

SB 76 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies Transfer Student Bill of Rights to incorporate foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish advisory committee to advise on implementation of Transfer Student Bill of Rights, foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements. Provides process for community college or public university to request modification to and resolve disagreements over unified statewide transfer agreements. Modifies requirements for Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit annual reports to Legislative Assembly relating to credit transfers, foundational curricula, and unified statewide transfer agreements. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene stakeholders to assist in aligning dual credit programs with foundational curricula by December 1, 2021 and specifies requirements. Modifies requirements for Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit annual reports to Legislative Assembly relating to accelerated college credit programs and specifies operative date as July 1, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Transfer Student Bill of Rights was first enacted in House Bill 3521 (2011), requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to develop standards designed to streamline the process of transferring academic credit between higher education institutions, particularly from community colleges to public universities. The measure sought to minimize the number of additional credits that students must earn upon transferring by requiring HECC to identify which majors are likely to require certain courses, and specifying those courses to students before they transfer.

Further legislative action on credit transfer came with House Bill 2998 (2017), which established foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements. Foundational curricula, also known as Core Transfer Maps, are common sets of courses of at least 30 credits, or about a year's worth, that a student may pursue in order to simplify transferring between institutions. Unified statewide transfer agreements, also known as Major Transfer Maps, are similar, but are more comprehensive and designed around particular academic majors.

Senate Bill 76 modifies the Transfer Student Bill of Rights to incorporate foundational curricula and unified statewide transfer agreements, requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to establish advisory committee to advise on implementation, and modifies requirements for the commission to submit annual reports to the legislature on these topics. Declares emergency, effective on passage.