

1 SB77
2 164428-1
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD: Education & Youth Affairs
5 First Read: 03-MAR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a student who transfers
9 from a public two-year college to a public
10 four-year college who has not earned sufficient
11 credits to qualify for an associate degree cannot
12 apply credits the student earns while attending the
13 four-year college toward an associate degree.

14 This bill would authorize a public two-year
15 college to offer an associate degree to a student
16 who transfers from that college to a public
17 four-year college and subsequently earns the
18 semester hour credits and meets other graduation
19 qualifications for an associate degree, subject to
20 a degree audit.

21 This bill would require a public two-year
22 college to conduct a degree audit for a student who
23 transfers from that college to a public four-year
24 college and subsequently earns 60 semester hour
25 credits.

26 This bill would require a four-year college
27 to notify a student when he or she qualifies for a

1 degree audit by a public two-year college from
2 which the student transferred.

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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT
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8 Relating to postsecondary education; to require a
9 public two-year college to offer an associate degree to a
10 student who transfers from that college to a public four-year
11 college and subsequently earns the semester hour credits and
12 other graduation qualifications for an associate degree; to
13 require a public two-year college to conduct a degree audit
14 for a student who transfers from that college to a public
15 four-year college and subsequently earns 60 semester hour
16 credits; and to require a four-year college to notify a
17 student when he or she qualifies for a degree audit by a
18 public two-year college from which the student transferred.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. (a) As used in this section, the
21 following words shall have the following meanings:

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

25 (2) FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE. A public four-year college of
26 higher learning.

1 (3) TWO-YEAR COLLEGE. A public two-year college of
2 higher learning.

3 (b) The Chancellor of the Department of
4 Postsecondary Education, in consultation with the Commission
5 on Higher Education, shall develop and implement a program
6 that reduces a potential barrier to degree completion by
7 providing students the opportunity to take advantage of
8 credits earned while attending a two-year college who transfer
9 to a four-year college before earning an associate degree. The
10 program shall authorize a two-year college to offer an
11 associate degree to a student who transfers from the two-year
12 college to a four-year college and subsequently accumulates 60
13 semester hour credits. A student who meets the requirements
14 set forth in this subsection shall be subject to a degree
15 audit by the two-year college to determine whether the student
16 qualifies for an associate degree, and if so, be entitled to
17 receive the associate degree from the two-year college.

18 (c) Each four-year college shall notify in writing:

19 (1) A student who meets the eligibility requirements
20 in subsection (b) that the student qualifies for a degree
21 audit by the two-year college from which the student
22 transferred, and information concerning the process for a
23 student to be awarded an associate degree in the future if the
24 degree requirements are not met or the student declines the
25 associate degree at the time of qualification.

26 (2) The two-year college that the student qualifies
27 for a degree audit, along with the student's transcript.

1 (d) The two-year college notified pursuant to
2 subsection (c) shall conduct a degree audit to determine
3 whether the student qualifies for an associate degree and
4 shall award the degree to the student unless the student
5 declines the award. If the student does not qualify, the
6 two-year college shall notify the student of additional
7 courses that the student must successfully complete in order
8 to qualify for an associate degree.

9 (e) Nothing in this section limits the ability of
10 the governing boards of two-year and four-year colleges to
11 develop reverse transfer agreements that are consistent with
12 the intent of this section.

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