

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 672 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

As Engrossed: S2/17/05

A Bill

SENATE BILL 247

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5 By: Senators Trusty, Altes, Baker, J. Bookout, Bryles, Glover, Hendren, Higginbotham, Holt, Horn, B.
6 Johnson, Laverty, Steele, J. Taylor, Whitaker, Wilkinson, Womack, Wooldridge, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress
7 By: Representatives George, Burris, Anderson, Berry, Borhauer, Dickinson, Dunn, Everett, J.
8 Hutchinson, T. Hutchinson, Kidd, Lamoureux, M. Martin, Matayo, Overbey, Rainey, Saunders, Wells,
9 Wills

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12 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

13 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND TRANSFER
14 AGREEMENTS AMONG COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN
15 ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

16
17 **Subtitle**

18 AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND TRANSFER
19 AGREEMENTS AMONG COLLEGES AND
20 UNIVERSITIES IN ARKANSAS.

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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 SECTION 1. Creation of a statewide comprehensive transfer policy.

26 (a)(1) By December 1, 2006, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating
27 Board shall implement a transfer curriculum for all state public colleges and
28 universities.

29 (2)(A) The transfer curriculum shall be known as the "State
30 Minimum Core Curriculum" and shall incorporate and replace the existing state
31 minimum core as set forth in Arkansas Code § 6-61-218.

32 (B) The State Minimum Core Curriculum shall include
33 freshman and sophomore level general education courses offered at the
34 Arkansas public colleges and universities and shall be accepted for full
35 credit in that subject-matter area of emphasis at all public colleges and



1 universities.

2 (3) Private institutions of higher education in Arkansas may
3 participate in the State Minimum Core Curriculum.

4 (4) If a course is included in the State Minimum Core
5 Curriculum, the course shall be accepted for full credit in that area of
6 emphasis at all public colleges and universities in Arkansas.

7 (b) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation
8 with the colleges and universities, shall develop the criteria and guidelines
9 for the development of the State Minimum Core Curriculum.

10 (c)(1) By December 1, 2006, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating
11 Board shall publish an Internet-based student manual that identifies and
12 describes how general education courses at public institutions of higher
13 education transfer to other public institutions of higher education within
14 Arkansas.

15 (2) General information concerning the State Minimum Core
16 Curriculum, including the web-page link, shall be published in all versions
17 of course catalogs of all public colleges and universities.

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19 SECTION 2. Guidelines for course review.

20 (a)(1) Arkansas public colleges and universities shall submit to the
21 Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board an application for courses to be
22 included in the State Minimum Core Curriculum.

23 (2) Courses shall be reviewed and recommended by a peer review
24 project team established in the discipline.

25 (b)(1)(A) The Department of Higher Education shall establish peer
26 review project teams composed of faculty members of Arkansas universities and
27 two-year colleges.

28 (B) The peer review project team for each discipline shall
29 include no less than four (4) faculty members equally divided between two-
30 year and four-year institutions who teach in the discipline. Members shall
31 be appointed by a majority vote of the Executive Council of Presidents and
32 Chancellors of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

33 (2)(A) The peer review project team for each discipline shall
34 review and recommend to the Department of Higher Education courses in the
35 applicable discipline to be recommended to the Arkansas Higher Education
36 Coordinating Board for inclusion in the State Minimum Core Curriculum.

1 (B)(i) Courses not receiving a recommendation by the peer
2 review project team shall receive from the peer review project team suggested
3 improvements or revisions for the course or its application.

4 (ii) Colleges and universities may resubmit course
5 applications to the peer review project team if the original application is
6 not recommended to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, after
7 appropriate adjustments have been made based on the suggested improvements or
8 revisions from the peer review project team.

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10 SECTION 3. Reporting.

11 All public institutions of higher education and any participating
12 private institutions of higher education shall file a report annually within
13 the Department of Higher Education identifying the number of students who
14 requested transfer credit for a completed course in the State Minimum Core
15 Curriculum but were not given credit.

16
17 /s/ Trusty
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20 **APPROVED: 3/09/2005**
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