

CHAPTER 283

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 24-1305

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lindstedt and Lukens, Amabile, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, Hamrick, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lindsay, Marvin, Mauro, McCormick, McLachlan, Parenti, Sirota, Snyder, Titone, Vigil, Weissman, Young, McCluskie;

also SENATOR(S) Baisley and Michaelson Jenet, Buckner, Bridges, Exum, Ginal, Gonzales, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Marchman, Mullica, Priola, Rich, Will, Winter F., Zenzinger.

AN ACT**CONCERNING CHANGES TO PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT STUDENTS WHO EARN POSTSECONDARY COURSE CREDIT WHILE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL.**

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

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

(a) The pathways in technology early college high school, commonly referred to as a p-tech school or program, model has proven successful in fostering collaborations between kindergarten through twelfth grade schools, higher education, and industry partners to deliver a free associate degree to students upon high school graduation;

(b) The success of the p-tech schools and programs in Colorado is evident with the establishment of twenty different programs across Colorado school districts, in both rural and urban school districts; and

(c) To ensure continued success, it is important that p-tech schools and programs evolve by creating greater flexibility within the p-tech model.

(2) Therefore, the general assembly finds it prudent and necessary to update the p-tech model to ensure students have the ability to pursue a focus beyond science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and to be rewarded for valuable higher education achievement during high school.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35.3-103, **amend** (1) as follows:

22-35.3-103. Pathways in technology early college high schools - design - requirements - approval. (1) A pathways in technology early college high school, or p-tech school, is a public school that includes grades nine through fourteen and is designed to prepare students for high-potential careers in industry, INCLUDING THE MAJOR INDUSTRY CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED IN THE COLORADO TALENT REPORT PRODUCED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103 (3), WHICH INCLUDES LIFE, PHYSICAL, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES; ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING; COMPUTERS AND MATHEMATICS; INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR; BUSINESS AND FINANCE; CONSTRUCTION AND EXTRACTION; COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES; AND TRANSPORTATION AND MATERIAL MOVING OCCUPATIONS, by enabling them to graduate with a high school diploma and an industry-recognized associate degree. Students in a p-tech school may also earn pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized certificates in addition to an associate degree. A p-tech school is operated as a collaborative effort by a local education provider, a community college, and one or more local high-growth industry employers. Throughout grades nine through fourteen, a p-tech school integrates high school and college courses and certificate programs that are informed by current and projected industry standards and focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with mentoring, job shadowing, internships, pre-apprenticeship training, and other workplace education experiences.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-202, **amend** (5)(c)(III) and (5)(f) as follows:

23-18-202. College opportunity fund - appropriations - payment of stipends - reimbursement - report. (5) (c) (III) For an eligible undergraduate student who has completed one or more college courses while enrolled in high school pursuant to the "Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act", article 35 of title 22, or while designated as an ASCENT program participant pursuant to section 22-35-108 or as a TREP program participant pursuant to section 22-35-108.5, or while enrolled in a pathways in technology early college high school pursuant to article 35.3 of title 22, all college-level credit hours earned by the student while so enrolled DO NOT count against the lifetime limitation described in subsection (5)(c)(I) of this section. ~~except that credit hours earned from enrollment in a developmental education course, as defined in section 23-1-113 (11)(b), do not count against the lifetime limitation.~~

(f) Notwithstanding the lifetime-credit-hour limitation established pursuant to ~~paragraph (c) of this subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(c) OF THIS SECTION and in addition to the provisions of ~~paragraph (e) of this subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(e) OF THIS SECTION, a state institution of higher education may annually grant a one-year waiver of the lifetime-credit-hour limitation for up to five percent of the eligible undergraduate students enrolled in the state institution of higher education. ~~In granting the waivers under this paragraph (f), the state institution of higher education shall, upon request, grant a waiver to an eligible undergraduate student for courses taken pursuant to the "Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act", article 35 of title 22, C.R.S., or for courses taken while enrolled in a pathways in technology early college high school pursuant to article 35.3 of title 22, C.R.S.~~ For any remaining portion of the institution's five percent of eligible undergraduate students

who may receive waivers, the institution shall give priority to students who are seeking job retraining.

SECTION 4. 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; 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 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 30, 2024