

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5007

As of February 3, 2009

Title: An act relating to allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.

Brief Description: Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees.

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, King, Oemig, Holmquist, McDermott, Kauffman, Pridemore, Kilmer, Hobbs, Tom, Brandland, Swecker, Shin, Franklin, Parlette and Roach.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Higher Education & Workforce Development: 2/12/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff: Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

Background: Each community and technical college district has its own board of trustees. Each board creates comprehensive programs of community and technical college education and training. Technical colleges and college districts containing only technical colleges are restricted from offering programs other than for occupational education, basic skills, and literary purposes. Technical colleges offer only technical degrees and may not offer associate transfer degrees.

A direct transfer agreement associate degree is defined as a degree awarded by a community college to students who have completed a transfer curriculum. It is based on 90 quarter hours of transferable credit in specified courses. It is designed to provide fulfillment of general education requirements only. Remedial course do not satisfy associate transfer degree requirements.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): In addition to offering technical degrees, technical colleges are allowed to offer transfer degrees that prepare students for professional bachelor's degrees. The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges adopts rules creating consistency between community and technical colleges offering associate degrees that prepare students for these degrees.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The definition of "occupational education" is changed to include any education and training that will prepare a student for transfer to a baccalaureate degree program in a professional field instead of just those leading to an applied baccalaureate degree. Technical college programs are no longer required to include competency-based instruction or a curriculum approved by representative of employers and labor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.