

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education convenes a council of representatives from institutions of higher education to recommend policies and procedures for credit transfers between institutions, articulation agreements, common course numbering, and related topics concerning the state's guaranteed transfer (GT) framework. This bill requires that the council adopt and implement a plan for awarding credit for postsecondary education acquired through work-related experience.

No later than January 1, 2021, the council must create and implement a plan to award academic credit for competencies demonstrated from past and present work-related experience for those career and technical education programs associated with the fastest-growing industries identified in the Colorado talent pipeline report. The plan must also account for the evaluation of technical certificate programs in business, the military, education, or industry that may be applied for credit toward a postsecondary degree at state institutions of higher education.

In creating and adopting the plan, the council must confer with representatives of the Colorado Workforce Development Council in the Department of Labor and Employment as well as representatives from fast-growing industries. The adopted plan must require that institutions of higher education evaluate, accept, and transfer academic credit awarded for work related experience. During the 2021 regular legislative session, the Department of Higher Education must report the council's plan to the General Assembly, and beginning in 2023, make annual reports each March concerning progress of the plan.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Department of Higher Education by \$147,705 and 0.8 FTE in FY 2019-20, and by \$109,996 and 1.0 FTE in FY 2020-21. New expenses are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 19-1252

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Department of Higher Education		
Personal Services	\$71,291	\$95,054
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	\$5,653	\$950
Subject Matter Expert Contract	\$60,000	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$10,761	\$13,992
Total Cost	\$147,705	\$109,996
Total FTE	0.8 FTE	1.0 FTE

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Department of Higher Education. The DHE requires new staff to coordinate the work of the GT council, industry partners, and the institutions of higher education to create, adopt, and implement a public plan for determining work based credit and a guaranteed credit transfer between schools. The DHE will also enter a one time contract in FY 2019-20 to obtain subject matter expertise from a national policy organization to advise the department on best practices in work-based learning, and to help provide technical assistance to the schools on the portfolio review process and assessment of the institution's work credit programs. Personal service costs are prorated to reflect the bill's August 2 effective date and the General Fund pay date shift.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$10,761 in FY 2019-20 and \$13,992 FY 2020-21.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House Appropriations committee on May 1, 2019.

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$136,754 to the Department of Higher Education and 0.8 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education