

18A:62-46

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2007 **CHAPTER:** 175
NJSA: 18A:62-46 (Provides for the transfer of certain college credits)
BILL NO: A3968 (Substituted for S2535)

SPONSOR(S): Lampitt and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 8, 2007

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Higher Education

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** February 22, 2007

SENATE: June 18, 2007

DATE OF APPROVAL: September 13, 2007

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) (First reprint enacted)

A3968

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: [ASSEMBLY:](#) [Yes](#)

[SENATE:](#) [Yes](#)

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S2535

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

[SENATE:](#) [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

[GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:](#) [Yes](#)

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"All credits from 2-year colleges now transferable," The Star-Ledger, 9-14-07, p.1

"Law eases transition into 4-year colleges," The Press, 9-14-07, p__

"Credit transfer law aids students at 2-year colleges," The Record, 9-14-07,p____

"Corzine signs bill easing college credit transfers," The Philadelphia Inquirer, 9-14-07, p____

"County college credits will no longer flunk," Gloucester County Times, 9-14-07, p____

"A college credit earned is a college credit saved," Courier News, 9-14-07, p.03

"Credits transferable throughout colleges," Home News Tribune, 9-14-07, p____

"Law makes colleges take transfer credits," Asbury Park Press, 9-14-07, p____

"Law may cut education costs," Courier-Post, 9-14-07, p__

"Community colleges are making their marks," Courier News, 9-14-07, p. opinion 01

"New law eases way for transfer to 4-year colleges," Daily Record, 9-14-07, p.2

"Credit transfer law aids students at 2-year colleges - 4-year schools must accept work," The Record, 9-14-07, p. L02

P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 175, *approved September 13, 2007*
Assembly, No. 3968 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the transfer of certain college credits and
2 supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Each public institution of higher education, in consultation
9 with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education 'and the
10 New Jersey Presidents' Council'¹, shall establish and enter into a
11 collective Statewide transfer agreement that provides for the
12 seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate
13 'of arts or associate of science'¹ degree program to a baccalaureate
14 degree program. The transfer agreement shall include:

15 a. **['curriculum standards for]** a listing of the'¹ general education
16 **['programs at the associate degree level]** core courses as stipulated
17 by the Presidents' Council'¹;

18 b. policies and procedures for the 'seamless'¹ transfer and
19 application of academic credits from a completed associate degree
20 program to a baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee
21 that an associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree
22 awarded by a county college established pursuant to chapter 64A of
23 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall be fully transferable and
24 credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at
25 the four-year public institution of higher education in the State to
26 which a student is admitted;

27 c. policies and procedures for the implementation of **['a student]**
28 an'¹ appeals process 'for students and institutions'¹ to resolve
29 disputes regarding the transfer of academic credits;

30 d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of
31 the agreement; and

32 e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the
33 commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher
34 education are in compliance with the provisions of this act 'and to
35 ensure that the agreement is fostering both a seamless transfer
36 process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior
37 institutions. The commission shall annually determine the data to
38 be collected and shall notify each participating institution in a
39 timely manner.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted February 8, 2007.

1 The policies and procedures set forth in the transfer agreement
2 shall be fully operational by September 1, 2008¹.

3
4 2. On or before January 1, 2008, each ¹~~participating~~ public¹
5 institution of higher education shall, in consultation with the
6 Commission on Higher Education ¹~~and the Presidents' Council~~¹,
7 develop and adopt as part of the collective Statewide transfer
8 agreement established pursuant to section 1 of this act policies and
9 procedures for the transfer of credits earned by a student who has
10 not completed his associate degree program prior to transferring
11 into a baccalaureate degree program.

12
13 3. An independent institution of higher education in the State
14 may elect to enter into the agreement.

15
16 4. The Commission on Higher Education shall prepare an annual
17 report containing a compilation of the data collected pursuant to
18 subsection e. of section 1 of this act ¹~~, an analysis of the effect of~~
19 the agreement on the transfer process and on the academic success
20 of transfer students at the senior institutions.¹ and an analysis of
21 each participating institution's compliance with the provisions of
22 this act. The commission shall submit the report to the Legislature
23 ¹~~and the Governor~~¹ by ¹~~August 31st~~ November 15th¹ of each
24 year.

