

SENATE BILL 2362

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 2, relative to the duties of the Tennessee higher education commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-202(e), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(e)

(1) The commission shall require the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee board of regents systems to collaborate and develop a transfer pathway for at least the fifty (50) undergraduate majors for which the demand from students is the highest and in those fields of study for which the development of a transfer pathway is feasible based on the nature of the field of study.

(2)

(A) A transfer pathway shall consist of sixty (60) hours of instruction that a student can transfer and apply toward the requirements for a bachelor's degree at a public institution that offers the transfer pathway. The sixty (60) hours of instruction in a transfer pathway shall consist of forty-one (41) hours of general education courses instruction and nineteen (19) hours of pre-major courses instruction, or elective courses instruction that count toward a major, as prescribed by the commission, which shall consider the views of chief academic officers and faculty senates of the respective campuses. Courses in a transfer

pathway shall transfer and apply toward the requirements for graduation with a bachelor's degree at all public universities.

(B) An associate of science or associate of arts degree graduate from a Tennessee community college shall be deemed to have met all general education and university parallel core requirements for transfer to a Tennessee public university as a junior. Notwithstanding this subdivision (e)(2)(B), admission into a particular program, school or college within a university or into the University of Tennessee, Knoxville shall remain competitive in accordance with generally applicable policies.

(C) The forty-one-hour lower division general education core common to all state colleges and universities shall be fully transferable as a block to, and satisfy the general education core of, any public community college or university. A completed subject category, for example, natural sciences or mathematics, within the forty-one-hour general education core shall also be fully transferable and satisfy that subject category of the general education core at any public community college or university.

(D) The nineteen-hour lower division AA/AS area of emphasis articulated to a baccalaureate major shall be universally transferable as a block satisfying lower division major requirements to any state university offering that degree program major.

(3) It is the legislative intent that community college students who wish to earn baccalaureate degrees in the state's public higher education system be provided with clear and effective information and directions that specify curricular paths to a degree. To meet the intent of this section, the commission, in consultation with the board of regents and the University of Tennessee board of trustees, shall develop, and the board of regents and the University of Tennessee board of trustees shall implement, the following:

(A) A common course numbering system, taking into consideration efforts already undertaken, within the community colleges to address the requirements of subdivision (e)(1); and

(B) Listings of course offerings that clearly identify courses that are not university parallel courses and therefore not designed to be transferable under subdivision (e)(1).

(4) This subsection (e) shall be fully implemented no later than the fall 2015 semester. Until this subsection (e) is fully implemented, prior to the beginning of each semester, the commission shall report to the chairs of the education and finance, ways and means committees of both the house of representatives and the senate on the progress made toward completion of the nineteen (19) pre-major course blocks provided in subdivision (e)(1)(D).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-202(g), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting in its place the following:

(g) Notwithstanding any law or rule to the contrary, the commission, in consultation with the board of regents and the University of Tennessee board of trustees, shall develop policies under which any person who satisfies the admissions requirements of any two-year institution governed by the board of regents and any four-year institution governed by the board of regents or the University of Tennessee board of trustees may be admitted to both such institutions. The commission shall identify those institutions for which such dual admission is appropriate, based on geographic or programmatic considerations. These policies shall be adopted and implemented by the board of regents and the University of Tennessee board of trustees no later than July 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.