully participate in the common course numbering system by July 1, 2013.

(b) The Department of Higher Education shall file a report with the General Assembly on the compliance of state-supported institutions of higher education with this subchapter on August 15, 2013.

/s/J. Roebuck

APPROVED: 03/25/2011