25
26 5. The cooperation of each public institution of higher education
27 in abiding by the terms of the agreement shall be reviewed and
28 considered by the Governor and the Legislature when making the
29 annual appropriation for the institution.

30
31 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require any public or
32 independent institution of higher education to admit a student or to
33 waive its admission standards and application procedures.

34
35 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

36

37

38

39

40 _____
Provides for the transfer of certain college credits.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3968

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Camden)

Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

District 23 (Warren and Hunterdon)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Greenwald, Gordon, Assemblywoman Truitt, Assemblymen Schaer, Stack, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Baroni, Manzo, Cryan, Albano, Barnes, Giblin, Prieto, Assemblywomen Karrow, Vandervalk, Assemblymen Vas, Whelan, Epps, Hackett, Burzichelli, Merkt, Assemblywoman Quigley, Assemblymen Gusciora, Green, Van Drew, Thompson, Assemblywomen Oliver, Beck, Assemblyman Payne, Assemblywomen Pou, Cruz-Perez, McHose and Assemblyman Connors

SYNOPSIS

Provides for the transfer of certain college credits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/9/2007)

1 AN ACT concerning the transfer of certain college credits and
2 supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. Each public institution of higher education, in consultation
9 with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, shall
10 establish and enter into a collective Statewide transfer agreement
11 that provides for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a
12 completed associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree
13 program. The transfer agreement shall include:

14 a. curriculum standards for general education programs at the
15 associate degree level;

16 b. policies and procedures for the transfer and application of
17 academic credits from a completed associate degree program to a
18 baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee that an
19 associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree awarded
20 by a county college established pursuant to chapter 64A of Title
21 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall be fully transferable and
22 credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at
23 the four-year public institution of higher education in the State to
24 which a student is admitted;

25 c. policies and procedures for the implementation of a student
26 appeals process to resolve disputes regarding the transfer of
27 academic credits;

28 d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of
29 the agreement; and

30 e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the
31 commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher
32 education are in compliance with the provisions of this act.

33

34 2. On or before January 1, 2008, each participating institution of
35 higher education shall, in consultation with the Commission on
36 Higher Education, develop and adopt as part of the collective
37 Statewide transfer agreement established pursuant to section 1 of
38 this act policies and procedures for the transfer of credits earned by
39 a student who has not completed his associate degree program prior
40 to transferring into a baccalaureate degree program.

41

42 3. An independent institution of higher education in the State
43 may elect to enter into the agreement.

44

45 4. The Commission on Higher Education shall prepare an annual
46 report containing a compilation of the data collected pursuant to
47 subsection e. of section 1 of this act and an analysis of each
48 participating institution's compliance with the provisions of this act.

1 The commission shall submit the report to the Legislature by
2 August 31st of each year.

3

4 5. The cooperation of each public institution of higher education
5 in abiding by the terms of the agreement shall be reviewed and
6 considered by the Governor and the Legislature when making the
7 annual appropriation for the institution.

8

9 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require any public or
10 independent institution of higher education to admit a student or to
11 waive its admission standards and application procedures.

12

13 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

14

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16

STATEMENT

17

18 This bill requires each public institution of higher education, in
19 consultation with the Commission on Higher Education, to establish
20 and enter into a collective Statewide transfer agreement that
21 provides for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a
22 completed associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree
23 program. Independent institutions of higher education may elect to
24 enter into the agreement. The transfer agreement must include:

25 a. curriculum standards for general education programs at the
26 associate degree level;

27 b. policies and procedures for the transfer and application of
28 academic credits from a completed associate degree program to a
29 baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee that an
30 associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree awarded
31 by a county college will be fully transferable and credited as the
32 first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at the four-year
33 public institution of higher education in the State to which a student
34 is admitted;

35 c. policies and procedures for the implementation of a student
36 appeals process;

37 d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of
38 the agreement; and

39 e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the
40 commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher
41 education comply with the bill's provisions.

42 The bill also requires that by January 1, 2008, each participating
43 institution of higher education must, in consultation with the
44 Commission on Higher Education, develop and adopt policies and
45 procedures for the transfer of credits earned by a student who has
46 not completed his associate degree program prior to transferring
47 into a baccalaureate degree program.

