

# HOUSE BILL 1159

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11r2472

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By: **Delegate Thiam**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Community College Credits – General Education Courses**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in collaboration  
4 with the public institutions of higher education in the State, to develop and  
5 implement a statewide transfer agreement whereby all general education credits  
6 that a student earns at any community college in the State toward an associate of  
7 arts or associate of science degree shall be transferable to any public senior higher  
8 education institution in the State for credit toward a bachelor's degree without  
9 further review or a testing requirement; and generally relating to transferring  
10 general education credits between public institutions of higher education in the  
11 State.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 11–207  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 11–207.

21 (a) The Commission shall:

22 (1) Establish procedures for transfer of students between the public  
23 segments of postsecondary education;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Recommend cooperative programs among segments of postsecondary  
2 education to assure appropriate flexibility in the higher education system; and

3 (3) In conjunction with the governing boards, establish standards for  
4 articulation agreements.

5 (b) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher  
6 education, shall develop and implement a statewide transfer agreement whereby [at]:

7 (1) **ALL GENERAL EDUCATION CREDITS THAT A STUDENT EARNS AT**  
8 **ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE TOWARD AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR**  
9 **ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE SHALL BE TRANSFERABLE TO ANY PUBLIC SENIOR**  
10 **HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN THE STATE FOR CREDIT TOWARD A**  
11 **BACHELOR'S DEGREE WITHOUT:**

12 (I) **FURTHER REVIEW BY A PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER**  
13 **EDUCATION INSTITUTION; OR**

14 (II) **A TESTING REQUIREMENT; AND**

15 (2) **AT** least 60 credits of general education, elective, and major courses  
16 that a student earns at any community college in the State toward an associate of arts or  
17 associate of science degree shall be transferable to any public senior higher education  
18 institution in the State for credit toward a bachelor's degree by July 1, 2016.

19 (c) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher  
20 education, shall develop and implement a statewide reverse transfer agreement whereby  
21 at least 30 credits that a student earns at any public senior higher education institution in  
22 the State toward a bachelor's degree are transferable to any community college in the State  
23 for credit toward an associate's degree by July 1, 2016.

24 (d) The Commission and each public institution of higher education shall develop  
25 and implement incentives for students to obtain an associate's degree before enrolling in a  
26 public senior institution of higher education.

27 (e) The Commission may recommend procedures and guidelines for consideration  
28 by the governing boards of institutions of postsecondary education on:

29 (1) Improvement and coordination of student financial assistance  
30 programs; and

31 (2) Other subjects of general interest and concern to the higher education  
32 community in the State.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
34 1, 2021.