PART EEEEE Sec. EEEE-1. 20-A MRSA §10907-A is enacted to read: §10907-A. Transfer of postsecondary credits; award of degree A person who earns an associate degree from the Maine Community College System must be allowed to transfer credits earned at a community college in this State to the University of Maine System for use toward a baccalaureate degree from the University of Maine System in accordance with agreements developed between the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System. A student who earns credits at the University of Maine System, but who does not earn a degree, must be allowed to transfer those credits to the Maine Community College System for use toward an associate degree.

Sec. EEEE-2. Agreements for transfer of credits. In accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10907-A, the following provisions govern the development of agreements for the transfer of credits from the Maine Community College System to the University of Maine System.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
   A. "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of the University of Maine System.
   B. "President" means the President of the Maine Community College System.
   C. "System" means the Maine Community College System.
   D. "University" means the University of Maine System.

2. Development of transition process. The chancellor and the board of trustees of the university, in cooperation with the president and the board of trustees of the system, shall develop the policies and procedures necessary to provide a seamless transition process that ensures that a student earning an associate degree from the system has the opportunity to graduate from the university with a baccalaureate degree.

3. Articulation agreements. The chancellor and the board of trustees of the university shall ensure through articulation agreements that programs of study in the university for which there are equivalent programs of study in the system allow a student to successfully transfer credits from a community college in this State to a campus of the university so that a student who has earned an associate degree from a community college has the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree at the university. Formulation of articulation agreements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs must be first priority.

4. Block credit agreements. In the absence of equivalent programs of study among the university campuses and the community colleges in this State, the chancellor, in cooperation with the president, shall develop a block credit agreement that ensures that a student earning an associate degree at a community college in this State is guaranteed that a minimum number of that student's credits transfers to the university.

5. Reverse transfer credit. A student who transfers to the university and who has earned course credits from a campus of the system, but who has not earned an associate degree from the system, after fulfilling the appropriate requirements toward a degree at the university, may be awarded an associate degree, either by the university or the system. The university and the system shall work collaboratively to develop a procedure through which the university and the system are enabled to report such students as having completed degrees.

6. Effective dates. The articulation agreements required under subsection 3 must be in place for all appropriate programs no later than September 1, 2014. Articulation agreements for general education must be in place no later than January 1, 2014 within the system and the university separately, and by September 1, 2014 between the university and the system. Articulation agreements for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs must be in place no later than September 1, 2014. The requirements of subsections 4 and 5 must be met by September 1, 2014.
7. Common course numbering system. The chancellor and the president shall study the feasibility of developing a common course numbering system between the university and the system, including identifying best practices, opportunities and challenges. The chancellor and the president shall report the results of their study, along with a plan and schedule for implementation of a common course numbering system if their study results in a solution that could be realized in a reasonable timeframe and that adds value to the transfer process, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than September 1, 2014.

8. Report. The chancellor and the president shall report on the result of their efforts to ensure that the requirements of this section are carried out to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2014.