

## CHAPTER 62

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**EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY**


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**HOUSE BILL 12-1072**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Massey and Fields, Holbert, Becker, Beezley, Casso, Court, Duran, Fischer, Gerou, Hamner, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr A., Labuda, Looper, Murray, Nikkel, Pabon, Pace, Schafer S., Solano, Stephens, Summers, Todd, Williams A., Wilson, Young;  
 also SENATOR(S) Bacon and King K., Hudak, Aguilar, Boyd, Cadman, Giron, Grantham, Guzman, Heath, Hodge, Jahn, Johnston, King S., Lambert, Neville, Newell, Renfroe, Roberts, Schwartz, Spence, Tochtrop, White, Williams S., Shaffer B.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly finds that:

(a) Many adults entering Colorado community colleges, state colleges, and universities have acquired college-level knowledge in the workplace, through military service, in the community, or through independent study;

(b) A student can save time and money in completing a certificate or degree program if the institution at which the student enrolls assesses the student's college-level knowledge and awards academic credit as appropriate based on the assessment;

(c) Awarding academic credit for a student's prior learning will increase the likelihood that the student will complete his or her certificate or degree and achieve his or her academic and economic goals; and

(d) Colorado's economic development depends upon a well-educated workforce with the academic credentials necessary to compete in the job market.

(2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is beneficial to students and to the development of an educated workforce in Colorado for community colleges and other public institutions of higher education to develop a policy or program to recognize a student's college-level learning that takes place outside of the classroom.

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

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **amend** (5) (e) (III); and **add** (4.5) as follows:

**23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test - prior learning. (4.5) Prior learning.** BEGINNING IN THE 2013-14 ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT AND MAKE PUBLIC A POLICY OR PROGRAM TO DETERMINE ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING.

(5) **Nonpublic institutions of higher education.** (e) As used in this subsection (5), "nonpublic institution of higher education" means an educational institution operating in this state that:

(III) Is accredited by ~~a regional~~ AN accrediting agency or association APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

**SECTION 3. 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 8, 2012, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2012); 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 2012 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: March 24, 2012