

3. A party appealing an order or judgment involving an issue raised under this chapter, within seven days following the date such notice of appeal is filed with the court, shall notify the attorney general in writing and provide a copy of the pleading raising the issue and a copy of the court order or judgment being appealed.

4. Upon timely application to the court in which an action involving an issue raised under this chapter is pending, the attorney general may intervene as a party at any time or may be heard at any time. The attorney general's failure to intervene shall not preclude the attorney general from bringing a separate enforcement action.

5. All copies of pleadings, orders, judgments, and notices required by this section to be sent to the attorney general shall be sent by certified mail unless the attorney general has previously been provided such copies of pleadings, orders, judgments, or notices in the same action by certified mail, in which case subsequent mailings may be made by regular mail. Failure to provide the required mailings to the attorney general shall not be grounds for dismissal of an action under this chapter, but shall be grounds for a subsequent action by the attorney general to vacate or modify the judgment.

Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 714H.7 CLASS ACTIONS.

A class action lawsuit alleging a violation of this chapter shall not be filed with a court unless it has been approved by the attorney general. The attorney general shall approve the filing of a class action lawsuit alleging a violation of this chapter unless the attorney general determines that the lawsuit is frivolous. This section shall not affect the requirements of any other law or of the Iowa rules of civil procedure relating to class action lawsuits.

Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 714H.8 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

Sec. 9. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to causes of actions accruing on or after the effective date of this Act.

Approved May 26, 2009

CHAPTER 168

PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ARTICULATION INFORMATION AND AGREEMENTS

H.F. 815

AN ACT relating to articulation agreements between public postsecondary institutions and to the dissemination of articulation information.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2009, is amended by adding the following new subsection: NEW SUBSECTION. 61. Develop and implement a plan to provide, at least twice annually to all principals and guidance counselors employed by school districts and accredited nonpublic schools, notice describing how students can find and use the articulation information available on the website maintained by the state board of regents. The plan shall include suggested

methods for elementary and secondary schools and community colleges to effectively communicate information about the articulation website to the following:

a. To all elementary and secondary school students interested in or potentially interested in attending a community college or institution of higher education governed by the state board of regents.

b. To all community college students interested in or potentially interested in admission to a baccalaureate degree program offered by an institution of higher education governed by the state board of regents.

Sec. 2. Section 260C.14, Code 2009, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 23. Enter into a collective statewide articulation agreement with the state board of regents pursuant to section 262.9, subsection 32, which shall provide for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate of science degree program offered by a community college to a baccalaureate degree program offered by an institution of higher education governed by the state board of regents. The board shall also do the following:

a. Identify a transfer and articulation contact office or person, publicize transfer and articulation information and the contact office or person, and submit the contact information to the state board of regents, which shall publish the contact information on its articulation website.

b. Collaborate with the state board of regents to meet the requirements specified in section 262.9, subsection 32, including but not limited to developing a systematic process for expanding academic discipline and meetings between the community college faculty and faculty of the institutions of higher education governed by the state board of regents, developing criteria to prioritize core curriculum areas, promoting greater awareness of articulation-related activities, facilitating additional opportunities for individual institutions to pursue program articulation agreements for career and technical educational programs, and developing and implementing a process to examine a minimum of eight new associate of applied science degree programs for which articulation agreements would serve students' continued academic success in those degree programs.

Sec. 3. Section 262.9, Code 2009, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 32. In consultation with the state board for community colleges established pursuant to section 260C.3, establish and enter into a collective statewide articulation agreement with the community colleges established pursuant to chapter 260C, which shall provide for the seamless transfer of academic credits from a completed associate of arts or associate of science degree program offered by a community college to a baccalaureate degree program offered by an institution of higher education governed by the board. The board shall also do the following:

a. Require each of the institutions of higher education governed by the board to identify a transfer and articulation contact office or person, publicize transfer and articulation information and the contact office or person, and submit the contact information to the board for publication on its articulation website.

b. Develop, in collaboration with the boards of directors of the community colleges, a systematic process for expanding academic discipline and meetings between the community college faculty and faculty of the institutions of higher education governed by the board. The board shall conduct and jointly administer with the boards of directors of the community colleges four program and academic discipline meetings each academic year for the purpose of enhancing alignment between course content and expectations at the community colleges and institutions of higher education governed by the state board of regents.

c. Develop criteria to prioritize core curriculum areas and create or review transition guides for the core curriculum areas.

d. Include on its articulation website course equivalency and transition guides for each of the institutions of higher education governed by the board.

e. Jointly, with the boards of directors of the community colleges, select academic depart-

ments in which to articulate first-year and second-year courses through faculty-to-faculty meetings in accordance with paragraph “b”. However, course-to-course equivalencies need not occur in an academic discipline when the board and the community colleges jointly determine that course content is incompatible.

f. Promote greater awareness of articulation-related activities, including the articulation website maintained by the board and articulation agreements in which the institutions participate.

g. Facilitate additional opportunities for individual institutions to pursue program articulation agreements for community college career and technical education programs and programs of study offered by the institutions of higher education governed by the board.

h. Develop and implement by January 1, 2012, a process to examine a minimum of eight new community college associate of applied science degree programs for which articulation agreements between the community colleges and the institutions of higher education governed by the board would serve students’ continued academic success in those degree programs.

i. Prepare, jointly with the department of education and the liaison advisory committee on transfer students, and submit by January 1 annually to the general assembly, an update on the articulation efforts and activities implemented by the community colleges and the institutions of higher education governed by the board.

Approved May 26, 2009

CHAPTER 169

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE —
APPROPRIATIONS, GRANTS, AND ADMINISTRATION**

H.F. 64

AN ACT relating to disaster assistance by providing for jumpstart housing assistance, unmet needs disaster grants, a rebuild Iowa office, and community disaster grants, making appropriations, and providing effective and retroactive applicability dates.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

**DIVISION I
JUMPSTART HOUSING ASSISTANCE**

Section 1. APPROPRIATION.

1. There is appropriated from the Iowa economic emergency fund created in section 8.55 to the Iowa finance authority for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

For the jumpstart housing assistance program:
..... \$ 24,000,000

2. The authority shall adopt rules for the jumpstart housing assistance program consistent with all of the following:

a. An eligible resident must have a family income equal to or less than one hundred fifty percent of the area median family income. An application for assistance must be submitted by September 1, 2009.

b. Forgivable loans awarded after the effective date of this division of this Act shall be awarded pursuant to the following priorities: