

SENATE BILL 395

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4lr1561
CF 4lr1560

By: **Senators Augustine and Rosapepe**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Credit Eligibility and Transfer of Credits – English as a**
3 **Second Language Courses**
4 **(Credit for All Language Learning (CALL) Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring a public community college to consider certain language
6 courses as eligible for certain credits toward an associate’s degree under certain
7 circumstances; requiring that certain credits for certain language or humanities
8 courses earned by students who transfer from certain community colleges to certain
9 institutions of higher education be transferable; prohibiting certain institutions of
10 higher education from denying the transfer of certain credits for certain language or
11 humanities courses for any reason; and generally relating to the transfer of credits
12 from community colleges to institutions of higher education.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 10–101(c) and (h)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Education
20 Section 11–207(c) and 15–117(b)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Education**

26 10–101.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

2 (h) (1) “Institution of higher education” means an institution of postsecondary
3 education that generally limits enrollment to graduates of secondary schools, and awards
4 degrees at either the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level.

5 (2) “Institution of higher education” includes public, private nonprofit, and
6 for-profit institutions of higher education.

7 11–207.

8 (c) (1) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher
9 education, shall develop and implement a statewide transfer agreement whereby at least
10 60 credits of general education, elective, and major courses that a student earns at any
11 community college in the State toward an associate of arts or associate of science degree
12 shall be transferable to any public senior higher education institution in the State for credit
13 toward a bachelor’s degree by July 1, 2016.

14 (2) (I) **THE AGREEMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
15 **SUBSECTION SHALL REQUIRE THAT ANY CREDITS EARNED FOR A COURSE AT A**
16 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15–117(B)(3) OF THIS**
17 **ARTICLE BE TRANSFERABLE TO ANY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE**
18 **STATE.**

19 (II) **AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE MAY**
20 **NOT DENY THE TRANSFER OF CREDITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF**
21 **THIS PARAGRAPH FOR ANY REASON.**

22 15–117.

23 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, beginning with
24 fall 2015, the standard number of credits required for an associate’s degree from a public
25 community college is 60 credit hours.

26 (2) The standard number of credits required under paragraph (1) of this
27 subsection does not apply if:

28 (i) The degree program is defined as more than a 2–year associate’s
29 degree;

30 (ii) Professional accreditation requires a higher number of credit
31 hours or requires course work that cannot be completed in 60 credits; or

32 (iii) Certification requirements result in a need for credit hours in
33 excess of 60.

1 **(3) A PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL CONSIDER A COURSE OR**
2 **PROGRAM FOR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE OR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER**
3 **AS ELIGIBLE FOR EITHER WORLD LANGUAGE OR HUMANITIES ELECTIVES CREDIT,**
4 **OR BOTH, TOWARD A STUDENT'S ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IF THE COURSE IS NOT**
5 **CLASSIFIED BY THE PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS A REMEDIAL COURSE.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2024.