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Representatives Jones, Sweeney

Cosponsors: Representatives Ingram, Galonski, Holmes, A., Baldrige, Blair, Blessing, Boggs, Boyd, Brent, Brown, Carfagna, Carruthers, Cera, Clites, Crawley, Cross, Crossman, Cupp, Denson, Edwards, Ghanbari, Ginter, Greenspan, Grendell, Hicks-Hudson, Hillyer, Howse, Jordan, Lang, LaRe, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Lightbody, Liston, Manning, D., Manning, G., Miller, A., Miranda, O'Brien, Oelslager, Patterson, Patton, Perales, Reineke, Richardson, Robinson, Roemer, Rogers, Romanchuk, Russo, Ryan, Scherer, Seitz, Sheehy, Smith, K., Smith, T., SobECKi, Stein, Strahorn, Sykes, Weinstein, West, Wiggam

A BILL

To amend sections 3333.16 and 3345.81 and to enact 1
sections 3345.351 and 3345.481 of the Revised 2
Code with regard to student degree completion at 3
state institutions of higher education. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3333.16 and 3345.81 be amended 5
and sections 3345.351 and 3345.481 of the Revised Code be 6
enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 3333.16. (A) As used in this section ~~"state~~: 8

(1) "State institution of higher education" means an 9
institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.12 of 10
the Revised Code. 11

(2) "State university" has the same meaning as in section 12

3345.011 of the Revised Code. 13

~~(A)~~ (B) The chancellor of higher education shall do all of 14
the following: 15

(1) Establish policies and procedures applicable to all 16
state institutions of higher education that ensure that students 17
can begin higher education at any state institution of higher 18
education and transfer coursework and degrees to any other state 19
institution of higher education without unnecessary duplication 20
or institutional barriers. The purpose of this requirement is to 21
allow students to attain their highest educational aspirations 22
in the most efficient and effective manner for the students and 23
the state. These policies and procedures shall require state 24
institutions of higher education to make changes or 25
modifications, as needed, to strengthen course content so as to 26
ensure equivalency for that course at any state institution of 27
higher education. 28

(2) Develop and implement a universal course equivalency 29
classification system for state institutions of higher education 30
so that the transfer of students and the transfer and 31
articulation of equivalent courses or specified learning modules 32
or units completed by students are not inhibited by inconsistent 33
judgment about the application of transfer credits. Coursework 34
completed within such a system at one state institution of 35
higher education and transferred to another institution shall be 36
applied to the student's degree objective in the same manner as 37
equivalent coursework completed at the receiving institution. 38

(3) Develop an electronic equivalency management tool to 39
assist in the transfer of coursework and degrees between state 40
institutions of higher education without unnecessary duplication 41
or institutional barriers, to help minimize inconsistent 42

judgment about the application of transfer credits, and to 43
assist in allowing transfer credits to be applied to a student's 44
degree objective in the same manner at each state institution of 45
higher education. The electronic equivalency management tool 46
shall include the universal documentation of course and program 47
equivalencies statewide. Additionally, the electronic 48
equivalency management tool shall be incorporated into a web 49
site. 50

(4) Develop a system of transfer policies that ensure that 51
graduates with associate degrees which include completion of 52
approved transfer modules shall be admitted to a state 53
institution of higher education, shall be able to compete for 54
admission to specific programs on the same basis as students 55
native to the institution, and shall have priority over out-of- 56
state associate degree graduates and transfer students. To 57
assist a student in advising and transferring, all state 58
institutions of higher education shall fully implement the 59
information system for advising and transferring selected by, 60
contracted for, or developed by the chancellor. 61

~~(4)~~ (5) Examine the feasibility of developing a transfer 62
marketing agenda that includes materials and interactive 63
technology to inform the citizens of Ohio about the availability 64
of transfer options at state institutions of higher education 65
and to encourage adults to return to colleges and universities 66
for additional education; 67

~~(5)~~ (6) Study, in consultation with the state board of 68
career colleges and schools, and in light of existing criteria 69
and any other criteria developed by the articulation and 70
transfer advisory council, the feasibility of credit recognition 71
and transferability to state institutions of higher education 72

for graduates who have received associate degrees from a career 73
college or school with a certificate of registration from the 74
state board of career colleges and schools under Chapter 3332. 75
of the Revised Code. 76

~~(B)~~ (C) All provisions of the existing articulation and 77
transfer policy developed by the chancellor shall remain in 78
effect except where amended by this section. 79

~~(C)~~ (D) Not later than December 1, 2018, the chancellor 80
shall update and implement the policies and procedures 81
established pursuant to this section to ensure that any 82
associate degree offered at a state institution of higher 83
education may be transferred and applied to a bachelor degree 84
program in an equivalent field at any other state institution of 85
higher education without unnecessary duplication or 86
institutional barriers. The policies and procedures shall ensure 87
that each transferred associate degree applies to the student's 88
degree objective in the same manner as equivalent coursework 89
completed by the student at the receiving institution. 90

When updating and implementing the policies and procedures 91
pursuant to this division, the chancellor shall seek input from 92
faculty and academic leaders in each academic field or 93
discipline. 94

(E) If a state university refuses to accept and grant 95
credit for any general education coursework that is both 96
completed at a different state institution of higher education 97
and subject to the policies, procedures, or systems prescribed 98
under division (B) of this section, the state university shall 99
do both of the following: 100

