

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4348

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. POLIS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mr. GRIJALVA) 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 2014”.

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 undergradu-
12 ate 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 “Each institution of higher
 9 education” and inserting the following:

10 “(A) PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.—Each insti-
 11 tution of higher education that is not described
 12 in subparagraph (B) and that is”;

13 (B) by redesigning subparagraphs (A) and
 14 (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

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

16 “(B) PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—Each public
 17 institution of higher education participating in
 18 any program under this title shall—

19 “(i) not later than July 1, 2017, pub-
 20 licly disclose on a central location, and in
 21 a readable and comprehensible manner, on
 22 the website of such institution—

23 “(I) a list of the public institu-
 24 tions of higher education that hold an

1 articulation agreement in common
2 with the institution;

3 “(II) a list of the courses in the
4 common general education core cur-
5 riculum of such public institutions of
6 higher education; and

7 “(III) a description of each asso-
8 ciate degree program at a public insti-
9 tution of higher education in the State
10 that is acceptable in transfer and will
11 provide credit toward the first 2 years
12 of a related baccalaureate program at
13 a public institution of higher edu-
14 cation in such State, including each
15 such associate degree program that is
16 fully acceptable in transfer and will be
17 credited as the first 2 years of a bac-
18 calaureate program; and

19 “(ii) to the extent practicable, in each
20 electronic and printed publication of the
21 institution’s course schedule published on
22 or after July 1, 2017, in a manner of the
23 institution’s choosing, for each course or
24 program of study listed in the institution’s
25 course schedule, whether such course or

1 program of study is part of the common
2 general education core curriculum at the
3 institution and transferable for credit to-
4 ward the completion of a degree at any
5 public institution of higher education listed
6 under clause (i)(I).

7 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of sub-
8 paragraph (B), the terms ‘articulation agree-
9 ment’ and ‘common general education core cur-
10 riculum’ have the meanings given such terms in
11 paragraph (2).”; and

12 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(2) ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS.—Except as
15 provided in paragraph (3), each public institution of
16 higher education participating in any program under
17 this title shall, not later than July 1, 2017, enter
18 into an articulation agreement (as defined in section
19 486A(a)) held in common with the other public insti-
20 tutions of higher education that are in the State in
21 which the institution is located and that are partici-
22 pating in any such program. Such articulation
23 agreement shall, at a minimum, include the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(A) A common general education core
2 curriculum consisting of not less than 30 credit
3 hours or the equivalent coursework, which are
4 fully acceptable in transfer at any such public
5 institution of higher education in the State to-
6 ward meeting specific degree or certificate re-
7 quirements.

8 “(B) Common course numbering for sub-
9 stantially similar courses in such common gen-
10 eral education core curriculum.

11 “(C) A guarantee that an associate degree
12 in an academic major in the arts or sciences
13 that is awarded by a public institution of higher
14 education in the State on or after July 1, 2017,
15 shall be fully acceptable in transfer and credited
16 as the first 2 years of a related baccalaureate
17 program at a public institution of higher edu-
18 cation in such State.

19 “(3) EXCEPTION FOR TRIBAL COLLEGES AND
20 UNIVERSITIES.—A Tribal College or University (as
21 defined in section 316) shall not be required to enter
22 into or otherwise participate in an articulation
23 agreement required under paragraph (2).

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

“(A) except as provided in paragraph (2), authorize the Secretary or the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity to require particular policies, procedures, or practices by institutions of higher education with respect to transfer of credit;

“(B) authorize an officer or employee of the Department to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any institution of higher education, or over any accrediting agency or association;

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

“(D) require an institution of higher education to accept or enroll a student; or

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

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

1 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

5 (B) by inserting “comprehensive articula-
6 tion agreements” after “practicable”;

7 (C) by striking “2010” and inserting
8 “2017”; and

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

11 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the pe-
12 riod at the end the following: “and section
13 485(h)(2)”.

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