

SENATE BILL NO. 31

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STEVENS

Introduced: 1/23/19

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the transferability of academic credit for specified courses among**
2 **postsecondary education programs; and relating to the Board of Regents of the**
3 **University of Alaska."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Sec. 14.40.185. Transferability of credits; foundational curricula.** (a) For
7 each academic degree program in a major area of study offered by the University of
8 Alaska, the Board of Regents shall establish a foundational curriculum for the first
9 year of lower division courses to ensure the transferability of completed course credit
10 between programs within the University of Alaska. In establishing the foundational
11 curricula, the Board of Regents shall

12 (1) consult with directors from each campus of the University of
13 Alaska;

14 (2) evaluate current lower division courses offered at each campus of

1 the University of Alaska for transferability between campuses;

2 (3) identify major areas of study based on workforce demand and
3 academic need;

4 (4) publicly disclose the criteria used to establish the foundational
5 curricula and major areas of study;

6 (5) distribute the foundational curriculum for each major area of study
7 to each campus of the University of Alaska for replication;

8 (6) determine and describe the courses, completion standards, and the
9 optimal number of academic credits for the foundational curriculum for an academic
10 degree program in each major area of study;

11 (7) regularly update the foundational curricula and major areas of
12 study as necessary;

13 (8) provide information and technical assistance to each campus of the
14 University of Alaska about implementing the foundational curricula and the
15 transferability of credits; and

16 (9) evaluate the effect of the foundational curricula on transferability
17 of course credit and provide to the chairs of the house and senate committees having
18 jurisdiction over education an annual report on the implementation and success of the
19 foundational curricula and the transfer rate of courses completed at each campus of the
20 University of Alaska; the report must include estimates of cost savings related to
21 reductions in the time needed for degree completion by transfer students and other
22 considerations relevant to implementation of the foundational curricula.

23 (b) The Board of Regents shall award full transfer credit to a student who
24 satisfactorily completes a foundational curriculum established under (a) of this section,
25 or course within a foundational curriculum, in a major area of study identified by the
26 Board of Regents.

27 (c) Each campus of the University of Alaska shall provide a foundational
28 curriculum established under (a) of this section to all first-year students enrolled in an
29 academic degree program in a major area of study. For a student attending the
30 University of Alaska who has not identified a major area of study but who indicates an
31 interest in completing an academic degree program, the campus shall provide

- 1 information on the major areas of study identified by the Board of Regents and advise
- 2 the student on the transferability of credits for the foundational curricula.