



## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB5786

Introduced 2/16/2012, by Rep. Kay Hatcher

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act  
30 ILCS 805/8.36 new

Creates the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act. Provides that, commencing with the fall term of the 2014-2015 academic year, a community college student who enrolls in and subsequently earns an associate degree for transfer granted pursuant to the Act is deemed eligible for transfer into the baccalaureate program of a State university and must be considered to have fulfilled all lower division coursework in the major field of study. Requires each community college district to ensure that associate degrees for transfer adhere to the degree models under rules of the Illinois Community College Board, which shall include specific lower division courses in the major field of study that are comparable to the lower division courses in the major field of study at State universities, as agreed to by the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board. Requires a State university to guarantee junior status to any community college student who is admitted under the provisions of the Act. Sets forth provisions concerning coursework, reviews and reports by the Board of Higher Education, and implementation of the Act. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement.

LRB097 18736 NHT 63971 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Associate degree for transfer" means an associate of arts  
8 or associate of science degree, as defined in rules of the  
9 Illinois Community College Board.

10 "Community college" means a public community college in  
11 this State.

12 "State university" means a public university in this State.

13 Section 10. Associate degree for transfer.

14 (a) Commencing with the fall term of the 2014-2015 academic  
15 year, a community college student who enrolls in and  
16 subsequently earns an associate degree for transfer granted  
17 pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section is deemed eligible  
18 for transfer into the baccalaureate program of a State  
19 university and must be considered to have fulfilled all lower  
20 division coursework in the major field of study. While a  
21 student may apply for admission in the semester during which  
22 coursework for the associate degree will be completed, timely

1 completion of the degree is a condition of transfer under the  
2 provisions of this Act.

3 (b) Each community college district shall ensure that  
4 associate degrees for transfer adhere to the degree models  
5 under rules of the Illinois Community College Board, which  
6 shall include specific lower division courses in the major  
7 field of study that are comparable to the lower division  
8 courses in the major field of study at State universities, as  
9 agreed to by the Board of Higher Education and the Illinois  
10 Community College Board.

11 (c) The General Assembly encourages the Illinois Community  
12 College Board and the Board of Higher Education to make use of  
13 the Illinois Articulation Initiative major directives process  
14 to inform the development of the models referenced in  
15 subsection (b) of this Section.

16 (d) The General Assembly encourages community college  
17 districts to consider the articulation agreements and other  
18 work between the respective faculties from the affected  
19 community college and State universities in implementing the  
20 requirements of this Section.

21 (e) The General Assembly encourages community colleges to  
22 facilitate the acceptance of credits earned at other community  
23 colleges and from lower division courses completed at 4-year  
24 colleges and universities toward an associate degree for  
25 transfer pursuant to this Section.

26 (f) This Section does not preclude students who are

1 assessed below collegiate level from acquiring developmental  
2 coursework in preparation for obtaining an associate degree for  
3 transfer. Developmental coursework must not be counted as part  
4 of the transferable units required pursuant to subsection (b)  
5 of this Section.

6 Section 15. Admission to a State university.  
7 Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, a  
8 State university shall guarantee junior status to any community  
9 college student who is admitted under the provisions of this  
10 Act. Admission to a State university, as provided under this  
11 Act, does not guarantee admission to specific programs or  
12 specific majors.

13 Section 20. Coursework. A State university may require a  
14 student transferring pursuant to this Act to take additional  
15 courses at the State university so long as the student is not  
16 required to take more semester hours or the equivalent number  
17 of quarter hours, in combination with the associate degree for  
18 transfer and the baccalaureate degree, than would otherwise be  
19 required of a student native to that university in completing  
20 the baccalaureate degree. A minimum of 60 semester credit  
21 hours, or the equivalent number of quarter hours, taken at the  
22 community college must be counted toward the total minimum  
23 number of hours required for the baccalaureate degree. A State  
24 university may not require students transferring pursuant to

1 this Act to repeat courses that are similar to those taken at  
2 the community college that counted toward an associate degree  
3 for transfer granted pursuant to Section 10 of this Act,  
4 regardless of whether the credits earned and the courses  
5 required were offered at a different level. Pursuant to  
6 subsection (b) of Section 10 of this Act, a State university  
7 may not require individual review of lower division course  
8 equivalencies in the major by respective institutions.

9 Section 25. Board of Higher Education reviews and reports.

10 (a) The Board of Higher Education shall review the  
11 implementation of this Act and file a report on that review  
12 with the General Assembly on or before May 31, 2016, as  
13 provided in Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization  
14 Act.

15 (b) The Board of Higher Education shall review both of the  
16 following and file a report on that review with the General  
17 Assembly within 4 years after the effective date of this Act,  
18 as provided in Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization  
19 Act:

20 (1) The outcomes of implementation of this Act,  
21 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

22 (A) The number and percentage of community college  
23 students who earned an associate degree for transfer.

24 (B) The number and percentage of community college  
25 students who earned an associate degree for transfer

1 and subsequently transferred to a State university.

2 (C) The number and percentage of community college  
3 students who earned an associate degree for transfer  
4 and earned a baccalaureate degree from a State  
5 university pursuant to this Act.

6 (2) Recommendations for statutory changes necessary to  
7 facilitate the goal of a clear and transparent transfer  
8 process.

9 Section 30. Implementation of Act; intent. It is the intent  
10 of the General Assembly that the requirements placed on  
11 community college districts pursuant to this Act be carried out  
12 in the normal course of program development and approval,  
13 course scheduling, and degree issuance and do not represent any  
14 new activities or a higher level of service on the part of  
15 community college districts.

16 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding  
17 Section 8.36 as follows:

18 (30 ILCS 805/8.36 new)

19 Sec. 8.36. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8  
20 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the  
21 implementation of any mandate created by the Student Transfer  
22 Achievement Reform Act.