

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0660.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 24-164

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Buckner and Lundeen,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie and Pugliese,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF**
102 **HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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 adds the following rights to the rights of higher education students:

- Cost transparency regarding a postsecondary education program;
- A timely response on whether transfer credit will be accepted by a public institution of higher education

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.

- (institution); and
● The right to appeal an institution's decision not to accept a student's request to transfer credits.

The bill makes changes to the statewide common course numbering system to guarantee certain course transfer credits between community colleges, local district colleges, and area technical colleges.

The bill requires the department of higher education to establish an appeal process if an institution wrongfully denies a student's transfer credit.

The bill requires an institution to issue a decision to a student regarding the acceptance or denial of transfer credits within 30 days after the date the student submits a request for transfer credit.

Beginning January 1, 2025, the bill requires an institution to provide a financial aid and cost disclosure form to a student prior to the student decision deadline to accept admission to the institution.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **amend** (1)
3 introductory portion, (1)(e), (1)(f), (3), (4), (4.5), and (5)(a)(II); and **add**
4 (1)(h), (1)(i), (1)(j), (1.5), and (6) as follows:

5 **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**
6 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test -**
7 **prior learning - prior work-related experience - policies - definitions-**
8 **repeal.** (1) **Student bill of rights.** The general assembly ~~hereby~~ finds
9 that students enrolled in ~~public institutions of higher education~~ shall have
10 the following rights:

11 (e) Students, upon completion of ~~core~~ LOWER-DIVISION general
12 education courses IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX
13 SYSTEM, regardless of the delivery method, ~~should~~ MUST have those
14 courses satisfy the core course AND MAJOR requirements of all ~~Colorado~~
15 ~~public institutions of higher education~~ INSTITUTIONS. CREDITS MUST
16 TRANSFER SEAMLESSLY TO A RECEIVING INSTITUTION;

17 (f) Students have a right to know if courses from one or more

1 ~~public higher education~~ institutions satisfy the students' degree
2 requirements;

3 (h) STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO TRANSPARENCY OF THE COST OF
4 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON
5 FEES, ASSOCIATED EXPENSES, AND FINANCIAL AID IN THE FORM OF
6 SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND LOANS;

7 (i) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEAMLESS TRANSFER OF
8 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES AND GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY
9 COURSES; TRANSPARENCY IN THE PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING CREDITS;
10 A TIMELY RESPONSE ON APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFERRING CREDITS; AND
11 TRANSPARENCY IN HOW AND WHY A CREDIT IS ACCEPTED OR REJECTED BY
12 AN INSTITUTION AND HOW AND WHY A CREDIT IS OR IS NOT APPLIED
13 TOWARD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS; AND

14 (j) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL AN INSTITUTION'S
15 FAILURE TO ACCEPT THE STUDENT'S REQUEST FOR TRANSFER CREDIT.

16 (1.5) **Policies.** (a) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2024, THE
17 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH
18 INSTITUTION TO CREATE GUIDELINES ON HOW TO BEST IMPLEMENT THE
19 RIGHTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (1)(h) TO (1)(j) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (b) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT
21 POLICIES BASED ON THE GUIDELINES CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
22 (1.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

23 (c) THIS SUBSECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

24 (3) **Core courses.** The department, in consultation with each
25 ~~Colorado public institution of higher education, is directed to~~ MUST
26 outline a plan to implement a core course concept that defines the general
27 education course guidelines for all ~~public~~ institutions. ~~of higher~~

1 ~~education.~~ The core of courses ~~shall~~ MUST be designed to ensure that
2 students demonstrate competency in reading, critical thinking, written
3 communication, mathematics, and technology. The core of courses ~~shall~~
4 MUST consist of at least thirty credit hours but shall not exceed forty credit
5 hours. Individual institutions ~~of higher education~~ shall conform their own
6 core course requirements with the guidelines developed by the department
7 and shall identify the specific courses that meet the general education
8 course guidelines. ~~Any such guidelines developed by the department shall~~
9 ~~be submitted to the commission for its approval.~~ THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
10 SUBMIT ANY GUIDELINES IT DEVELOPS TO THE COMMISSION FOR
11 APPROVAL. In creating and adopting the guidelines, the department and
12 the commission, in collaboration with the ~~public institutions of higher~~
13 ~~education~~ INSTITUTIONS, may make allowances for baccalaureate
14 programs that have additional degree requirements recognized by the
15 commission. If a statewide matrix of core courses is adopted by the
16 commission, the courses identified by the individual institutions as
17 meeting the general education course guidelines ~~shall~~ MUST be included
18 in the matrix. The commission shall adopt such policies to ensure that
19 institutions develop the most effective way to implement the
20 transferability of core course credits.

