

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2563**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
—

SENATE, January 25, 2024.

The committee on Higher Education to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 841) of Michael O. Moore that provisions be made to establish public higher education credit transfers, report the accompanying resolve (Senate, No. 2563).

For the committee,  
Joanne M. Comerford

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2563**

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to public higher education credit transfers..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3           Section 48.

4           (a) The department of higher education shall, in consultation with the Credit Transfer  
5 Program Advisory Board established under subsection (f), establish and administer a Public  
6 Higher Education Credit Transfer Program, hereinafter referred to as the credit transfer program.

7           (b) The credit transfer program shall allow students of public institutions of higher  
8 education, as defined in section 5, to transfer credits among public institutions of higher  
9 education in a comprehensive, complete, accessible, and efficient manner.

10          (c) The credit transfer program shall be designed to ensure that students taking courses at  
11 community colleges will be able to receive credit, where appropriate, for those courses at state  
12 universities and the University of Massachusetts system, without loss of credit.

13 (d) The credit transfer program shall build on and extend the MassTransfer program.

14 (e) The credit transfer program shall require the establishment of transfer articulation  
15 agreements between public institutions of higher education, provided:

16 (1) The department shall oversee the creation of articulation agreements between  
17 community colleges and four-year institutions that provide pathways for students to apply course  
18 credits from community colleges that, where appropriate, satisfy degree requirements for four-  
19 year institutions.

20 (2) Priority shall be given to institutions in the same geographical area or which have  
21 similar programs.

22 (f) There shall be a Credit Transfer Program Advisory Board, which shall advise the  
23 department on the creation, implementation, and improvement of the credit transfer program.

24 The Board shall consist of the following representatives, designated by the department:

25 (1) Faculty, with at least 1 from each segment of public institutions of higher education;

26 (2) Presidents from each segment of public institutions of higher education;

27 (3) Organizations that represent a public higher education segment, with at least 1 from  
28 each segment of public institution of higher education; and

29 (4) 2 members of the business community.

30 (g) The department shall maintain a website for the credit transfer program. The website  
31 shall provide a guide for students on transferring credits through the credit transfer program.

32 SECTION 2.

33 (a) Within 45 days of the effective date of this act, the department of higher education  
34 shall

35 (1) Establish a MassTransfer working group; and

36 (2) designate members of the Credit Transfer Program Advisory Board.

37 (b) Within 3 months of the effective date of this act, the department shall review related  
38 best practices in other states.

39 (c) Within 1 year of the effective date of this act: (1) all articulation agreements shall be  
40 completed and executed; and

41 (2) The department shall publish the website for students that shall contain, but is not  
42 limited to, a comprehensive guide for transferring credit through the credit transfer program.

43 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.