

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

REVISED

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

LLS NO. 24-0417.02 Jacob Baus x2173

HOUSE BILL 24-1305

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHANGES TO PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT STUDENTS WHO**
102 **EARN POSTSECONDARY COURSE CREDIT WHILE ENROLLED IN**
103 **HIGH SCHOOL.**

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>.)

The bill expands the types of programs a pathways in technology early college high school (p-tech school) may focus on beyond science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Under current law, the college opportunity fund program provides a stipend for eligible undergraduate students in Colorado. Generally, an

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

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 12, 2024

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 22, 2024

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 21, 2024

eligible undergraduate student is ineligible to receive a stipend for more than 145 credit hours during the student's lifetime. The bill makes an exception to this lifetime limitation for college-level credit hours earned while the eligible undergraduate student was enrolled in a concurrent enrollment program, the accelerating students through concurrent enrollment program, the teacher recruitment education and preparation program, or a p-tech school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **22-35.3-103. Pathways in technology early college high schools**

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

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

25 **23-18-202. College opportunity fund - appropriations -**
26 **payment of stipends - reimbursement - report.** (5) (c) (III) For an
27 eligible undergraduate student who has completed one or more college

1 courses while enrolled in high school pursuant to the "Concurrent
2 Enrollment Programs Act", article 35 of title 22, or while designated as
3 an ASCENT program participant pursuant to section 22-35-108 or as a
4 TREP program participant pursuant to section 22-35-108.5, or while
5 enrolled in a pathways in technology early college high school pursuant
6 to article 35.3 of title 22, all college-level credit hours earned by the
7 student while so enrolled DO NOT count against the lifetime limitation
8 described in subsection (5)(c)(I) of this section. ~~except that credit hours
9 earned from enrollment in a developmental education course, as defined
10 in section 23-1-113 (11)(b), do not count against the lifetime limitation.~~

11 (f) Notwithstanding the lifetime-credit-hour limitation established
12 pursuant to ~~paragraph (c) of this subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(c) OF THIS
13 SECTION and in addition to the provisions of ~~paragraph (e) of this~~
14 ~~subsection (5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(e) OF THIS SECTION, a state institution of
15 higher education may annually grant a one-year waiver of the
16 lifetime-credit-hour limitation for up to five percent of the eligible
17 undergraduate students enrolled in the state institution of higher
18 education. ~~In granting the waivers under this paragraph (f), the state~~
19 ~~institution of higher education shall, upon request, grant a waiver to an~~
20 ~~eligible undergraduate student for courses taken pursuant to the~~
21 ~~"Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act", article 35 of title 22, C.R.S., or~~
22 ~~for courses taken while enrolled in a pathways in technology early college~~
23 ~~high school pursuant to article 35.3 of title 22. C.R.S. For any remaining~~
24 ~~portion of the institution's five percent of eligible undergraduate students~~
25 ~~who may receive waivers, the institution shall give priority to students~~
26 ~~who are seeking job retraining.~~

27 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

1 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
2 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
3 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
4 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
5 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
6 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
7 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
8 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.