21 (4) **Competency testing.** On or before July 1, 2010, the
22 commission shall, in consultation with each ~~public~~ institution, ~~of higher~~
23 ~~education~~, define a process for students to test out of core courses,
24 including specifying use of a national test or the criteria for approving
25 institutionally devised tests. Beginning in the 2010-11 academic year,
26 each ~~public~~ institution ~~of higher education~~ shall grant full course credits
27 to students for the core courses they successfully test out of, free of

1 tuition for those courses.

2 (4.5) **Prior learning.** Beginning in the 2013-14 academic year,
3 each ~~public institution of higher education~~ shall adopt and make public
4 a policy or program to determine academic credit for prior learning.

5 (5) **Nonpublic institutions of higher education.** (a) (II) The core
6 course requirements that a nonpublic institution of higher education
7 conforms or adopts pursuant to this ~~paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(a) shall
8 comply with the number of credit hours required by the department and
9 shall include courses in each of the subject areas identified by the
10 department. The nonpublic institution of higher education shall submit to
11 the department a description of its core course requirements with the
12 initial review fee established pursuant to ~~paragraph (c) of this subsection~~
13 ~~(5)~~ SUBSECTION (5)(c) OF THIS SECTION, and the department shall
14 determine whether the nonpublic institution's core course requirements
15 comply with the department's general education course guidelines. If the
16 department determines that the nonpublic institution of higher education's
17 core course requirements comply with the guidelines, then the nonpublic
18 institution's core course credits ~~shall be~~ ARE transferable to ~~public~~
19 ~~institutions of higher education~~ INSTITUTIONS, and the nonpublic
20 institution of higher education shall accept transfers of core course credits
21 from the ~~public institutions of higher education~~ INSTITUTIONS.

22 (6) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
23 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

24 (a) "GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE" MEANS A SPECIFIC
25 LOWER-DIVISION COURSE OFFERED BY AN INSTITUTION THAT ANY
26 DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENT ENROLLED AT THE INSTITUTION MUST
27 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

1 OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE INSTITUTION.

2 (b) "GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY COURSE" MEANS A
3 COURSE REQUIRED FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OFFERED BY AN INSTITUTION
4 THAT EVERY STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE
5 INSTITUTION MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO TRANSFER
6 FROM AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION
7 23-60-802, TO A COMMUNITY COLLEGE, OR FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
8 OR LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE TO A STATE UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE, AND
9 IS EQUIVALENT TO THE SAME COURSE OFFERED BY ANOTHER INSTITUTION.

10 (c) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
11 MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN
12 SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), THAT IS LOCATED IN COLORADO; A LOCAL
13 DISTRICT COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-71-102; OR AN AREA
14 TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.

15 (d) "LOWER-DIVISION COURSE" MEANS A COURSE, NUMBERED
16 FROM ONE HUNDRED TO TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE, OR ONE
17 THOUSAND TO TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE, TAKEN
18 AT AN INSTITUTION OR A COURSE OFFERED AT THE FRESHMAN OR
19 SOPHOMORE LEVEL AT A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
20 REGARDLESS OF THE TITLE OR CONTENT OF THE COURSE.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-108.5, **amend**
22 (1), (2)(c), (3)(a), (3)(b), (4)(a), (4)(b), (5), and (6); **repeal** (2)(d); and
23 **add** (2)(e), (2)(f), (2)(g), (3)(d.5), (3)(d.7), (6.5), and (8) as follows:

24 **23-1-108.5. Duties and powers of the commission with regard**
25 **to common course numbering system - council of higher education**
26 **representatives - rules - definitions - repeal.** (1) The general assembly
27 **hereby** finds that, for many students, the ability to transfer among all

1 ~~state-supported institutions of higher education~~ INSTITUTIONS is critical
2 to their success in achieving a degree. The general assembly further finds
3 that it is necessary for the state to have sound transfer policies that
4 provide the broadest and simplest mechanisms feasible while protecting
5 the academic quality of the institutions ~~of higher education~~ and their
6 undergraduate degree programs. The general assembly finds, therefore,
7 that it is in the best interests of the state for the commission to oversee the
8 adoption of a statewide articulation matrix system of course numbering
9 for general education courses AND GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY
10 COURSES, that includes all ~~state-supported institutions of higher education~~
11 INSTITUTIONS and that will ensure that the quality of and requirements
12 that pertain to general education courses AND GUARANTEED TRANSFER
13 PATHWAY COURSES are comparable and transferable systemwide.