A3968 LAMPITT, DIEGNAN

4

1 The bill requires the Commission on Higher Education to prepare
2 and submit to the Legislature an annual report documenting the
3 compliance of each participating institution with the provisions of
4 the bill. The bill also provides that the level of cooperation of each
5 public institution of higher education in abiding by the terms of the
6 agreement will be reviewed and considered by the Governor and the
7 Legislature when making the annual appropriation for the
8 institution. This bill does not require any public or independent
9 institution of higher education to admit a student or to waive its
10 admission standards and application procedures.

ASSEMBLY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3968

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 8, 2007

The Assembly Higher Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3968 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires each public institution of higher education, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, to establish and enter into a collective Statewide transfer agreement that provides for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate of science degree program to a baccalaureate degree program. The transfer agreement must include:

a. a listing of the general education core courses as stipulated by the Presidents' Council;

b. policies and procedures for the seamless transfer and application of academic credits from a completed associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee that an associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree awarded by a county college in New Jersey will be fully transferable and credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at the four-year public institution of higher education in the State to which a student is admitted;

c. policies and procedures for the implementation of an appeals process for students and institutions to resolve disputes regarding the transfer of academic credits;

d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of the agreement; and

e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher education are in compliance with the provisions of this act and to ensure that the agreement is fostering both a seamless transfer process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior institutions.

The bill also requires that by January 1, 2008 each public institution of higher education must, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, develop and adopt policies and procedures for the transfer of credits earned by a student who has not completed his associate degree program prior to transferring into a baccalaureate degree program.

Under the bill, the level of cooperation of each public institution of higher education in abiding by the terms of the agreement will be reviewed and considered by the Governor and the Legislature when making the annual appropriation for the institution. This bill does not require any public or independent institution of higher education to admit a student or to waive its admission standards and application procedures.

The committee amended the bill to: include the Presidents' Council in the process of developing and adopting the transfer agreement; provide that the transfer agreement be fully operational by September 1, 2008; direct the Commission on Higher Education to make an annual determination as to what data will be required from the participating institutions; and provide that the transfer agreement will include a listing of the general education core courses as stipulated by the Presidents' Council and not, as was originally provided, curriculum standards for certain general education programs. In addition, the committee amended the bill to require that the annual report prepared by the Commission on Higher Education will be submitted by November 15th of each year to both the Legislature and the Governor and will include an analysis of the bill's effect on the transfer process.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3968

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 10, 2007

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3968 1R.

This bill requires each public institution of higher education, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, to establish and enter into a collective Statewide transfer agreement that provides for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate of science degree program to a baccalaureate degree program. The transfer agreement must include:

- a. a listing of the general education core courses as stipulated by the Presidents' Council;
- b. policies and procedures for the seamless transfer and application of academic credits from a completed associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee that an associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree awarded by a county college in New Jersey will be fully transferable and credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at the four-year public institution of higher education in the State to which a student is admitted;
- c. policies and procedures for the implementation of an appeals process for students and institutions to resolve disputes regarding the transfer of academic credits;
- d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of the agreement; and
- e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher education are in compliance with the provisions of this act and to ensure that the agreement is fostering both a seamless transfer process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior institutions.

The bill also requires that by January 1, 2008 each public institution of higher education must, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, develop and adopt policies and procedures for the transfer of credits earned by a student who has not completed his associate degree program prior to transferring into a baccalaureate degree program.

Under the bill, the level of cooperation of each public institution of higher education in abiding by the terms of the agreement will be reviewed and considered by the Governor and the Legislature when making the annual appropriation for the institution. This bill does not require any public or independent institution of higher education to admit a student or to waive its admission standards and application procedures.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2535.

SENATE, No. 2535

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

Senator JOSEPH V. DORIA, JR.

