

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1147

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-2102, IDAHO CODE, TO  
2 PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFERABILITY OF CERTAIN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
3 CREDITS; AMENDING SECTION 33-2205, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN  
4 POSTSECONDARY CREDITS SHALL TRANSFER AT FULL CREDIT VALUE UNDER CERTAIN  
5 CONDITIONS; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 37, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDI-  
6 TION OF A NEW SECTION 33-3728, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFER OF  
7 COLLEGE CREDITS BETWEEN IDAHO PUBLIC COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES.  
8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

10 SECTION 1. That Section 33-2102, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 33-2102. COURSES OF STUDY. A community college established pursuant  
13 to the provisions of this chapter shall give instruction in academic sub-  
14 jects, and in such nonacademic subjects as shall be authorized by its board  
15 of trustees.

16 The academic courses given and the instruction therein shall be of the  
17 same standard as the same are given and taught in the first two (2) years of  
18 any other state institution of higher education, and credits therefor shall  
19 be accepted by other state institutions for credit toward a baccalaureate  
20 degree, as more specifically set forth and required by section 33-3728,  
21 Idaho Code.

22 SECTION 2. That Section 33-2205, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 33-2205. STATE BOARD TO APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR -- DESIGNATION OF AS-  
25 SISTANTS -- DIVISION OF CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION -- DUTIES AND POWERS. (1)  
26 The state board of education shall appoint a person to serve as an adminis-  
27 trator to the state board for career technical education, who shall be known  
28 as the administrator of career technical education. The administrator shall  
29 designate, by and with the advice and consent of the state board for career  
30 technical education, such assistants as may be necessary to properly carry  
31 out the provisions of the federal acts and this chapter for the state of  
32 Idaho. The administrator and such assistants shall together be known as the  
33 division of career technical education.

34 (2) The administrator of career technical education shall also carry  
35 into effect such rules as the state board for career technical education may  
36 adopt, and shall coordinate all efforts in career technical education ap-  
37 proved by the board with the executive secretary, and shall prepare such re-  
38 ports concerning the condition of career technical education in the state as  
39 the state board for career technical education may require.

1 (3) The division of career technical education shall coordinate with  
2 the Idaho digital learning academy to provide approved online career techni-  
3 cal education courses to any Idaho school district.

4 (4) The division of career technical education may provide incentives  
5 to Idaho public colleges and universities offering career technical pro-  
6 grams that, in coordination with the division, align their foundational  
7 courses that are required in the same or substantially similar programs of  
8 study so as to achieve uniformity and transferability in the core program  
9 requirements at all such public colleges and universities. ~~The purpose of~~  
10 ~~uniformity is to ensure that p~~Postsecondary credits earned by a student in  
11 a career technical education program ~~will~~ shall transfer at the full credit  
12 value to any public Idaho college or university in a like program of study  
13 and ~~to ensure that~~ such postsecondary credits will be treated by any such  
14 public college or university as satisfying specific course requirements in  
15 ~~the student's~~ such program of study.

16 (5) The state board of education may promulgate rules to implement the  
17 provisions of subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

18 SECTION 3. That Chapter 37, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
19 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
20 ignated as Section 33-3728, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

21 33-3728. TRANSFER OF CREDITS. (1) As used in this section, "region-  
22 ally accredited postsecondary institution" means an institution that is ac-  
23 credited by a regional accreditation organization that is recognized and in  
24 good standing with the United States department of education and that ac-  
25 credits entire colleges and universities rather than only courses or courses  
26 of study.

27 (2) All credits awarded a student by a regionally accredited postsec-  
28 ondary institution in Idaho shall transfer to any public college or univer-  
29 sity in Idaho admitting such student at full value toward the satisfaction  
30 of prerequisites and all other course requirements at the receiving institu-  
31 tion and shall not be subject to further approval by the receiving institu-  
32 tion, or any of its functionaries, except as provided in this section.