14 (2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

15 (c) "General education ~~courses~~ COURSE" means ~~the group of~~
16 ~~courses offered by an institution of higher education that every student~~
17 ~~enrolled in the institution must successfully complete to attain an~~
18 ~~associate's or bachelor's degree~~ A SPECIFIC COURSE OFFERED BY AN
19 INSTITUTION THAT A STUDENT ENROLLED AT THE INSTITUTION MUST
20 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE
21 OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE INSTITUTION.

22 (d) "~~Higher education institution~~" means ~~a state-supported~~
23 ~~institution of higher education.~~

24 (e) "GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY COURSE" MEANS A COURSE
25 REQUIRED FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OFFERED BY AN INSTITUTION THAT
26 EVERY STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION
27 MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO TRANSFER FROM AN AREA

1 TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-60-802, TO A
2 COMMUNITY COLLEGE, OR FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR LOCAL
3 DISTRICT COLLEGE TO A STATE UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE AND IS
4 EQUIVALENT TO THE SAME COURSE OFFERED BY ANOTHER INSTITUTION.

5 (f) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
6 MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN
7 SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), THAT IS LOCATED IN COLORADO; A LOCAL
8 DISTRICT COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-71-102; OR AN AREA
9 TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.

10 (g) "LOWER-DIVISION COURSE" MEANS A COURSE, NUMBERED
11 FROM ONE HUNDRED TO TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE, OR ONE
12 THOUSAND TO TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE, TAKEN
13 AT AN INSTITUTION, OR A COURSE OFFERED AT THE FRESHMAN OR
14 SOPHOMORE LEVEL AT A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
15 REGARDLESS OF THE TITLE OR CONTENT OF THE COURSE.

16 (3) (a) On or before July 1, 2001, the commission shall convene
17 a council consisting of representatives from each of the higher education
18 governing boards and each of the four-year ~~higher education~~ institutions,
19 a representative sample of the two-year ~~higher education~~ institutions, and
20 a representative of the commission. The commission shall consult with
21 the governing boards when convening representatives from the ~~higher~~
22 ~~education~~ institutions. By July 1, 2011, the council shall create a process
23 through which it shall seek input from and consult with various higher
24 education student organizations for each articulation agreement and for
25 the review of general education courses and the course numbering system
26 as required in ~~paragraph (c) of this subsection~~ SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS
27 SECTION.

1 (b) The council shall recommend to the commission a statewide
2 articulation matrix system of common course numbering to which the
3 general education courses for each ~~higher education~~ institution may be
4 mapped.

5 (d.5) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT, IN
6 CONSULTATION WITH THE INSTITUTION, SHALL ADD ADDITIONAL
7 REPRESENTATIVES, AS NECESSARY, TO THE COUNCIL TO ENSURE EQUAL
8 REPRESENTATION OF INSTITUTIONS ON THE COUNCIL.

9 (d.7) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EVERY OCTOBER 1
10 THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL REVIEW THE LIST OF GENERAL
11 EDUCATION COURSES AND GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY COURSES,
12 AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION AS NECESSARY TO
13 MAKE CHANGES AND MAINTAIN ACCURACY. AS PART OF THE REVIEW, THE
14 COUNCIL SHALL IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING:

15 (I) THE HIGHEST ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER ACTIVITY FOR THE
16 GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES AND GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY
17 COURSES WITHIN THE EXISTING STATEWIDE ARTICULATION MATRIX
18 SYSTEM OF COMMON COURSE NUMBERING;

19 (II) COURSES THAT STUDENTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO RECEIVE FULL
20 CREDIT FOR THAT APPLY TOWARD THE STUDENT'S CHOSEN ACADEMIC
21 PROGRAM UPON TRANSFER; AND

22 (III) WHERE THE NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS DIFFERS AMONG
23 INSTITUTIONS AND WHERE MISALIGNMENT OCCURS BETWEEN A COURSE
24 THAT IS OFFERED FOR GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT AND A COURSE THAT
25 IS APPLIED TOWARD OTHER ACADEMIC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

26 (4) (a) Following adoption of the course numbering system, each
27 ~~higher education~~ institution shall review its course offerings and identify

1 those general education courses AND GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY
2 COURSES offered by the institution that correspond with the courses
3 included in the course numbering system. The ~~higher education~~ institution
4 shall submit its list of identified courses, including course descriptions
5 and, upon request of the commission, summaries of course syllabi, for
6 review and approval by the commission on or before March 1, 2003, AND
7 ON MARCH 1 OF EACH ODD-NUMBERED YEAR THEREAFTER.

