

1 SB77
2 166033-3
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs
5 First Read: 03-MAR-15

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

10
11 Relating to postsecondary education; to require a
12 public two-year college to award an associate degree to a
13 student who transfers from that college to a public four-year
14 college and earns the semester hour credits and meets other
15 graduation qualifications for an associate degree.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

17 Section 1. A new Section 16-5-8.5 is added to the
18 Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

19 §16-5-8.5.

20 (a) For purposes of this section, the following
21 words shall have the following meanings:

22 (1) ASSOCIATE DEGREE. An Associate of Applied
23 Technology, an Associate of Arts, an Associate of Occupational
24 Technology, an Associate of Science, or an Associate of
25 Applied Science Degree.

26 (2) FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE. A public four-year college of
27 higher learning or Athens State University.

1 (3) TRANSFER STUDENT. A student who has earned at
2 least 15 semester hour credits from a two-year college and who
3 subsequently transfers to a four-year college.

4 (4) TWO-YEAR COLLEGE. A public two-year college of
5 higher learning.

6 (b) The Chancellor of the Department of
7 Postsecondary Education, in cooperation with the
8 administration of the four-year colleges, shall develop and
9 implement a program that requires a two-year college to award
10 an associate degree to a transfer student who accumulates 60
11 semester hour credits, provided the student meets the
12 requirements for the associate degree.

13 (c) The Articulation and General Studies Committee
14 shall notify a transfer student once the student accumulates a
15 combined total of 60 semester hour credits and, after
16 obtaining the student's permission, transmit the student's
17 email address to the two-year college from which the student
18 transferred.

19 (d) The two-year college notified pursuant to
20 subsection (c) shall conduct a degree audit to determine
21 whether the transfer student qualifies for an associate degree
22 and shall either award the degree or notify the student of
23 additional coursework that the student must successfully
24 complete in order to qualify for an associate degree.

25 (e) Nothing in this section limits the ability of
26 the governing boards of two-year and four-year colleges to

1 develop reverse transfer agreements that are consistent with
2 the intent of this section.

3 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
4 first day of the third month following its passage and
5 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate
committee on Education & Youth Affairs..... 03-MAR-15

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-
dar with 1 substitute and..... 18-MAR-15

Read for the third time and passed as amended 31-MAR-15

Yeas 34
Nays 0

Patrick Harris
Secretary