

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT FORM
2026 REGULAR SESSION
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Amend printed copy of **SB 185/GA**

On page 6, after line 16, insert:

" ➔Section 6. KRS 164.2951 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) ~~[Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year and each academic year thereafter]~~For first-time students enrolling in a public college or university, postsecondary education institutions are encouraged to limit the credit-hour requirements to sixty (60) credit hours for each associate of science or associate of arts degree program and to one hundred twenty (120) credit hours for each bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree program, except in situations in which:
 - (a) Quality and content of a program would be negatively impacted; or
 - (b) A program must comply with specific program standards established by external accreditation bodies.
- (2) The council~~[on Postsecondary Education]~~, in collaboration with the public universities and *the Kentucky Community and Technical College System*~~[community and technical colleges]~~, shall:
 - (a) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide agreement for alignment of Kentucky Community and Technical College System lower-division associate of arts and associate of science coursework that shall be accepted and fully credited to related bachelors degree programs by all public universities. The

Amendment No. HFA

Rep. Rep. Vanessa Grossl

Committee Amendment

Signed:

Floor Amendment

LRC Drafter: _____

Adopted: _____

Date: _____

Rejected: _____

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agreement shall specify the general education learning outcomes and program-specific prerequisite learning outcomes of the coursework. Where applicable, curricula shall be reviewed to determine comparability of core content standards required under KRS 164.302. The agreement shall direct that the associate of arts and associate of science coursework meeting the learning outcomes specified shall be accepted for transfer and degree credit, whether earned as individual courses or within block programs;

- (b) Develop, implement, and maintain a Kentucky Community and Technical College System statewide course numbering system for lower-division general education and program-specific prerequisite courses that include the same learning outcomes;
- (c)
 1. Establish a statewide course classification system and procedures to monitor the transfer and crediting of lower-division coursework, including a system of ongoing assessment that ensures comparability for transfer purposes.
 2. *As part of the statewide course classification system, the council shall require each public postsecondary institution to provide a publicly available, comprehensive online resource that demonstrates to students and prospective students whether credits earned from another postsecondary institution will transfer into the public postsecondary institution, and if so, information and resources on how those credits will transfer.*
 3. *Each public postsecondary institution shall conduct an annual review of their publicly available, comprehensive online resource to ensure that credit transfer information remains current.*
 4. *Each public postsecondary institution shall maintain and regularly update on its public website a clear, comprehensive, and readily accessible list of statewide transfer pathways available at the institution. The list of available*

statewide transfer pathways shall identify the coursework that a student may complete at another postsecondary institution participating in the pathway and apply the completed coursework towards the requirements of a corresponding degree program at the receiving postsecondary institution. Each public postsecondary institution shall ensure the information provided in the list of statewide transfer pathways shall be periodically reviewed by the institution to ensure accuracy, including providing updated information no later than sixty (60) days after any curricular or programmatic changes that impact transfer applicability;

- (d) Establish a procedure for approval of changes in learning outcomes at public universities as described in subsection (3) of this section;
- (e) Standardize credit-by-exam equivalencies and common passing scores for national exams transferable for general education courses and program-specific prerequisites courses;
- (f) Develop policies to align statewide articulation and transfer procedures across educational institutions, including admissions criteria, student declaration of major, and student guidance and counseling policies designed to ensure that students pursuing an associate of arts or associate of science degree program provide timely notification of their intention to transfer to a public university;
- (g) Develop uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional compliance with course transfer and credit requirements;
- (h) Guarantee that, upon admission to a public university, graduates of an associate of arts or an associate of science degree program approved by the council in consultation with public universities shall be deemed to have met all general education requirements;

- (i) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of science degree programs of Kentucky public postsecondary institutions who complete the prerequisite learning outcomes for a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science program while fulfilling the requirements for an associate of art or associate of science degree, shall not be required to repeat or to take any additional lower-level courses to fulfill bachelor degree requirements in the same major, and these students shall be granted admission to related upper-division bachelors degree programs of a state public college or university on the same criteria as those students earning lower-division credits at the university to which the student transferred;
- (j) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of science degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a state public university over out-of-state students if they meet the same admission criteria;
- (k) Establish a commonality in college transcripts to be used in all public colleges and universities to facilitate transfer from community and technical colleges;
- (l) Encourage private colleges and universities to collaborate with public educational institutions in developing programs and agreement to expedite the transfer of students and credits between institutions;
- (m) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution;
- (n) Ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are consistent with the rules and regulations established by all appropriate discipline-specific accrediting bodies and institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United States Department of Education; and
- (o) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide standardized

articulation agreement to be executed ~~[by July 1, 2021,]~~ between public colleges and universities and the Kentucky Department of Education for each approved high school career pathway that leads to a postsecondary credential, certification, license, or degree. Upon meeting the requirements of the standardized articulation agreement, a student shall be awarded postsecondary credit for prior learning at any public college or university.

- (3) When an institution seeks to **make changes to curricula that impacts the transferability of credit**~~[change learning outcomes]~~ for a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science program that affect lower-division courses, the **institution**~~[university]~~ shall notify the council~~[on Postsecondary Education]~~ and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System of the proposed changes at the same time as the initiation of the **institution's**~~[university's]~~ approval process. **The council shall then provide written notification to all other public postsecondary education institutions of the proposed change.** If it is determined that the proposed change will have an adverse effect on transferability, the **institution**~~[university]~~ proposing the change shall enter into discussion with the council, **the other public postsecondary education institutions,** and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to verify there remains a clearly defined path to **transfer credits**~~[a bachelor's degree]~~ for those students who plan to transfer from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System **or another public postsecondary education institution** to the **institution**~~[public university]~~. **The council shall be responsible for coordinating the discussion among the public postsecondary education institutions.**
- (4) **The council shall electronically publish the Uniform Resource Locator (URL), a Quick Response (QR) code, or similar resource to access:**
- (a) **The publicly available, comprehensive online resource for each public postsecondary institution created pursuant to subsection (2)(c) of this section;**

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(b) The official, comprehensive, and annual publication of academic programs and course offerings for each public postsecondary institution; and

(c) The information required to be published pursuant to KRS 164.0284.

➔Section 7. (1) The Council on Postsecondary Education is hereby directed to establish a study and report on statewide transfer pathways. In studying statewide transfer pathways, the council shall:

(a) Consult with the chief academic officer of each public postsecondary education institution or his or her designee;

(b) Consult with the chief academic officer or his or her designee of the private colleges and universities that may wish to be involved in statewide transfer pathways;

(c) Assess the viability of statewide transfer pathways in high-demand program areas, including but not limited to:

1. Teacher preparation programs; and

2. Nursing programs;

(d) Assess the commonalities in program-specific prerequisite requirements relevant to potential statewide transfer pathways; and

(e) Identify discrepancies or barriers to creating or implementing statewide transfer pathways in high-demand program areas.

(2) The council shall submit a report no later than December 1, 2026, to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate Interim Joint Committee on Education. The report shall include the results of the study required under subsection (1) of this section and recommendations on the creation and implementation of statewide transfer pathways."; and

Renumber the subsequent sections accordingly; and

On page 6, line 22, delete "this Act takes" and insert "Sections 1 to 5 and 8 of this Act take" in lieu thereof.