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators James, Ciesla, Lance, Bryant and Allen

SYNOPSIS

Provides for the transfer of certain college credits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2007)

1 AN ACT concerning the transfer of certain college credits and
2 supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. Each public institution of higher education, in consultation
9 with the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and the New
10 Jersey Presidents' Council, shall establish and enter into a
11 collective Statewide transfer agreement that provides for the
12 seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of
13 arts or associate of science degree program to a baccalaureate
14 degree program. The transfer agreement shall include:

15 a. a listing of the general education core courses as stipulated by
16 the Presidents' Council;

17 b. policies and procedures for the seamless transfer and
18 application of academic credits from a completed associate degree
19 program to a baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee
20 that an associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree
21 awarded by a county college established pursuant to chapter 64A of
22 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes shall be fully transferable and
23 credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at
24 the four-year public institution of higher education in the State to
25 which a student is admitted;

26 c. policies and procedures for the implementation of an appeals
27 process for students and institutions to resolve disputes regarding
28 the transfer of academic credits;

29 d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of
30 the agreement; and

31 e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the
32 commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher
33 education are in compliance with the provisions of this act and to
34 ensure that the agreement is fostering both a seamless transfer
35 process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior
36 institutions. The commission shall annually determine the data to
37 be collected and shall notify each participating institution in a
38 timely manner.

39 The policies and procedures set forth in the transfer agreement
40 shall be fully operational by September 1, 2008.

41
42 2. On or before January 1, 2008, each public institution of
43 higher education shall, in consultation with the Commission on
44 Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, develop and adopt as
45 part of the collective Statewide transfer agreement established
46 pursuant to section 1 of this act policies and procedures for the
47 transfer of credits earned by a student who has not completed his

1 associate degree program prior to transferring into a baccalaureate
2 degree program.

3

4 3. An independent institution of higher education in the State
5 may elect to enter into the agreement.

6

7 4. The Commission on Higher Education shall prepare an annual
8 report containing a compilation of the data collected pursuant to
9 subsection e. of section 1 of this act, an analysis of the effect of the
10 agreement on the transfer process and on the academic success of
11 transfer students at the senior institutions, and an analysis of each
12 participating institution's compliance with the provisions of this act.
13 The commission shall submit the report to the Legislature and the
14 Governor by November 15th of each year.

15

16 5. The cooperation of each public institution of higher education
17 in abiding by the terms of the agreement shall be reviewed and
18 considered by the Governor and the Legislature when making the
19 annual appropriation for the institution.

20

21 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require any public or
22 independent institution of higher education to admit a student or to
23 waive its admission standards and application procedures.

24

25 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

26

27

28

STATEMENT

29

30 This bill requires each public institution of higher education, in
31 consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the
32 Presidents' Council, to establish and enter into a collective
33 Statewide transfer agreement that provides for the seamless transfer
34 of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate
35 of science degree program to a baccalaureate degree program. The
36 transfer agreement must include:

37 a. a listing of the general education core courses as stipulated by
38 the Presidents' Council;

39 b. policies and procedures for the seamless transfer and
40 application of academic credits from a completed associate degree
41 program to a baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee
42 that an associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree
43 awarded by a county college in New Jersey will be fully
44 transferable and credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate
45 degree program at the four-year public institution of higher
46 education in the State to which a student is admitted;

1 c. policies and procedures for the implementation of an appeals
2 process for students and institutions to resolve disputes regarding
3 the transfer of academic credits;

4 d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of
5 the agreement; and

6 e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the
7 commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher
8 education are in compliance with the provisions of this act and to
9 ensure that the agreement is fostering both a seamless transfer
10 process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior
11 institutions.

12 The bill also requires that by January 1, 2008 each public
13 institution of higher education must, in consultation with the
14 Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council,
15 develop and adopt policies and procedures for the transfer of credits
16 earned by a student who has not completed his associate degree
17 program prior to transferring into a baccalaureate degree program.

18 Under the bill, the level of cooperation of each public institution
19 of higher education in abiding by the terms of the agreement will be
20 reviewed and considered by the Governor and the Legislature when
21 making the annual appropriation for the institution. This bill does
22 not require any public or independent institution of higher
23 education to admit a student or to waive its admission standards and
24 application procedures.

25 The transfer agreement must be fully operational by September
26 1, 2008. The Commission on Higher Education must prepare an
27 annual report that will be submitted by November 15th of each year
28 to both the Legislature and the Governor and will include an
29 analysis of the bill's effect on the transfer process.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2535

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 10, 2007

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2535.