33 (3) Students transferring to any public college or university in Idaho  
34 shall be deemed to have satisfied all general education requirements as de-  
35 fined in the state board of education policies or rules upon completing the  
36 requirements for the associate of arts or associate of science degree, or  
37 upon satisfactorily completing the thirty-six (36) credit general education  
38 framework, as defined in the state board of education policies or rules, at  
39 regionally accredited postsecondary institutions in Idaho, and will not be  
40 required to complete any additional general education requirements at the  
41 receiving institution.

42 (4) Students transferring to any public college or university in Idaho  
43 shall be deemed to have satisfied all general education matriculated courses  
44 as defined in state board of education policies or rules upon completing the  
45 requirements for the associate of applied science degree at a regionally ac-  
46 credited public postsecondary institution in Idaho, and such courses will be  
47 applied towards the associated general education matriculated competency at  
48 the receiving institution.

1 (5) All general education matriculated credits, as defined in state  
2 board of education policies or rules, earned at a regionally accredited  
3 public postsecondary institution in Idaho by a student who has not completed  
4 the entire thirty-six (36) credit general education framework, as defined  
5 in state board of education policies or rules, or who has not completed the  
6 requirements for an associate of arts or associate of science degree, shall  
7 be deemed to transfer with the student to any public college or university in  
8 Idaho and shall be applied toward the associated general education matricu-  
9 lated competency requirements at the receiving institution.

10 (6) Students transferring to any four (4) year Idaho public college or  
11 university who hold an associate of applied science degree from a regionally  
12 accredited Idaho public postsecondary institution may pursue an interdis-  
13 ciplinary bachelor of applied science or a bachelor of applied technology de-  
14 gree focused on upper-level academic coursework at the receiving institu-  
15 tion.

16 (7) Whenever a receiving institution decides not to transfer credits in  
17 the manner requested by a student or applicant, or whenever an employee of  
18 the receiving institution orally expresses doubt to the student or applicant  
19 about the transferability of the student's credits, the receiving institu-  
20 tion must provide a written copy of this initial decision to the student or  
21 applicant and to the institution's president. The president shall, within  
22 fourteen (14) calendar days of receiving the initial decision, notify the  
23 student or applicant and the state board of education in writing of his or  
24 her decision affirming, modifying or reversing the initial decision and the  
25 reasons therefor. Within fourteen (14) calendar days of receiving the pres-  
26 ident's decision, the state board of education's designee shall notify the  
27 student or applicant, the president and the state board of education in writ-  
28 ing of his or her decision affirming, modifying or reversing the initial de-  
29 cision and the reasons therefor. The board shall thereafter affirm, reverse  
30 or modify its designee's action at its next regular meeting with written no-  
31 tice of its action to the student or applicant and the institution's pres-  
32 ident. The credits at issue will be treated in the manner directed by the  
33 state board of education's designee until the board takes action on the mat-  
34 ter.

35 (8) No Idaho public college or university shall discriminate against  
36 any applicant for admission or against any student because of credits that he  
37 or she may be able to transfer, or has transferred, to the public college or  
38 university pursuant to this section, any other provision of law, or any rule,  
39 policy, guideline or practice of the state board of education or the public  
40 college or university.

41 (9) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to:

42 (a) Invalidate any requirement that a student earn a specified number  
43 of credits at an Idaho public college or university in order to receive a  
44 degree from the institution;

45 (b) Require any Idaho public college or university to grant a student a  
46 degree within a specified period of time; or

47 (c) Amend the provisions of section 33-2205(4), Idaho Code, or expand  
48 the rights of career technical education students or applicants with  
49 respect to the transfer of credits from one institution to another.

1           (10) All Idaho public colleges and universities shall publish the cur-  
2   rent curriculum equivalencies of all courses on the state transfer web por-  
3   tal.

4           (11) The state board of education may promulgate rules to implement the  
5   provisions of this section.