

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 20-0409.01 Jacob Baus x2173

HOUSE BILL 20-1002

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A STATEWIDE PLAN FOR AWARDING COLLEGE CREDIT**
102 **FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Making Higher Education Attainable Interim Study Committee. The bill requires an existing council charged with looking at general education courses (council) to implement a plan for determining and awarding academic credit for postsecondary education based on work-related experience.

Furthermore, state institutions of higher education (institutions) are

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
June 9, 2020

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
June 4, 2020

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
June 1, 2020

required to evaluate student learning from work-related experience and award appropriate academic credit for the experience. Also, institutions shall accept and transfer academic credit awarded for work-related experience as courses with guaranteed-transfer designation, unless the council creates a plan concerning awarding and transferring academic credit for work-related experience for courses with guaranteed-transfer designation.

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

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

4 (a) In addition to the student rights pursuant to section 23-1-125
5 (1)(a), (1)(c), and (1)(d), Colorado Revised Statutes, students need
6 additional rights for their work-related experience to be evaluated fairly
7 for application toward a postsecondary credential;

8 (b) To ensure the economic vitality of Colorado, every industry
9 needs access to a skilled workforce, every Coloradan needs access to
10 meaningful employment, and institutions of higher education must
11 maintain the ability to enroll qualified students and produce high-quality
12 credentials of value;

13 (c) During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years, high school
14 students earned nine thousand industry credentials related to high-demand
15 jobs and industries in Colorado. These industry credentials should be
16 evaluated for potential application toward a postsecondary credential with
17 transferability among two-year and four-year institutions.

18 (d) The commission on higher education, in collaboration with
19 representatives from institutions of higher education, must develop a plan
20 to align work-related experience with academic credit that counts toward
21 a student's postsecondary education credential;

22 (e) The plan must be open, transparent, and credible so students

1 can progress more efficiently along pathways into postsecondary
2 education and the workforce;

3 (f) Industry members, especially from high workforce demand and
4 growing industries with critical occupations and top jobs that are
5 identified in the Colorado talent pipeline report, are important
6 stakeholders in this process to ensure Colorado's higher education system
7 is responsive to students and to the changing economy; and

8 (g) Through this work, the general assembly ensures additional
9 pathways to career and financial success for Colorado students and
10 workers and reduced costs to students through less time required to earn
11 a degree.

12

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-5-145.5** as
14 follows:

15 **23-5-145.5. Credit for work-related experience - plan - report**
16 **- definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
17 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

18 (a) "COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "COMMISSION" HAS
19 THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-101.1 (1).

20 (b) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE COUNCIL CREATED AND EXISTING
21 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5, CONVENED BY THE COMMISSION ON
22 HIGHER EDUCATION.

23 (c) "GUARANTEED-TRANSFER PATHWAYS" OR "GT PATHWAYS"
24 MEANS THE STATEWIDE ARTICULATION MATRIX SYSTEM OF COMMON
25 COURSE NUMBERING FOR GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES DESCRIBED IN
26 SECTION 23-1-108.5 (3)(c).

27 (d) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"

1 HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-135 (2).

2 (e) "STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT" MEANS A
3 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION
4 23-1-108 (7).

5 (f) "WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE" MEANS ANY EXPERIENCE
6 ACQUIRED WITHIN THE PAST TEN YEARS THROUGH PAID OR UNPAID
7 EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SELF-EMPLOYMENT, AN
8 INTERNSHIP, A RESIDENCY, A PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, OR AN
9 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM THAT MAY LEAD TO OR RESULT IN A BUSINESS
10 CREDENTIAL, AN INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL, A TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE, OR
11 A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE.

12 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, IN
13 CONSULTATION WITH INSTITUTIONS, SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY
14 CONCERNING AWARDING ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING
15 OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN ALL INSTITUTIONS. THE STUDY MUST EXAMINE:

16 (I) THE PROCESSES BY WHICH A STUDENT CAN RECEIVE ACADEMIC
17 CREDIT FOR ANY COURSE IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM, FREE OF
18 TUITION, THROUGH SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A PORTFOLIO
19 ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT, EXAMINATION, OR ANY
20 COMBINATION THEREOF THAT IS APPROPRIATE TO THE LEARNING
21 OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE;

22 (II) THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO A STUDENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT
23 LIMITED TO IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S OVERALL ATTENDANCE COST,
24 WHETHER A POLICY WOULD ACCELERATE THE TIME TO COMPLETE A
25 POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL, AND THE IMPACT ON THE STATE'S GOAL TO
26 INCREASE CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT RATES; AND

27 (III) THE COSTS TO INSTITUTIONS TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN

1 PROCESSES TO GRANT ACADEMIC CREDIT TO A STUDENT FOR PRIOR
2 LEARNING AND THE ABILITY TO RECOVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FROM
3 STUDENTS REQUESTING THE PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT.

