

I\_133\_1161-3

133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020

Sub. H. B. No. 9

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**A BILL**

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

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

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

**Sec. 3333.16.** (A) As used in this section ~~"state~~;

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

(2) "State university" has the same meaning as in section  
3345.011 of the Revised Code.

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

(1) Establish policies and procedures applicable to all



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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  
student's bachelor's degree program if all of the following 158  
apply: 159

(1) The necessary course is not a general elective. 160

(2) The eligible student was enrolled full time, as 161  
defined by the chancellor, in the student's final year. 162

(3) The eligible student was unable to register for the necessary course in the student's final year because of either of the following: 163  
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(a) The course was not offered by the state institution of higher education in the eligible student's final year. 166  
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(b) Circumstances beyond the eligible student's control made registration for the necessary course unfeasible, as determined by the chancellor. 168  
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(4) The eligible student successfully paid all general and instructional fees and did not receive a refund for the courses for which the student registered in the student's final year at the start of that year. 171  
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(5) The eligible student successfully registers for the necessary course in the next academic year in which the course is offered. 175  
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(6) The eligible student did not enroll in the maximum amount of credit hours in the student's final year, as determined by the state institution of higher education. 178  
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(C) Qualifying for a waiver of fees under division (B) of this section shall not grant an eligible student guaranteed or priority registration for the necessary course described in that division. 181  
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(D) The chancellor shall establish rules to implement this section. 185  
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**Sec. 3345.81.** ~~Not later than June 30, 2014, the~~ (A) As used in this section, "institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in section 3345.12 of the Revised Code. 187  
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(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