8 (b) Beginning with the fall semester of 2003, each ~~higher~~
9 ~~education~~ institution shall publish, and update as necessary, a list of
10 course offerings that identifies those general education courses offered by
11 the institution that correspond with the courses included in the course
12 numbering system.

13 (5) (a) All credits earned by a student in ~~any~~ A general education
14 course OR GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY COURSE identified as
15 corresponding with a course included in the course numbering system
16 ~~shall be~~ ARE automatically transferable AND APPLICABLE among all ~~higher~~
17 ~~education~~ institutions upon transfer and enrollment of the student. All
18 ~~higher education~~ institutions in ~~Colorado~~ shall participate in the course
19 numbering system. The commission shall adopt ~~such~~ policies and
20 guidelines as may be necessary for the implementation of this section.
21 Each governing board shall modify its existing policies as may be
22 necessary to accept the transfer of these credits.

23 (b) ALL LOWER-DIVISION GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES OFFERED
24 IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX SYSTEM MUST QUALIFY
25 AS A GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY COURSE AT THE RECEIVING
26 INSTITUTION, BY COURSE AND DISCIPLINE TYPE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE
27 TOTAL CREDITS ASSIGNED TO THE COURSE.

1 (c) A RECEIVING INSTITUTION MUST NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL
2 LOWER-DIVISION GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES FROM A TRANSFER
3 STUDENT WHO HAS SATISFIED COURSES IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER
4 PATHWAY MATRIX SYSTEM, regardless of whether the student earned an
5 associate's degree prior to transfer.

6 (6)(a) The council shall devise and recommend to the commission
7 procedures for exchanging information to document students' success in
8 transferring among ~~higher education~~ institutions. The commission shall
9 adopt and implement such procedures.

10 (b) The commission, in consultation with the governing boards
11 and the ~~higher education~~ institutions, shall design and implement a
12 statewide database to implement the provisions of this section.

13 (6.5) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I),
14 BEGINNING JANUARY 2026, AND EVERY JANUARY THEREAFTER, THE
15 DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE AS PART OF ITS "SMART ACT" HEARING
16 REQUIRED BY SECTION 2-7-203, A COMPILED REPORT OF INFORMATION
17 RECEIVED FROM EACH INSTITUTION THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

18 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO THE
19 INSTITUTION, DIFFERENTIATED BY THE INSTITUTION THAT A STUDENT IS
20 TRANSFERRING FROM;

21 (II) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS ACCEPTED AND DENIED FOR A
22 STUDENT TRANSFERRING TO THE INSTITUTION;

23 (III) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS APPLIED TO A STUDENT'S DEGREE OR
24 PROGRAM COMPARED TO THE CREDITS NOT APPLIED TO THE STUDENT'S
25 DEGREE OR PROGRAM;

26 (IV) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDITS NEEDED TO COMPLETE A
27 BACHELOR'S DEGREE FOR A TRANSFER STUDENT COMPARED TO A

1 NON-TRANSFER STUDENT;

2 (V) THE AVERAGE FINANCIAL COST TO OBTAIN A BACHELOR'S
3 DEGREE FOR A TRANSFER STUDENT COMPARED TO A NON-TRANSFER
4 STUDENT;

5 (VI) THE AVERAGE TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE A BACHELOR'S
6 DEGREE FOR A TRANSFER STUDENT COMPARED TO A NON-TRANSFER
7 STUDENT; AND

8 (VII) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS ACCEPTED AND APPLIED RELATED
9 TO GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY COURSES, GENERAL EDUCATION
10 COURSES, AND OTHER COURSE EQUIVALENTS.

