HB 2790: baccalaureate degrees; community colleges
Sponsor: Representative Nutt, LD 14
House Engrossed

Overview
Allows a community college district board to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees that are accredited by a regional accreditation agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

History
As defined by statute, a community college is an educational institution that is operated by a district board and that provides a program not exceeding two years (A.R.S. § 15-1401). A community college district may be organized for a single county or two or more contiguous counties if the proposed district has a net assessed valuation of at least $448,017,200 and a minimum population of 40,000 who are 15 years old or older (A.R.S. § 15-1402). Currently, there are 10 community college districts in Arizona.

Statute allows counties to establish a provisional community college district. These provisional districts are required to contract with an existing community college district to provide instructional and student services within the community college tuition financing district (A.R.S. § 15-1409). Provisional community college districts cannot award degrees, certificates or diplomas. Currently, Santa Cruz and Gila counties each operate a provisional community college district.

Provisions
1. Allows a community college district board to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees that are accredited by a regional accreditation agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education. (Sec. 2)

2. Modifies the definition of *provisional community college district* to mean provisional districts that began operations prior to January 1, 2015. (Sec. 1)

3. Makes technical changes. (Sec. 1, 2)

☐ Prop 105 (45 votes)   ☐ Prop 108 (40 votes)   ☐ Emergency (40 votes)   ☐ Fiscal Note