(1) Report the state university's refusal to accept and 101

grant credit to the chancellor; 102

(2) Provide the student that did not receive college 103
credit for the completed general education coursework with the 104
contact information of the department of higher education. 105

(F) The transfer practices advisory committee established 106
by the chancellor shall conduct a study of current rules 107
regarding the transfer of college credit between state 108
institutions of higher education. Not later than one year after 109
the effective date of this amendment, the transfer practices 110
advisory committee shall issue a report to the general assembly, 111
in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code, that 112
includes the findings of the committee's study, as well as any 113
recommendations regarding changes to the rules. 114

Sec. 3345.351. (A) As used in this section, "state 115
university" has the same meaning as in section 3345.011 of the 116
Revised Code. 117

(B) Beginning two years after the effective date of this 118
section, and every two years thereafter, each state university 119
shall review the university's student records to identify any 120
student to whom all of the following apply: 121

(1) The student disenrolled from the state university 122
within the five years immediately prior to the first review 123
under this section. For each subsequent review under this 124
section, the student disenrolled within two years immediately 125
prior to that review. 126

(2) The student has been disenrolled for four or more 127
semesters, including summer sessions. 128

(3) The student did not complete a bachelor's degree. 129

(4) The student has a grade point average of 2.0 or higher 130
on a 4.0 scale. 131

(5) The student completed at least forty-five credit 132
hours. 133

(C) Each state university shall determine if each student 134
identified in the review is eligible or close to being eligible 135
for an associate degree from that university. If a student 136
identified in the review is determined to be eligible or close 137
to being eligible for an associate degree, the state university 138
shall inform the student of such potential eligibility using the 139
most recent contact information the university has on file. 140

(D) Each state university shall report the findings of 141
each review conducted under this section to the chancellor of 142
higher education. 143

(E) The chancellor shall adopt rules as necessary to 144
implement this section. 145

Sec. 3345.481. (A) As used in this section: 146

(1) "Eligible student" means an undergraduate student 147
enrolled in a bachelor's degree program at a state institution 148
of higher education. 149

(2) "Final year" means the last academic year of full-time 150
study that a bachelor's degree program is typically designed to 151
require, as determined by the chancellor of higher education. 152

(3) "State institution of higher education" has the same 153
meaning as in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code. 154

(B) The board of trustees of a state institution of higher 155
education shall waive an eligible student's general and 156
instructional fees for a course necessary to complete the 157

<u>student's bachelor's degree program if all of the following</u>	158
<u>apply:</u>	159
<u>(1) The necessary course is not a general elective.</u>	160
<u>(2) The eligible student was enrolled full time, as</u>	161
<u>defined by the chancellor, in the student's final year.</u>	162
<u>(3) The eligible student was unable to register for the</u>	163
<u>necessary course in the student's final year because of either</u>	164
<u>of the following:</u>	165
<u>(a) The course was not offered by the state institution of</u>	166
<u>higher education in the eligible student's final year.</u>	167
<u>(b) Circumstances beyond the eligible student's control</u>	168
<u>made registration for the necessary course unfeasible, as</u>	169
<u>determined by the chancellor.</u>	170
<u>(4) The eligible student successfully paid all general and</u>	171
<u>instructional fees and did not receive a refund for the courses</u>	172
<u>for which the student registered in the student's final year at</u>	173
<u>the start of that year.</u>	174
<u>(5) The eligible student successfully registers for the</u>	175
<u>necessary course in the next academic year in which the course</u>	176
<u>is offered.</u>	177
<u>(6) The eligible student did not enroll in the maximum</u>	178
<u>amount of credit hours in the student's final year, as</u>	179
<u>determined by the state institution of higher education.</u>	180
<u>(C) Qualifying for a waiver of fees under division (B) of</u>	181
<u>this section shall not grant an eligible student guaranteed or</u>	182
<u>priority registration for the necessary course described in that</u>	183
<u>division.</u>	184

(D) The chancellor shall establish rules to implement this 185
section. 186

Sec. 3345.81. ~~Not later than June 30, 2014, the~~ (A) As 187
used in this section, "institution of higher education" has the 188
same meaning as in section 3345.12 of the Revised Code. 189

(B) The board of trustees of each institution of higher 190
~~education, as defined by section 3345.12 of the Revised Code,~~ 191
shall adopt an institution-specific strategic completion plan 192
designed to increase the number of degrees and certificates 193
awarded to students. The plan shall be consistent with the 194
mission and strategic priorities of the institution, include 195
measurable student completion goals, and align with the state's 196
workforce development priorities. Upon adoption by the board of 197
trustees, each institution of higher education shall provide a 198
copy of its plan to the chancellor of higher education. 199

(C) The board of trustees of each institution of higher 200
education shall update its plan at least once every two years 201
and provide a copy of their updated plan to the chancellor upon 202
adoption. 203

(D) Each updated plan shall contain a report prepared by 204
the institution of higher education regarding the institution's 205
collaboration with other institutions of higher education 206
through an initiative of the chancellor to assist students who 207
have some college experience, but no degree, in earning an 208
associate degree, certificate, or credential. The report shall 209
include information about the institution's efforts to assist 210
students in attaining an associate degree, certificate, or 211
credential while earning a bachelor's degree or using college 212
credit transferred between institutions of higher education. 213

Section 2. That existing sections 3333.16 and 3345.81 of 214
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 215