11 (b) INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS
12 SUBSECTION (6.5) MUST BE DISAGGREGATED BY STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS,
13 INCLUDING AGE, GENDER, RACE, ETHNICITY, INCOME, FIRST-GENERATION
14 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, MILITARY, AND DISABILITY STATUS, AND
15 DEIDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO KEEP THE IDENTITY OF
16 THE STUDENTS CONFIDENTIAL.

17 (8) (a) THE DEPARTMENT HAS EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO BRING
18 AN ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE STATE AGAINST AN INSTITUTION FOR A
19 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

20 (b) PRIOR TO AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
21 (8)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MUST ISSUE A NOTICE OF
22 VIOLATION TO THE INSTITUTION AND EXPLAIN HOW THE INSTITUTION MAY
23 REMEDY THE VIOLATION, IF POSSIBLE. IF THE INSTITUTION FAILS TO
24 REMEDY THE VIOLATION WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE
25 NOTICE OF VIOLATION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY BRING AN ACTION AGAINST
26 THE INSTITUTION.

27 (c) THE DEPARTMENT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO OVERTURN A

1 COURSE TRANSFER DECISION MADE BY AN INSTITUTION THAT IS IN
2 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

3 (d) THE COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES
4 AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (8).

5 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-1-109.9** as
6 follows:

7 **23-1-109.9. Duties and powers of the commission with respect**
8 **to an appeal process for students - definition.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT,
9 IN CONSULTATION WITH AN INSTITUTION, SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR
10 STUDENTS TO APPEAL A REQUEST FOR TRANSFER CREDIT THAT IS DENIED
11 BY AN INSTITUTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE APPEAL PROCESS MUST:

12 (a) ALLOW THE AGGRIEVED STUDENT TO APPEAL AN INSTITUTION'S
13 DECISION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE STUDENT'S TRANSFER
14 CREDIT;

15 (b) REQUIRE THE INSTITUTION TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE DENIAL
16 OF THE STUDENT'S TRANSFER CREDIT IS MATERIAL; AND

17 (c) BE COMPLETED WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER THE APPEAL IS
18 REQUESTED.

19 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
20 REQUIRES, "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION" MEANS
21 A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
22 23-18-102 (10)(a), THAT IS LOCATED IN COLORADO; A LOCAL DISTRICT
23 COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-71-102; OR AN AREA TECHNICAL
24 COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.

25 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-5-150** as
26 follows:

27 **23-5-150. Transfer credit review process and nontransferable**

1 **credit - notice - reports - definition.** (1) (a) AN INSTITUTION SHALL
2 PROVIDE A STUDENT SEEKING TRANSFER CREDIT FROM THE INSTITUTION
3 WITH A DETERMINATION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OR DENIAL OF THE
4 STUDENT'S REQUEST FOR TRANSFER CREDIT WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER
5 THE DATE THE STUDENT SUBMITS A REQUEST FOR TRANSFER CREDIT.

6 (b) AN INSTITUTION SHALL PUBLISH THE INSTITUTION'S PROCESS
7 AND TIMELINE FOR REVIEWING AND MAKING A DECISION REGARDING
8 TRANSFER CREDIT REQUESTS ON THE INSTITUTION'S WEBSITE. AN
9 INSTITUTION SHALL UPDATE ITS WEBSITE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER
10 MAKING A CHANGE TO ITS PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR REVIEWING AND
11 ISSUING DECISIONS REGARDING TRANSFER CREDIT REQUESTS.

12 (2) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31, 2024, AN INSTITUTION SHALL
13 PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT, IN THE FORM AND MANNER
14 PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT, A REPORT DETAILING THE
15 INSTITUTION'S PROCESS FOR REVIEWING TRANSFER CREDIT APPLICATIONS.

16 (3) (a) NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH NOVEMBER
17 1 THEREAFTER, IN THE FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE
18 DEPARTMENT, AN INSTITUTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
19 DEPARTMENT DESCRIBING DENIALS OF TRANSFER CREDITS ISSUED BY THE
20 INSTITUTION IN RESPONSE TO STUDENTS' REQUESTS FOR:

21 (I) ACADEMIC CREDIT AT THE RECEIVING INSTITUTION; AND

22 (II) IF A STUDENT HAS DECLARED A MAJOR AND HAS NOT CHANGED
23 MAJORS, ACADEMIC CREDIT TOWARD THE STUDENT'S MAJOR AT THE
24 RECEIVING INSTITUTION.