This bill requires each public institution of higher education, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, to establish and enter into a collective Statewide transfer agreement that provides for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate of science degree program to a baccalaureate degree program. The transfer agreement must include:

a. a listing of the general education core courses as stipulated by the Presidents' Council;

b. policies and procedures for the seamless transfer and application of academic credits from a completed associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree program, including a guarantee that an associate of arts degree or an associate of science degree awarded by a county college in New Jersey will be fully transferable and credited as the first two years of a baccalaureate degree program at the four-year public institution of higher education in the State to which a student is admitted;

c. policies and procedures for the implementation of an appeals process for students and institutions to resolve disputes regarding the transfer of academic credits;

d. policies and procedures for the annual review and update of the agreement; and

e. policies and procedures for the collection of data by the commission to ensure that all participating institutions of higher education are in compliance with the provisions of this act and to ensure that the agreement is fostering both a seamless transfer process and the academic success of transfer students at the senior institutions.

The bill also requires that by January 1, 2008 each public institution of higher education must, in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education and the Presidents' Council, develop and adopt policies and procedures for the transfer of credits earned by a student who has not completed his associate degree program prior to transferring into a baccalaureate degree program.

Under the bill, the level of cooperation of each public institution of higher education in abiding by the terms of the agreement will be

reviewed and considered by the Governor and the Legislature when making the annual appropriation for the institution. This bill does not require any public or independent institution of higher education to admit a student or to waive its admission standards and application procedures.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 3968 (1R).

Title



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Sep-13-07 Governor Signs Legislation to Ease Transfer of College Credits

NEWS RELEASE

Governor Jon S. Corzine
September 13, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Press Office
609-777-2600

Governor Signs Legislation to Ease Transfer of College Credits

Cherry Hill - Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed legislation (A3968/S2535) to assist college students with the seamless transfer of certain college credits.

"Often transfer students are forced to pay for the same college course, adding unnecessary costs and time to earn their degree. This partnership will eliminate that burden," said Governor Corzine. "By establishing this cooperative partnership between our institutions of higher learning, we are enabling students an opportunity to take that next step from a two-year college program to a four-year program."

The collective statewide agreements will provide for the transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate of science degree program to a baccalaureate degree program and must be fully operational by September 1, 2008.

The transfer agreement must include a listing of the general education core courses; policies and procedures for the transfer and application of academic credits from a completed associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree program, policies and procedures for the implementation of an appeals process for students and institutions to resolve disputes regarding the transfer of academic credits and policies and procedures for the annual review and update of the agreement.

"By this time next year, the hurdles currently faced by many students transferring from two-year institutions to state

colleges and universities will be eliminated," said Assemblywoman Pamela R. Lampitt (D-Camden). "Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Governor Corzine's staff, my legislative colleagues, leaders of New Jersey's two- and four-year institutions, and many others, county college students now have a clearer path to bachelor's degrees."

"The decision to attend a two or four year school of higher education is many times based on affordability," said Senator Ronald L. Rice, (D-Essex). "Most students can't afford to retake classes when they transfer to a school's four-year program. This new seamless transfer system will encourage students to continue their educational goals without fear of losing credits for their hard work."

"For many students on limited incomes, community college is a gateway to a brighter future," said Senator Joseph V. Doria, Jr. (D-Hudson), a member of the Senate Education Committee. "In New Jersey, we have a record of helping students continue their education at the community college level, through the NJ STARS program. With this law in place, we are further supporting community college students, by allowing them to seamlessly transfer to a four-year school and continue their studies."

"Today's enactment of this measure is a significant win for county college students and their families," said Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (D-Middlesex), who is Chairman of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. "Requiring students to relearn identical material simply because they transferred to a different school is redundant and costly. A streamlined transfer system will better serve students and the state's higher education institutions."

"NJ STARS was created to break down barriers to higher education, but rigid credit transfer rules are serving as a new roadblock," said Assemblyman Craig Stanley (D-Essex), chairman of the Assembly Education Committee. "If we are to realize the promise of providing a college education for all our high-achieving students, we must do everything possible to remove these frustrating hurdles that can discourage students from moving forward."

Primary Assembly sponsors were Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt (District 6); Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan (District 18); Assemblyman Michael Doherty (District 23) and Assemblyman Craig Stanley (District 28). Primary Senate sponsors were: Senator Ronald L. Rice (District 28) and Senator Joseph V. Doria (District 31).

###



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