

HCS HB 2310 -- HIGHER EDUCATION CORE CURRICULA

SPONSOR: Parker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 15 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2310.

This bill specifies that, prior to June 30, 2026, the coordinating board, with the assistance of an advisory committee, shall approve a 60 credit hour transferable lower-division courses and common course numbering equivalency matrix for at least five applicable degree programs with substantial enrollment beginning in the 2027-28 academic year. Each public institution of higher education, offering the approved degree programs, shall include in its programs of study an approved 60 hour program equivalency matrix.

If a student successfully completes the transferable lower-division courses at a public institution of higher education, such courses may be transferred and shall be substituted for core curriculum courses in the same degree program at a receiving institution. The transferring student receives credit towards the student's degree and is not required to take additional core classes for the same degree program at the receiving institution. Transferring students who have not fully completed the transferable coursework curriculum may be required to satisfy further course requirements at the receiving institution.

The coordinating board shall report to the House Higher Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee on progress related to the requirements of the bill.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this legislation ensures that earned credit hours are honored and Missourians are not charged more than necessary for having to make up for classes that are not honored by a receiving institution when a student transfers. This legislation gives public institutions of higher education a clear path allowing for the transfer of all credits earned between schools. Current students are losing too many earned hours because receiving institutions are not required to accept certain completed courses. This legislation would ensure that students' credit, earned through approved course work, is honored at a receiving institution.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Parker; Three Rivers College; Missouri Community College Association; St. Louis Community College; Brent Bates, State Fair Community College; Ozarks Technical Community College; Metropolitan Community College; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill's focus is too narrow. This bill only addresses general education courses and does not address transfer credits for upper level courses. Opponents agreed with the general concept of the bill, but the current iteration of the bill has consequences that negatively affect a student's expected time to graduate.

Testifying in person against the bill were Council on Public Higher Education; and the University of Missouri System.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.