

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 3024

BY DELEGATES ELLINGTON, STATLER, TONEY, T. CLARK,

WILLIS, MALLOW, HORNBY, WARD, BARNHART,

STEPHENS, AND SHAMBLIN

[Passed April 10, 2025; in effect 90 days from

passage (July 9, 2025)]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §18B-14-5, relating to the guaranteed transfer of credit for courses completed
3 in career pathways between high schools, career and technical education centers,
4 community and technical colleges, and baccalaureate institutions; imposing duties on the
5 Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for Community and Technical
6 College Education; establishing a statewide guaranteed transfer and articulation advisory
7 committee; setting forth membership of the advisory committee; allowing for
8 subcommittees; requiring the commission and the council to oversee the development of
9 a statewide articulation and guaranteed transfer agreement and setting forth parameters
10 therefore; requiring the commission and the council, in collaboration with the advisory
11 committee, to develop, coordinate, and maintain guaranteed degree transfer pathways for
12 selected baccalaureate programs and the parameters therefore; setting forth additional
13 requirements for guaranteed statewide transfer pathways; and requiring the commission
14 and council to propose rules for legislative approval.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 14. MISCELLANEOUS.

**§18B-14-5. Guaranteed transfer of credit for courses completed in career pathways
between high schools, career and technical education centers, community and
technical colleges and baccalaureate institutions.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) The state has an increasing need for individuals with a postsecondary credential or
3 degree;

4 (2) Over 40 percent of bachelor's degree completers nationally attended more than one
5 postsecondary institution, making student transfer a critical priority; and

6 (3) Implementing a seamless education system with uniform guaranteed transfer of credits
7 among post-secondary institutions in the state would greatly benefit students by reducing costs
8 and increasing degree completion rates.

9 (b) The commission and council jointly shall:

10 (1) Oversee the development, implementation, and maintenance of guaranteed statewide
11 transfer pathways as provided herein;

12 (2) Develop statewide guaranteed transfer frameworks and agreements to govern the
13 granting and transfer of credit awarded through completion of courses and through competency-
14 based and prior learning assessments; and

15 (3) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students
16 and receiving institutions of higher education regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits
17 earned at or awarded by another institution.

18 (c) To effectuate the purposes of this section, the chancellors or their respective designees
19 shall establish a statewide guaranteed transfer and articulation advisory committee, referred to in
20 this section as the "advisory committee," and any necessary subcommittees. The advisory
21 committee shall report to the chancellors or their respective designees, who may present its
22 recommendations and decisions to the commission and the council for approval.

23 (1) The advisory committee shall consist of at least one representative from each of the
24 state institutions of higher education as recommended by the institutional presidents and deemed
25 appropriate and necessary by the chancellors or their respective designees. The chancellors or
26 their respective designees shall appoint a chair or co-chairs from among the membership.

27 (2) Subcommittees may be formed on an ad hoc basis as deemed necessary by the
28 chancellors or their respective designees to address specific topics or tasks related to guaranteed
29 transfer and articulation.

30 (d) The commission and the council shall oversee the development of a statewide
31 articulation and guaranteed transfer agreement, which shall, at a minimum:

32 (1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common degree program
33 prerequisites between and among public institutions;

34 (2) Guarantee the transfer of all courses contained in a transfer pathway as established in
35 this section as credit in courses that satisfy general education or other specific program
36 requirements;

37 (3) Guarantee that every graduate of a community and technical college awarded an
38 associate degree that has been approved by the commission or the council for transfer to a public
39 baccalaureate institution shall be deemed to have met all general education requirements and
40 shall be granted admission to the upper division of any program offered by such public
41 baccalaureate institution, unless a specific program has limited capacity or has audition or other
42 specialized admissions requirements that are approved by the commission or council;

43 (4) Provide that graduates awarded an associate degree approved by the commission or
44 council for guaranteed transfer and who transfer to a public baccalaureate institution shall not be
45 required to take any additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree
46 requirements;

47 (5) Provide that graduates awarded an associate degree approved by the commission or
48 council for guaranteed transfer shall be automatically admitted to any public baccalaureate
49 institution and given priority for enrollment over out-of-state students;

50 (6) Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical education
51 programs, workforce development programs, and transfer of earned college-level course credits
52 between secondary schools and community and technical colleges;

53 (7) Provide for acceptance by institutions of higher education of credits earned in
54 accelerated programs such as dual enrollment and the Advanced Placement, International
55 Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination programs; and

56 (8) Provide for consistent acceptance by the public institutions of higher education of
57 credits earned through competency-based education and prior learning assessments.

58 (e) The commission and the council, in collaboration with the advisory committee, shall
59 develop, coordinate, and maintain guaranteed degree transfer pathways for selected
60 baccalaureate programs, including those that are in demand across the state or prepare
61 graduates for careers in industries such as nursing and hospitality/tourism, which programs shall
62 be defined and identified by the commission and the council in consultation with the advisory
63 committee. At a minimum, the guaranteed transfer pathways shall:

64 (1) Consist of 60 hours of instruction resulting in an associate degree that can be
65 transferred and applied in full toward the requirements for a baccalaureate degree at a public
66 baccalaureate institution;

67 (2) Include dual enrollment courses completed in high school or at a career and technical
68 education center that are part of an approved guaranteed transfer pathway. The chancellors or
69 their designees shall ensure these courses are recognized for college credit upon successful
70 completion and shall apply to the student's approved program of study if the courses align with
71 the student's chosen college major;

72 (3) Fulfill all general education requirements and any other lower-division requirements for
73 graduation within the program offered at any public baccalaureate institution; and

74 (4) Include relevant industry credentials or other microcredentials that prepare students
75 for specific jobs within selected in-demand and growing industries and that move individuals along
76 a career pathway or up a career ladder, and which can be combined to meet the requirements of
77 one or more related bachelor's degree programs.

78 (f) A student who completes all of the requirements of a specific guaranteed transfer
79 pathway, including approved dual enrollment courses completed during high school or at a career
80 and technical education center, and who transfers to an associated program at a public
81 baccalaureate institution shall not be required to complete more than the total credits required for
82 the baccalaureate degree, less the 60 hours of credit earned in the guaranteed transfer pathway.

83 (g) The guaranteed transfer pathways approved by the commission and council shall be
84 mandatory for all public institutions to accept and shall be recognized universally as guaranteed
85 statewide transfer pathways. All courses included in the approved transfer pathways shall be
86 accepted as meeting general education or program-specific requirements at the receiving
87 institution. The commission and council may, upon the recommendation of the chancellors,
88 approve exceptions to this requirement in cases where such arrangements would present a
89 hardship to the institution, cause the institution to be in violation of standards established by
90 regional or program-specific accrediting bodies, or for other good cause shown.

91 (h) The commission and council shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance
92 with the provisions of §18B-1-6 and §29A-3A-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement the provisions
93 of this section.

The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

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Clerk of the Senate

Originated in the House of Delegates.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

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President of the Senate

The within is this the.....
Day of, 2025.

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Governor