



# Senate Education Committee

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

**Senate Bill 203, Printer's No. 172**  
**Prime Sponsor: Dinniman**

### **Existing Law**

This legislation amends Article XX-C of the Public School Code. Article XX-C provides for the transfer of credits between institutions of higher education. The content of this legislation was included in the Fiscal Code provisions enacted as part of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 State budgets. These provisions are set to expire on June 30, 2011. Senate Bill 203 transfers those provisions back into the Public School Code of 1949.

### **Analysis**

Senate Bill 203 amends Article XX-C, which deals with the transfer of credits between institutions of higher education. This provides that Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees are transferable into a parallel baccalaureate program with full junior standing, consistent with processes developed with faculty input. This represents the mainstream approach across the country. The full implementation date for such changes is December 31, 2012. The Fiscal Code provisions called for full implementation by December 31, 2011. After discussions with the Department of Education and other higher education stakeholders, a change in this date was recommended in order to provide more time for the program alignment. Currently, there are three programs that are near alignment completion.

Parallel programs are those that exist as of the date of passage of the original Fiscal Code provisions (October 9, 2009); any new programs would evolve under the guidance of the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee (TAOC). TAOC, comprised of faculty from both sectors, would be empowered to work out the specific details necessary for the program, thereby ensuring strong faculty participation.

Each State-Related institution was required to identify up to 30 credit hours for transfer, and may identify more. The State Related institution must make this information available on its website. Nothing in the bill would infringe upon the State-Related institution's authority with regard to acceptance of student for transfer, acceptance into a major, campus assignment, and the determination of how many and which credit hours apply for the transfer student towards the completion of a degree requirements.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011 or immediately, whichever is later, and is retroactive to October 9, 2009.