AN ACT to amend 36.11 (3) (cm) 5., 36.31 (2m) (b), 36.31 (2m) (c), 36.65 (3) and 38.04 (4) (cm); and to create 36.31 (2m) (a) 4. and 36.31 (2m) (am) of the statutes; relating to: higher education core general education course credit transfers and program-to-program articulation agreements.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 36.11 (3) (cm) 5. of the statutes is amended to read:
36.11 (3) (cm) 5. Core general education courses that are subject to the agreement required under s. 36.31 (2m) (b).

SECTION 2. 36.31 (2m) (a) 4. of the statutes is created to read:
36.31 (2m) (a) 4. “Program-to-program articulation agreement” means an agreement that articulates how the completion of requirements for a specified program of study at an educational institution transfers toward completion of requirements for a specified program of study at another educational institution.

SECTION 3. 36.31 (2m) (am) of the statutes is created to read:
36.31 (2m) (am) 1. Notwithstanding s. 36.09 (3) (a), the Board of Regents and the technical college system board shall, and the governing boards of tribally controlled colleges in this state and the association, on behalf of private colleges, may, enter into an agreement to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements that will apply to programs of study specified in the agreements between institutions of the system, technical colleges, and the tribally controlled colleges and private colleges that elect to participate in the agreement. The agreement shall identify and prioritize program-to-program articulation agreements in fields of study that are in high demand or included under program-to-program articulation agreements between institutions and technical colleges that are entered into before the effective date of this subdivision .... [LRB inserts date].

2. No later than April 1, 2021, the Board of Regents and the technical college system board shall jointly submit a report on progress in complying with subd. 1. to the joint committee on finance and the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172 (3).

SECTION 4. 36.31 (2m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
36.31 (2m) (b) Notwithstanding s. 36.09 (3) (a), the Board of Regents and the technical college system board shall, and the governing boards of tribally controlled colleges in this state and the association, on behalf of private colleges, may, enter into and implement an agreement that identifies an array of not less than 72 credits of core general education courses totaling not fewer than 30 credits and establishes policies for ensuring that, beginning in the 2014−15 2022−23 academic year, credits for completing the courses are transferable and would satisfy general education requirements at the receiving institut-
tion or college, between and within each institution, college campus, and technical college, and each tribally controlled college and private college that elects to participate in the agreement.

SECTION 5. 36.31 (2m) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

36.31 (2m) (c) The Board of Regents and the technical college system board shall ensure that the governing bodies of tribally controlled colleges and the association, on behalf of private colleges, have an opportunity to elect to participate in the agreement specified in par. pars. (am) and (b).

SECTION 6. 36.65 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

36.65 (3) Core general education credit transfers. The board shall include in the report required under sub. (2) a description of the agreement entered into under s. 36.31 (2m) (b) and a summary of the board’s implementation of the agreement. This subsection first applies to the report required under sub. (2) that applies to the 2014–15 academic year.

SECTION 7. 38.04 (4) (cm) of the statutes is amended to read:

38.04 (4) (cm) The board shall enter into the agreement required under s. 36.31 (2m) (b). The board shall submit an annual report to the governor and to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) that describes the agreement entered into under s. 36.31 (2m) (b) and a summary of the board’s implementation of the agreement.