

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1221

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-2102, IDAHO CODE, TO PRO-
2 VIDE A CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING SECTION 33-2205, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE
3 THAT CERTAIN POSTSECONDARY CREDITS SHALL TRANSFER AT FULL CREDIT VALUE
4 TO IDAHO PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 37, TI-
5 TLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-3728, IDAHO CODE,
6 TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING TRANSFER OF CREDITS.
7

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

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

11 33-2102. COURSES OF STUDY. A community college established pursuant
12 to the provisions of this chapter shall give instruction in academic sub-
13 jects, and in such nonacademic subjects as shall be authorized by its board
14 of trustees.

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

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

22 33-2205. STATE BOARD TO APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR -- DESIGNATION OF AS-
23 SISTANTS -- DIVISION OF CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION -- DUTIES AND POWERS. (1)
24 The state board of education shall appoint a person to serve as an adminis-
25 trator to the state board for career technical education, who shall be known
26 as the administrator of career technical education. The administrator shall
27 designate, by and with the advice and consent of the state board for career
28 technical education, such assistants as may be necessary to properly carry
29 out the provisions of the federal acts and this chapter for the state of
30 Idaho. The administrator and such assistants shall together be known as the
31 division of career technical education.

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

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

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

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

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

18 33-3728. TRANSFER OF CREDITS. (1) Any student who completes the re-
19 quirements for the associate of arts or associate of science degree at a
20 postsecondary institution accredited by a regional accrediting body recog-
21 nized by the state board of education will be considered as satisfying the
22 general education requirements, as defined by the state board of education,
23 upon transfer to a public postsecondary institution in Idaho and will not be
24 required to complete any additional general education requirements.

25 (2) A student who has completed the general education framework as de-
26 fined by the state board of education, without an associate of arts or as-
27 sociate of science degree, and transfers from a postsecondary institution
28 in Idaho accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the state
29 board of education will not be required to complete additional general ed-
30 ucation requirements at the receiving Idaho public postsecondary institu-
31 tion.

32 (3) If a student who has completed a general education course or general
33 education courses but has not completed the entire general education frame-
34 work; or has not earned an associate of arts or associate of science degree
35 from a postsecondary institution in Idaho accredited by a regional accred-
36 iting body recognized by the state board of education; or has earned an as-
37 sociate of applied science degree from a postsecondary institution in Idaho
38 accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the state board of
39 education; and transfers to a public postsecondary institution, those gen-
40 eral education course credits will be applied towards the associated general
41 education course requirements at the receiving public postsecondary insti-
42 tution.

43 (4) Any student who completes an associate of applied science degree at
44 a postsecondary institution in Idaho accredited by a regional accrediting
45 body recognized by the state board of education and meets the receiving in-
46 stitution's criteria for admission may pursue an interdisciplinary bachelor
47 of applied science or a bachelor of applied technology degree focused on up-
48 per-level academic coursework at any Idaho public postsecondary institution
49 that has such degree programs available.

1 (5) Receiving institutions must notify students in writing of all ini-
2 tial credit transfer decisions. Whenever a receiving institution makes an
3 initial credit transfer decision that results in credits not being trans-
4 ferred in a manner that moves the student toward certificate or degree com-
5 pletion or in the manner requested by a student or applicant, the receiving
6 institution must provide a written explanation of the credit transfer deci-
7 sion to the student or applicant specifying why the credits were not eligi-
8 ble for transfer or were not credited toward certificate or degree progress
9 and the policies and procedures available to the student to request recon-
10 sideration of the initial credit transfer decision. Written explanations
11 may be provided in an electronic format. Institutions shall report annually
12 to the state board of education the number of credits that were requested
13 to be transferred, the number of credits transferred, the number of credits
14 that were not applied toward certificate or degree progress, including those
15 credits that transferred as electives over the amount needed for certificate
16 or degree progress, and such other information requested by the state board
17 of education.

18 (6) No Idaho public postsecondary institution shall discriminate
19 against any student or applicant for admission due to the number of credits
20 that the student may be able to transfer, or has transferred, to the public
21 college or university pursuant to this section, any other provision of law,
22 or any rule, policy, guideline or practice of the state board of education or
23 the public postsecondary institution.

24 (7) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to:

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

28 (b) Require any Idaho public postsecondary institution to grant a stu-
29 dent a degree within a specified period of time; or

30 (c) Amend the provisions of section 33-2205(4), Idaho Code, or expand
31 the rights of career technical education students or applicants with
32 respect to the transfer of credits from one (1) institution to another.

33 (8) All public postsecondary institutions are responsible for working
34 to facilitate the effective and efficient transfer of students between pub-
35 lic Idaho postsecondary institutions. Institutions shall publish the cur-
36 rent curriculum equivalencies of all courses on the state board of education
37 transfer web portal.