

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6135

To increase transparency and reduce students' burdens related to transferring credits between institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. POLIS, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. KUCINICH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To increase transparency and reduce students' burdens related to transferring credits between institutions of higher education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Transferring Credits
5 for College Completion Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

7 (a) TRANSFER COMPLETION DATA.—Section
8 132(i)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.

1 1015a(i)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(AA) The percentages of degree- or cer-
4 tificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled
5 at the institution who have transferred from an-
6 other institution and who obtain a degree or
7 certificate within—

8 “(i) the normal time for completion
9 of, or graduation from, the student’s pro-
10 gram (including the time spent as a
11 degree- or certificate-seeking under-
12 graduate student at any other institution);

13 “(ii) 150 percent of the normal time
14 for completion of, or graduation from, the
15 student’s program (including the time
16 spent as a degree- or certificate-seeking
17 undergraduate student at any other insti-
18 tution); and

19 “(iii) 200 percent of the normal time
20 for completion of, or graduation from, the
21 students program (including the time spent
22 as a degree- or certificate-seeking under-
23 graduate student at any other institu-
24 tion).”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
2 one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 3. ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS.**

4 (a) TRANSFER OF CREDIT POLICIES.—Section
5 485(h) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1092(h)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
9 paragraph (A);

10 (B) by striking the period at the end of
11 subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(C) to the extent practicable, in each elec-
14 tronic and printed publication of the institu-
15 tion’s course schedule published on or after
16 July 1, 2014, in a manner of the institution’s
17 choosing, for each course or program of study
18 listed in the institution’s course schedule,
19 whether such course or program of study is
20 transferable for credit toward the completion of
21 a degree at a public institution of higher edu-
22 cation in the State in which the institution is
23 located.”; and

24 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(2) ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS.—Except as
2 provided in paragraph (3), each public institution of
3 higher education participating in any program under
4 this title shall, not later than July 1, 2014, enter
5 into an articulation agreement (as defined in section
6 486A(a)) held in common with the other public insti-
7 tutions of higher education that are in the State in
8 which the institution is located and that are partici-
9 pating in any such program. Such articulation
10 agreement shall, at a minimum, include the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(A) A common general education core
13 curriculum consisting of not less than 30 credit
14 hours or the equivalent coursework, which are
15 fully acceptable in transfer at any such public
16 institution of higher education in the State to-
17 ward meeting specific degree or certificate re-
18 quirements.

19 “(B) Common course numbering for sub-
20 stantially similar courses in such common gen-
21 eral education core curriculum.

22 “(C) A guarantee that an associate degree
23 in an academic major in the arts or sciences
24 that is awarded by a public institution of higher
25 education in the State on or after July 1, 2014,

1 shall be fully acceptable in transfer and credited
2 as the first 2 years of a related baccalaureate
3 program at a public institution of higher edu-
4 cation in such State.

5 “(3) EXCEPTION FOR TRIBAL COLLEGES AND
6 UNIVERSITIES.—A Tribal College or University (as
7 defined in section 316) shall not be required to enter
8 into or otherwise participate in an articulation
9 agreement required under paragraph (2).

10 “(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
11 this subsection shall be construed to—

12 “(A) except as provided in paragraph (2),
13 authorize the Secretary or the National Advi-
14 sory Committee on Institutional Quality and In-
15 tegrity to require particular policies, proce-
16 dures, or practices by institutions of higher
17 education with respect to transfer of credit;

18 “(B) authorize an officer or employee of
19 the Department to exercise any direction, su-
20 pervision, or control over the curriculum, pro-
21 gram of instruction, administration, or per-
22 sonnel of any institution of higher education, or
23 over any accrediting agency or association;

24 “(C) limit the application of the General
25 Education Provisions Act;

1 “(D) require an institution of higher edu-
 2 cation to accept or enroll a student; or

3 “(E) create any legally enforceable right,
 4 including with respect to a guarantee under
 5 paragraph (2)(C), on the part of a student to
 6 require an institution of higher education to ac-
 7 cept the student for enrollment or to accept a
 8 transfer of credit from another institution.”.

9 (b) ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS.—Section 486A(b)
 10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 11 1093a(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)—

13 (A) by inserting “that meet the require-
 14 ments of section 485(h)(2)” after “comprehen-
 15 sive articulation agreements”;

16 (B) by inserting “comprehensive articula-
 17 tion agreements” after “practicable”;

18 (C) by striking “2010” and inserting
 19 “2014”; and

20 (D) by striking the third sentence, includ-
 21 ing subparagraphs (A) through (D); and

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the pe-
 23 riod at the end the following: “and section
 24 485(h)(2)”.

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