

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Education.

SB24-164 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2 substitute:

3 **"SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **amend**
4 (1) introductory portion; and **add** (1)(h), (1)(i), (1)(j), (1)(k), (1.5), and (6)
5 as follows:

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

12 (h) STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO TRANSPARENCY OF THE COST OF
13 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON
14 FEES, ASSOCIATED EXPENSES, AND FINANCIAL AID IN THE FORM OF
15 SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND LOANS;

16 (i) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SEAMLESS TRANSFER OF
17 COURSES IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX,
18 TRANSPARENCY IN THE PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING CREDITS, A TIMELY
19 RESPONSE ON APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFERRING CREDITS, AND
20 TRANSPARENCY IN HOW AND WHY A CREDIT IS ACCEPTED OR REJECTED BY
21 AN INSTITUTION AND HOW AND WHY A CREDIT IS OR IS NOT APPLIED
22 TOWARD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS;

23 (j) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL AN INSTITUTION'S
24 FAILURE TO ACCEPT THE STUDENT'S REQUEST FOR TRANSFER CREDIT; AND

25 (k) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT WORK-RELATED
26 EXPERIENCES OR PRIOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AWARDED
27 POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT AT THE INSTITUTION IN WHICH THE
28 STUDENT IS ENROLLED, PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.5.

29 (1.5) **Policies.** ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2025, THE COMMISSION
30 SHALL ADOPT POLICIES FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
31 ON HOW TO BEST IMPLEMENT THE RIGHT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(i)
32 OF THIS SECTION.

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

35 (a) "GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE" MEANS A LOWER-DIVISION
36 COURSE OFFERED BY AN INSTITUTION THAT ANY DEGREE-SEEKING
37 STUDENT ENROLLED AT THE INSTITUTION MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE
38 IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE
39 FROM THE INSTITUTION.

1 (b) "GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX" MEANS A GROUP
2 OF GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES OR LOWER-DIVISION COURSES REQUIRED
3 FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION THAT EVERY STUDENT
4 ENROLLED IN THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION MUST
5 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO TRANSFER TO OR FROM AN
6 INSTITUTION AND HAS EQUIVALENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AS THE SAME
7 COURSES OFFERED BY ANOTHER INSTITUTION.

8 (c) "LOWER-DIVISION COURSE" MEANS A COURSE NUMBERED FROM
9 ONE HUNDRED TO TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE.

10 (d) "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR
11 "INSTITUTION" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-4.5-102.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-108.5, **amend**
13 (1), (2)(c), (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(c), (4), and (5); **repeal** (2)(b) and (2)(d); and
14 **add** (2)(e), (2)(f), (2)(g), (3)(d.5), (3)(d.7), (6.5), and (8) as follows:

15 **23-1-108.5. Duties and powers of the commission with regard**
16 **to common course numbering system - council of higher education**
17 **representatives - rules - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.**

18 (1) The general assembly ~~hereby~~ finds that, for many students, the ability
19 to transfer among all ~~state-supported institutions~~ of higher education
20 INSTITUTIONS is critical to their success in achieving a degree. The
21 general assembly further finds that it is necessary for the state to have
22 sound transfer policies that provide the broadest and simplest mechanisms
23 feasible while protecting the academic quality of the institutions of higher
24 education and their undergraduate degree programs. The general
25 assembly finds, therefore, that it is in the best interests of the state for the
26 commission to oversee the adoption of ~~a statewide articulation matrix~~
27 ~~system of course numbering for general education courses~~ THE
28 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX, ~~that~~ WHICH includes all
29 ~~state-supported institutions~~ of higher education INSTITUTIONS and ~~that~~
30 will ensure that the quality of ~~and requirements that pertain to general~~
31 ~~education courses~~ THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX
32 COURSES are comparable and transferable systemwide.

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

34 (b) ~~"Course numbering system" means the statewide articulation~~
35 ~~matrix system of common course numbering for general education~~
36 ~~courses adopted by the commission pursuant to paragraph (c) of~~
37 ~~subsection (3) of this section.~~

38 (c) ~~"General education courses COURSE" means the group of~~
39 ~~courses offered by an institution of higher education that every student~~
40 ~~enrolled in the institution must successfully complete to attain an~~
41 ~~associate's or bachelor's degree~~ A LOWER-DIVISION COURSE OFFERED BY
42 AN INSTITUTION THAT ANY DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENT ENROLLED AT THE
43 INSTITUTION MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN

1 ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE INSTITUTION.

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

4 (e) "GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX" MEANS A GROUP
5 OF GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES OR LOWER-DIVISION COURSES REQUIRED
6 FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION THAT EVERY STUDENT
7 ENROLLED IN THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION MUST
8 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO TRANSFER TO OR FROM AN
9 INSTITUTION AND THAT HAS EQUIVALENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AS THE
10 SAME COURSES OFFERED BY ANOTHER INSTITUTION.

