

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1357

5 By: Representatives M. Burris, J. Roebuck, Abernathy, Blount, T. Bradford, Carnine, Cook, J.  
6 Dickinson, Everett, Hoyt, D. Hutchinson, Nickels, Nix, Perry, Pierce, Rainey, T. Rogers, Stewart,  
7 Wagner  
8 By: Senators G. Baker, Elliott, J. Jeffress  
9

## For An Act To Be Entitled

12 AN ACT TO CREATE A SYSTEM FOR FULLY TRANSFERABLE  
13 CREDIT HOURS FROM DEGREES IN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS,  
14 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE, AND ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN  
15 TEACHING AMONG PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
16 EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

18 THE ROGER PHILLIPS TRANSFER POLICY ACT.  
19  
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21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 2, is amended  
25 to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 6-61-231. Statewide Transfer Agreement.

27 (a) As used in this section:

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

31 (A) Associate of arts;

32 (B) Associate of science; or

33 (C) Associate of arts in teaching;

34 (2) "Lower division credits" means freshman and sophomore level  
35 course credits;

36 (3) "Public institution of higher education" means an Arkansas



1 state-supported two-year or four-year college or university; and

2 (4) "Transfer student" means a student transferring from a  
 3 completed designated transfer degree program to a baccalaureate program at a  
 4 four-year public institution of higher education.

5 (b) The purpose of this section is to eliminate obstacles to transfers  
 6 of credits among public institutions of higher education in Arkansas by  
 7 providing a seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed designated  
 8 transfer degree program to a baccalaureate degree program without the loss of  
 9 earned credits and without the receiving public institution of higher  
 10 education requiring additional lower division credits.

11 (c) By January 1, 2010, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating  
 12 Board shall develop a statewide transfer agreement that:

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

15 (A) Associate of arts;

16 (B) Associate of science; and

17 (C) Associate of arts in teaching;

18 (2) Requires a four-year public institution of higher education  
 19 to accept all hours completed and credits earned for a designated transfer  
 20 degree upon a student's transfer to a baccalaureate degree program at the  
 21 four-year public institution of higher education;

22 (3) Contains the transfer curriculum for each designated  
 23 transfer degree that is approved by the board under subsection (d) of this  
 24 section;

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

28 (B)(i) A four-year public institution of higher education  
 29 receiving a transfer student shall not require additional lower division  
 30 credits for the transfer student if the additional course is considered a  
 31 general education lower division course.

32 (ii) The receiving four-year public institution of  
 33 higher education may only require the additional lower division course if the  
 34 additional lower division course is:

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

1                                   (b) A discipline-specific course that is  
 2 required by the transfer student’s baccalaureate degree program and the  
 3 student has not completed a course at the two-year public institution of  
 4 higher education that is comparable to the discipline-specific course at the  
 5 four-year public institution of higher education in the Arkansas Course  
 6 Transfer System; or

7                                   (c) A requirement of an independent licensing  
 8 or accrediting body.

9                                   (C) This subsection (c) does not remove the requirement  
 10 that a transfer student must meet total baccalaureate degree program credit  
 11 hour and course requirements in order to be eligible for a baccalaureate  
 12 degree

13                                   (D) The receiving four-year public institution of higher  
 14 education shall determine whether to accept a grade of “D” for academic  
 15 course credit for a student transferring from a two-year public institution  
 16 of higher education; and

17                                   (5)(A) Requires a four-year public institution of higher  
 18 education to develop transfer guidelines for each two-year public institution  
 19 of higher education that has a campus within fifty (50) miles of the four-  
 20 year public institution of higher education.

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

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

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

30                                   (1) A transfer curriculum for each designated transfer degree;

31                                   (2) Policies and procedures for reviewing and updating the  
 32 statewide transfer agreement; and

33                                   (3)(A) Policies and procedures for the Department of Higher  
 34 Education to collect data from public institutions of higher education to  
 35 ensure that:

36                                   (i) All public institutions of higher education

1 comply with this section; and

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

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

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