25 (b) THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (3) MUST
26 INDICATE:

27 (I) THE COURSE NAME, TYPE, ASSOCIATED COURSE CREDIT HOURS,

1 AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPICS COVERED IN THE COURSE TAKEN
2 AND THE COURSE FOR WHICH THE STUDENT REQUESTED TRANSFER CREDIT;

3 (II) THE STUDENT REQUESTING TRANSFER CREDIT'S DECLARED
4 MAJOR OR ACADEMIC PROGRAM, IF THE STUDENT IS REQUESTING TRANSFER
5 CREDITS TO APPLY TOWARDS CREDITS REQUIRED FOR THE STUDENT'S
6 DECLARED MAJOR OR ACADEMIC PROGRAM;

7 (III) WHICH INSTITUTION PROVIDED ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE
8 COURSE; AND

9 (IV) THE REASON THE RECEIVING INSTITUTION DID NOT GRANT
10 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE COURSE.

11 (4) BEGINNING IN 2025, AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, THE
12 DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE A REPORT SUMMARIZING THE REPORTS
13 RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION AND SUBMIT
14 THE REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EDUCATION COMMITTEE
15 AND THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
16 COMMITTEES.

17 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136
18 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS
19 SECTION CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

20 (6) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
21 REQUIRES, "INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
22 EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), THAT IS LOCATED
23 IN COLORADO; A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
24 23-71-102; OR AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
25 23-60-103.

26 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-151 as
27 follows:

1 **23-5-151. Financial aid and cost disclosure requirements -**

2 **definition.** (1) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AN INSTITUTION SHALL
3 PROVIDE A FINANCIAL AID AND COST DISCLOSURE FORM TO A STUDENT
4 WITH THE STUDENT'S INITIAL FINANCIAL AID PACKET PRIOR TO THE
5 STUDENT DECISION DEADLINE TO ACCEPT ADMISSION FROM THE
6 INSTITUTION.

7 (2) AN INSTITUTION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
8 INFORMATION ON THE FINANCIAL AID AND COST DISCLOSURE FORM:

9 (a) COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING:

10 (I) GENERAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL FEES;

11 (II) ROOM AND BOARD OR A REASONABLE ESTIMATE OF ROOM AND
12 BOARD IF THE STUDENT HAS NOT SELECTED A ROOM AND BOARD PLAN;
13 AND

14 (III) SPECIAL FEES THAT THE INSTITUTION CHARGES AT THE TIME
15 THE FINANCIAL AID AND COST DISCLOSURE FORM IS CREATED;

16 (b) ALL AVAILABLE SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID OFFERED BY THE
17 INSTITUTION FOR WHICH THE STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE, INCLUDING THE
18 FOLLOWING:

19 (I) ANY GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP THE INSTITUTION OFFERS,
20 INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING THE
21 GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP; AND

22 (II) WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF
23 REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING THE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM BENEFITS;

24 (c) THE STUDENT'S EXPECTED NET COST OF ATTENDANCE AFTER
25 THE STUDENT'S AGGREGATE FINANCIAL AID, INCLUDING THE STUDENT'S
26 GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, LOANS, AND WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS, IS APPLIED
27 TO THE STUDENT'S AGGREGATE COST OF ATTENDANCE.

1 (3) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE AN INSTITUTION TO PROVIDE
2 MORE THAN ONE FINANCIAL AID AND COST DISCLOSURE FORM TO A
3 STUDENT. IF AN INSTITUTION CURRENTLY PROVIDES A FINANCIAL AID AND
4 COST DISCLOSURE FORM, THE INSTITUTION MUST UPDATE THE
5 INSTITUTION'S FORM TO REFLECT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN
6 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

7 (4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
8 REQUIRES, "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
9 MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN
10 SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), THAT IS LOCATED IN COLORADO; A LOCAL
11 DISTRICT COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-71-102; OR AN AREA
12 TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.

13 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-70-103, **amend**
14 (3) as follows:

15 **23-70-103. Responsibility of governing boards of constituent**
16 **institutions.** (3) The respective governing boards of the constituent
17 institutions shall provide that credits earned at each of the constituent
18 institutions ~~shall~~ **MUST** be transferable between institutions ~~insofar as they~~
19 ~~meet the degree and grade requirements of the student's chosen program~~
20 ~~of studies at one of the constituent institutions as determined by the~~
21 ~~degree-granting institution~~ AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 23-1-108.5.

22 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
25 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
26 institutions.