11 (f) "HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION" OR "INSTITUTION" MEANS
12 A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION
13 23-4.5-102.

14 (g) "LOWER-DIVISION COURSE" MEANS A COURSE NUMBERED FROM
15 ONE HUNDRED TO TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE.

16 (d.5) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
17 ADD ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AS NECESSARY TO THE COUNCIL TO
18 ENSURE EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF INSTITUTIONS ON THE COUNCIL.

19 (d.7) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EVERY OCTOBER 1
20 THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL REVIEW THE LIST OF COURSES IN THE
21 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX AND MAKE
22 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION AS NECESSARY TO MAKE
23 CHANGES AND MAINTAIN ACCURACY. AS PART OF THE REVIEW, THE
24 COUNCIL SHALL IDENTIFY:

25 (I) THE HIGHEST ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER ACTIVITY FOR
26 COURSES IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX;

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

30 (III) HOW THE NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS DIFFERS AMONG
31 INSTITUTIONS AND WHERE MISALIGNMENT OCCURS BETWEEN COURSES IN
32 THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX.

33 (3) (a) On or before July 1, 2001, the commission shall convene
34 a council consisting of representatives from each of the higher education
35 governing boards and each of the four-year higher education institutions,
36 a representative sample of the two-year higher education institutions, and
37 a representative of the commission. The commission shall consult with
38 the governing boards when convening representatives from the higher
39 education institutions. By July 1, 2011, the council shall create a process
40 through which it shall seek input from and consult with various higher
41 education student organizations for each articulation agreement and for
42 the review of ~~general education courses and the course numbering system~~
43 ~~as required in paragraph (c) of this subsection~~ (3) COURSES IN THE

1 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX AS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION
2 (3)(c) OF THIS SECTION.

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

7 (c) (I) On or before October 1, 2002, the council shall recommend
8 to the commission a list of ~~general education~~ courses to be included in the
9 ~~course numbering system~~ GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX. In
10 identifying ~~said general education~~ THE courses, the council shall review
11 the course descriptions and may request summaries of course syllabi for
12 review, focusing first on lower-division general education courses. The
13 commission shall review the council's recommendations and adopt a
14 ~~statewide articulation matrix system of common course numbering~~
15 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX for general education courses,
16 including criteria for ~~such~~ THE courses, on or before January 1, 2003.

17 (II) The council shall annually review the list of ~~general education~~
18 courses and the ~~course numbering system~~ GUARANTEED TRANSFER
19 PATHWAY MATRIX, including the criteria, adopted by the commission and
20 recommend ~~such~~ changes as may be necessary to maintain the accuracy
21 and integrity of the ~~course numbering system~~ GUARANTEED TRANSFER
22 PATHWAY MATRIX. The council's annual review ~~shall~~ MUST include
23 consideration of the course descriptions, and the council may request
24 summaries of course syllabi for further review.

25 (4) (a) ~~Following adoption of the course numbering system, each~~
26 ~~higher education institution shall review its course offerings and identify~~
27 ~~those general education courses offered by the institution that correspond~~
28 ~~with the courses included in the course numbering system. The EACH~~
29 ~~higher education institution shall submit its list of identified courses IN~~
30 ~~THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX, including course~~
31 ~~descriptions and, upon request of the commission, summaries of course~~
32 ~~syllabi, for review and approval by the commission on or before March~~
33 ~~1, 2003, AND ON MARCH 1 OF EACH ODD-NUMBERED YEAR THEREAFTER.~~

34 (b) Beginning with the fall semester of 2003, each higher
35 education institution shall publish, and update as necessary, a list of
36 course offerings that identifies ~~those general education~~ courses offered by
37 the institution that correspond with the courses included in the ~~course~~
38 ~~numbering system~~ GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX.

39 (5) (a) All credits earned by a student in ~~any general education~~
40 ~~course identified as corresponding with a course included in the course~~
41 ~~numbering system shall be~~ THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY
42 MATRIX ARE automatically transferable AND APPLICABLE among all higher
43 education institutions upon transfer and enrollment of the student. All
44 higher education institutions ~~in Colorado~~ shall participate in the ~~course~~

1 ~~numbering system~~ GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX. The
2 commission shall adopt ~~such~~ policies and guidelines as ~~may be~~ necessary
3 for the implementation of this section. Each INSTITUTION'S governing
4 board shall modify its existing policies as ~~may be~~ necessary to accept the
5 transfer of these credits.

6 (b) ALL COURSES IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY
7 MATRIX SYSTEM MUST QUALIFY AS THE SAME COURSE AT THE RECEIVING
8 INSTITUTION, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE TOTAL CREDITS ASSIGNED TO THE
9 COURSE.

