

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0316.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 16-1116

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Fields,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A PUBLIC FORUM TO DISCUSS A MODEL FOR
102 MICRO-CREDENTIALING.

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill directs the executive officer of the state board for community colleges and occupational education, or his or her designee, to hold a public forum on or before September 1, 2016, to discuss a model for micro-credentialing. The bill specifies the minimum topics for discussion, including how micro-credentials would be used, the types of skills and knowledge the micro-credentials would document, the platform

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

for hosting micro-credentials, and protocols for protecting the security of micro-credentials. The executive officer or designee must prepare a summary of the findings and recommendations that arise from the public forum, submit it to several entities, and post it on the community college system website. The executive officer or designee must also present the findings and recommendations to a joint meeting of the education committees of the general assembly held no later than February 1, 2017.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-60-110 as
3 follows:

4 **23-60-110. Micro-credentialing - model - public forum - report**
5 **- legislative declaration.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

6 (I) WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM, STUDENTS OFTEN
7 ENGAGE IN PROJECT-BASED AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING BY WHICH THEY
8 ATTAIN KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, SUCH AS CRITICAL THINKING,
9 COMMUNICATION, AND COLLABORATION, THAT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR
10 PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND EFFECTIVE CITIZENSHIP, BUT ARE NOT
11 RECOGNIZED OR IDENTIFIED THROUGH AN ASSESSMENT SCORE OR A
12 COURSE GRADE;

13 (II) STUDENTS OFTEN ATTAIN THE MASTERY OF VALUABLE SKILLS
14 BUT LACK THE ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE THIS MASTERY IN A MANNER
15 THAT IS MEANINGFUL OR CREDIBLE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER
16 SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR EMPLOYERS;

17 (III) SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS, MUSEUMS, NONPROFIT
18 ORGANIZATIONS, AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN VARIOUS
19 AREAS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE CREATED MICRO-CREDENTIALING SYSTEMS.
20 IN THESE SYSTEMS, AN ENTITY THAT PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL
21 OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS ESTABLISHES THE CRITERIA,
22 INCLUDING CURRICULUM AND COMPETENCIES, AND ASSESSMENTS FOR

1 DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON HAS ACQUIRED THE NECESSARY SKILLS
2 FOR THE MICRO-CREDENTIAL. INDIVIDUALS WHO EARN THE
3 MICRO-CREDENTIAL CAN THEN SHARE THE CREDENTIAL WITH FORMAL OR
4 INFORMAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS OR EMPLOYERS OR OTHER GROUPS THAT
5 HAVE A NEED FOR PERSONS WITH THE SKILLS REPRESENTED BY THE
6 MICRO-CREDENTIAL.

7 (IV) A MICRO-CREDENTIALING SYSTEM ENABLES INDIVIDUALS TO
8 EARN MICRO-CREDENTIALS FROM A VARIETY OF ISSUERS AND USE THE
9 MICRO-CREDENTIALS TO PROVIDE A MUCH MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF
10 THE RANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS
11 DEVELOPED. THE INDIVIDUAL CAN THEN COMBINE THE
12 MICRO-CREDENTIALS WITH THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESUME AND FORMAL
13 EDUCATION TRANSCRIPTS WHEN APPLYING FOR ENTRANCE INTO
14 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR FOR A JOB.

15 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES THAT CONSIDERATION OF
16 A SYSTEM OF MICRO-CREDENTIALING TO DOCUMENT STUDENT LEARNING
17 AND MASTERY OF DISTINCT SKILLS IS USEFUL TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO
18 DEMONSTRATE SPECIFIC SKILLS ATTAINED EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF
19 THE CLASSROOM IN A MANNER THAT IS CREDIBLE AND USEFUL FOR SCHOOL
20 DISTRICTS, CHARTER SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND
21 EMPLOYERS. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT A
22 STANDARDIZED, CREDIBLE SYSTEM OF MICRO-CREDENTIALING IS A
23 VALUABLE COMPONENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN COLORADO.

24 (2) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2016, THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
25 OF THE BOARD, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, SHALL CONVENE A PUBLIC
26 FORUM TO DISCUSS DEVELOPING A MODEL FOR THE CREATION AND USE OF
27 MICRO-CREDENTIALS AS EVIDENCE OF STUDENT LEARNING. THE

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR THE DESIGNEE, SHALL INVITE, AT A MINIMUM,
2 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
3 CHARTER SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS,
4 PUBLIC LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, AND BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO ATTEND
5 THE PUBLIC FORUM. DISCUSSION AT THE PUBLIC FORUM MUST, AT A
6 MINIMUM, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

7 (a) THE USE OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
8 CHARTER SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS,
9 AND EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING THE MANNER IN WHICH MICRO-CREDENTIALS
10 MAY SUPPORT ACCESS TO AND COMPLETION OF CAREER PATHWAYS
11 CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-104, C.R.S., AND OTHER
12 COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS INITIATIVES;

13 (b) THE APPROPRIATE SUBJECTS AND SKILLS FOR
14 MICRO-CREDENTIALING AND THE MANNER IN WHICH A TRADITIONAL OR
15 NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT MAY DEMONSTRATE THE LEVEL OF MASTERY
16 NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A MICRO-CREDENTIAL;

17 (c) THE DESIGN OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS, INCLUDING HOW THE
18 MICRO-CREDENTIALS ARE VALIDATED, STORED, ACCESSED, AND
19 MAINTAINED;

20 (d) THE PLATFORM FOR CREATING, MAINTAINING, ACCESSING, AND
21 SHARING MICRO-CREDENTIALS; AND

22 (e) THE ENTITY OR ENTITIES THAT MAY HOST THE
23 MICRO-CREDENTIALS AND PROTOCOLS TO PROTECT THE SECURITY OF
24 MICRO-CREDENTIALS AND TO HELP ENSURE THAT A STUDENT WHO
25 OBTAINS A MICRO-CREDENTIAL CONTROLS ACCESS TO THE
26 MICRO-CREDENTIAL.

27 (3) FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC FORUM, THE

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR THE DESIGNEE, SHALL SUMMARIZE THE FINDINGS
2 AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARISE FROM THE PUBLIC FORUM. THE
3 EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR DESIGNEE, SHALL SUBMIT THE FINDINGS AND
4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER
5 EDUCATION, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE STATE WORK FORCE
6 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 24-46.3-101, C.R.S., AND
7 THE GOVERNOR. NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1, 2017, THE EXECUTIVE
8 OFFICER, OR DESIGNEE, SHALL PRESENT THE FINDINGS AND
9 RECOMMENDATIONS IN A MEETING OF THE JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE
10 OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
11 COMMITTEE. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OR DESIGNEE, SHALL ALSO ENSURE
12 THAT THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE POSTED ON THE
13 COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM WEBSITE.

14 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.