4 (b) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, THE COMMISSION SHALL
5 REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, THE RESULTS OF THE
7 STUDY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, THE COUNCIL, IN
9 COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION, SHALL CREATE, ADOPT, AND
10 IMPLEMENT A PLAN, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "PLAN", TO
11 AWARD POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COURSES IN GT
12 PATHWAYS OR A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR
13 LEARNING DEMONSTRATED FROM WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE. IN
14 CREATING THE PLAN, PRIORITY MAY BE GIVEN TO WORK-RELATED
15 EXPERIENCE THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO WORKFORCE DEMANDS AND GROWING
16 INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED BY THE MOST RECENT COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE
17 REPORT PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103 OR IDENTIFIED IN
18 CONSULTATION WITH THE COLORADO WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT
19 COUNCIL IN SECTION 24-46.3-101.

20 (b) THE COUNCIL, COMMISSION, OR DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
21 EDUCATION, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF, MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND
22 EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES
23 FOR THE PURPOSES OF CREATING, ADOPTING, AND IMPLEMENTING A PLAN
24 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE PLAN SHALL NOT BE CREATED, ADOPTED,
25 OR IMPLEMENTED UNLESS SUFFICIENT MONEY IS AVAILABLE FROM GIFTS,
26 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO COVER THE COSTS OF CREATING, ADOPTING,
27 AND IMPLEMENTING A PLAN PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

1 (4) THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE:

2 (a) A PROCESS FOR ASSESSING AND ALIGNING WORK-RELATED
3 EXPERIENCE TO THE KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED FOR
4 AWARDING POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COURSES IN GT
5 PATHWAYS OR A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT, WHICH
6 CREDIT GRANTED MUST BE TRANSFERABLE TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION
7 PURSUANT TO COMMISSION POLICY REGARDING GT PATHWAYS OR A
8 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT; AND

9 (b) A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING CREDENTIALS EARNED BY A
10 STUDENT AT AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE PURSUANT TO SECTION
11 23-60-802 AND DETERMINING HOW POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT
12 WILL TRANSFER FROM AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, IF APPROPRIATE, TO
13 PUBLIC TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
14 EDUCATION.

15 (5) THE COUNCIL, IN CREATING THE PLAN, SHALL CONSULT WITH:

16 (a) REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT
17 LIMITED TO, FACULTY MEMBERS AND REGISTRARS;

18 (b) REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT REPRESENT
19 STUDENTS IN COLORADO;

20 (c) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLORADO WORK FORCE
21 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL;

22 (d) REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH WORKFORCE
23 DEMAND AND GROWING INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT
24 COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT AND ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING
25 THEM; AND

26 (e) REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION.

27 (6) UPON COMPLETION OF THE PLAN, THE COUNCIL, IN

1 COLLABORATION WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
2 (5) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD EXPANDING
3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR AWARDED POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR
4 LEARNING ACQUIRED FROM WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE NOT OTHERWISE
5 ADDRESSED IN THIS SECTION.

6 (7) BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR, UNLESS THE PLAN
7 IS IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC
8 YEAR, AN INSTITUTION SHALL ACCEPT IN AND TRANSFER WITHIN THE
9 INSTITUTION AND TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC
10 CREDIT AWARDED FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE FOR A COURSE THAT
11 IS GT PATHWAYS DESIGNATED OR PART OF A STATEWIDE DEGREE
12 TRANSFER AGREEMENT.

13 (8) (a) DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
14 SEVENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2022, THE DEPARTMENT OF
15 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF
16 THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
17 COMMITTEES, REGARDING THE CREATION, ADOPTION, AND
18 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

19 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (8) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

20 (9) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE MARCH
21 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT TO THE
22 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, REGARDING THE
24 CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE REPORT MUST
25 INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

26 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO WERE AWARDED CREDITS AND
27 WHO TRANSFERRED CREDITS TO OR FROM AN INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO

1 THIS SECTION;

2 (II) DATA REGARDING THE AGE AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENTS

3 WHO WERE AWARDED CREDITS AND WHO TRANSFERRED CREDITS TO OR

4 FROM AN INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION;

5 (III) THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES OF THIS SECTION;

6 (IV) THE FEE ESTABLISHED AND CHARGED BY INSTITUTIONS, IF

7 ANY, TO ADMINISTER A PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT,

8 EXAMINATION, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF;

9 (V) THE DIRECT COSTS IMPOSED ON INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT

10 THIS SECTION; AND

11 (VI) ANY RECOMMENDED STATUTORY REVISIONS TO THIS SECTION.

12 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136

13 (11)(a)(I), THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION

14 (9) CONTINUES UNTIL THE REPEAL OF THIS SUBSECTION (9).

15 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **add** (4.7)

17 as follows:

18 **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**

19 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test -**

20 **prior learning - prior work-related experience. (4.7) Prior**

21 **work-related experience.** PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.5, THE

22 COUNCIL CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5, IN

23 COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION, SHALL CREATE, ADOPT, AND

24 IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO DETERMINE AND AWARD POSTSECONDARY

25 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE.

26 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.