

CHAPTER 129

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

HOUSE BILL 17-1194

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Foote, Becker K., Bridges, Buckner, Covarrubias, Danielson, Exum, Garnett, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lawrence, Lee, Lontine, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Pabon, Pettersen, Saine, Valdez, Weissman, Young, Duran;
also SENATOR(S) Cooke, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Hill, Jahn, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

AN ACT**CONCERNING TECHNICAL CHANGES RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY
EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) (a) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(I) In 2015, the general assembly passed House Bill 15-1270, authorizing pathways in technology early college (p-tech) high schools in Colorado;

(II) P-tech schools represent a unique partnership between industry, community colleges, and K-12 school districts that creates opportunities for students to receive real-world work experiences while simultaneously achieving a high school diploma and associate degree;

(III) After two years of operation, school districts have learned lessons that will allow p-tech schools to operate more efficiently and effectively, but this requires technical changes to p-tech statutes;

(IV) First, to accommodate local management and control, p-tech schools need the flexibility to operate as a stand-alone school or as a program within a host school; and

(V) Second, to facilitate accurate data collection and reporting, p-tech schools need the ability to report high school graduation rates for p-tech students in the year

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

in which the students complete minimum high school graduation requirements.

(b) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is necessary to make technical improvements to the operation and effectiveness of the p-tech model through legislation.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35.3-102, **amend** the introductory portion and (10); and **add** (8.5) as follows:

22-35.3-102. Definitions. As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 35.3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(8.5) "HOST SCHOOL" MEANS A SCHOOL OF A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER.

(10) "P-tech school" means a pathways in technology early college high school OR PROGRAM WITHIN A HOST SCHOOL that is approved pursuant to this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 35.3.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35.3-103, **add** (5) as follows:

22-35.3-103. Pathways in technology early college high schools - design - requirements - approval. (5) A P-TECH SCHOOL MAY HAVE DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FROM THOSE OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER OR THE HOST SCHOOL. HOWEVER, FOR PURPOSES OF APPLYING THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 11 OF THIS TITLE 22 CONCERNING SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING GRADUATION RATES, A P-TECH STUDENT WILL BE COUNTED IN THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S OR HOST SCHOOL'S GRADUATION RATE IN THE YEAR IN WHICH THE STUDENT COMPLETES THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S OR HOST SCHOOL'S MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (5) AFFECTS PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FUNDING OF P-TECH STUDENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-35.3-104.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35.3-104, **add** (1)(c) as follows:

22-35.3-104. P-tech schools - funding. (1) (c) A P-TECH SCHOOL, OR THE HOST SCHOOL FOR A P-TECH PROGRAM, SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO A P-TECH STUDENT'S TWELFTH-GRADE YEAR IF THE STUDENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENROLLED IN THE P-TECH SCHOOL FOR GRADES THIRTEEN OR FOURTEEN.

SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 13, 2017