10 (c) A RECEIVING INSTITUTION SHALL NOT REQUIRE A TRANSFER
11 STUDENT TO TAKE THE SAME OR SIMILAR COURSES WHO HAS COMPLETED
12 THE REQUIRED COURSE IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX,
13 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE STUDENT EARNED AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE
14 PRIOR TO TRANSFER.

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

20 (I) THE NUMBER OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TRANSFERRING
21 TO THE INSTITUTION AND EACH INSTITUTION THAT A STUDENT IS
22 TRANSFERRING FROM;

23 (II) THE AVERAGE TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE A BACHELOR'S
24 DEGREE FOR A TRANSFER STUDENT COMPARED TO A NON-TRANSFER
25 STUDENT;

26 (III) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDITS ACCEPTED AND APPLIED
27 RELATED TO GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY COURSES, GENERAL
28 EDUCATION COURSES, AND OTHER COURSE EQUIVALENTS; AND

29 (IV) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS THAT WERE ACCEPTED AND NOT
30 ACCEPTED, AND THE NUMBER OF CREDITS THAT WERE APPLIED AND WERE
31 NOT APPLIED TO EACH STUDENT'S DEGREE PROGRAM COURSE
32 REQUIREMENTS, DISAGGREGATED BY DEGREE PROGRAM.

33 (b) USING EXISTING STATEWIDE DATA, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
34 ALSO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH INSTITUTION
35 REGARDING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TRANSFER CREDITS EARNED AND THE
36 TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDITS APPLIED TOWARD DEGREE REQUIREMENTS IN
37 THE REPORT REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (6.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION:

38 (I) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDITS ATTEMPTED AND THE
39 NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED TO OBTAIN A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FOR A
40 TRANSFER STUDENT COMPARED TO A STUDENT WHO DID NOT TRANSFER TO
41 ANOTHER INSTITUTION BEFORE EARNING THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE; AND

42 (II) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF ACADEMIC TERMS NEEDED TO
43 COMPLETE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FOR A TRANSFER STUDENT COMPARED
44 TO A STUDENT WHO DID NOT TRANSFER TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION BEFORE

1 EARNING THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE.

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

5 (b) PRIOR TO AN ENFORCEMENT ACTION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
6 (8)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A NOTICE OF
7 VIOLATION TO THE INSTITUTION AND EXPLAIN HOW THE INSTITUTION MAY
8 REMEDY THE VIOLATION, IF POSSIBLE. IF THE INSTITUTION FAILS TO
9 REMEDY THE VIOLATION WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE
10 NOTICE OF VIOLATION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY BRING AN ACTION AGAINST
11 THE INSTITUTION.

12 (c) THE DEPARTMENT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO OVERTURN A
13 COURSE TRANSFER DECISION MADE BY AN INSTITUTION THAT IS IN
14 VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

15 (d) A STUDENT ENROLLED AT AN INSTITUTION MAY APPEAL AN
16 INSTITUTION'S DECISION REGARDING THE DENIAL OF CREDIT FOR COURSES
17 IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX THAT THE STUDENT
18 SEEKS TO TRANSFER THROUGH AN APPEALS PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE
19 DEPARTMENT.

20 (e) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY TO
21 IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (8).

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-150 as
23 follows:

24 **23-5-150. Transfer credit review process and nontransferable**
25 **credit - notice - definition.** (1) AN INSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE A
26 STUDENT SEEKING TO TRANSFER CREDIT FROM THE INSTITUTION WITH A
27 DETERMINATION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OR DENIAL OF THE
28 STUDENT'S REQUEST AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR TRANSFER
29 CREDIT WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE STUDENT SUBMITS A
30 REQUEST FOR TRANSFER CREDIT.

31 (2) AN INSTITUTION SHALL PUBLISH THE INSTITUTION'S PROCESS
32 AND TIMELINE FOR REVIEWING AND MAKING A DECISION REGARDING
33 TRANSFER CREDIT REQUESTS ON THE INSTITUTION'S WEBSITE. THE
34 INSTITUTION SHALL UPDATE ITS WEBSITE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER
35 MAKING A CHANGE TO ITS PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR REVIEWING AND
36 ISSUING DECISIONS REGARDING TRANSFER CREDIT REQUESTS.

37 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
38 REQUIRES, "INSTITUTION" MEANS A "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
39 EDUCATION" AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-4.5-102.

40 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-70-103, **amend**
41 (3) as follows:

42 **23-70-103. Responsibility of governing boards of constituent**
43 **institutions.** (3) The respective governing boards of the constituent
44 institutions shall ~~provide~~ ENSURE that credits earned at each of the

1 constituent institutions ~~shall be~~ ARE transferable between institutions
2 insofar as they meet the degree and grade requirements of the student's
3 chosen program of studies at one of the constituent institutions as
4 determined by the degree-granting institution AS REQUIRED BY SECTION
5 23-1-108.5.

6 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
9 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
10 institutions.".

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