

HB 1811 -- COLLEGE CREDIT DISCLOSURE ACT

SPONSOR: Smith (85)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill establishes the College Credit Disclosure Act, which requires a higher education institution that grants college-level credit but is not accredited by a federally recognized regional accreditor to disclose during the admission application process that the institution is not accredited. The institution must provide the disclosure in writing to an enrolling student before the student registers for any class that grants credit, and the student must sign the disclosure. The bill specifies the language of the required disclosure.

The bill exempts any institution that is affiliated with a religious organization if the institution is accredited by a federally recognized faith-related accreditor.

This bill is the same as HB 472 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that students may not be aware that an institution is not accredited and credit or degrees obtained at the institution may not be accepted by accredited institutions in the event the student seeks additional education. This bill increases transparency of institutions that in some cases are taking tax dollars, such as federal loans or grants.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Smith.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.