

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 20-0409.01 Jacob Baus x2173

**HOUSE BILL 20-1002**

---

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McLachlan and Baisley, Kipp**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zenzinger and Story,**

---

**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING A STATEWIDE PLAN FOR AWARDING COLLEGE CREDIT**  
102              **FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103              **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

---

**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/>.)*

**Making Higher Education Attainable Interim Study Committee.** The bill requires an existing council charged with looking at general education courses (council) to implement a plan for determining and awarding academic credit for postsecondary education based on work-related experience.

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

Furthermore, state institutions of higher education (institutions) are required to evaluate student learning from work-related experience and award appropriate academic credit for the experience. Also, institutions shall accept and transfer academic credit awarded for work-related experience as courses with guaranteed-transfer designation, unless the council creates a plan concerning awarding and transferring academic credit for work-related experience for courses with guaranteed-transfer designation.

---

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

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

4 (a) In addition to the student rights pursuant to section 23-1-125  
5 (1)(a), (1)(c), and (1)(d), Colorado Revised Statutes, students need  
6 additional rights for their work-related experience to be evaluated fairly  
7 for application toward a postsecondary credential;

8 (b) To ensure the economic vitality of Colorado, every industry  
9 needs access to a skilled workforce, every Coloradan needs access to  
10 meaningful employment, and institutions of higher education must  
11 maintain the ability to enroll qualified students and produce high-quality  
12 credentials of value;

13 (c) During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years, high school  
14 students earned nine thousand industry credentials related to high-demand  
15 jobs and industries in Colorado. These industry credentials should be  
16 evaluated for potential application toward a postsecondary credential with  
17 transferability among two-year and four-year institutions.

18 (d) The commission on higher education, in collaboration with  
19 representatives from institutions of higher education, must develop a plan  
20 to align work-related experience with academic credit that counts toward  
21 a student's postsecondary education credential;

1 (e) The plan must be open, transparent, and credible so students  
2 can progress more efficiently along pathways into postsecondary  
3 education and the workforce;

4 (f) Industry members, especially from high workforce demand and  
5 growing industries with critical occupations and top jobs that are  
6 identified in the Colorado talent pipeline report, are important  
7 stakeholders in this process to ensure Colorado's higher education system  
8 is responsive to students and to the changing economy; and

9 (g) Through this work, the general assembly ensures additional  
10 pathways to career and financial success for Colorado students and  
11 workers and reduced costs to students through less time required to earn  
12 a degree.

13  
14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-5-145.5** as  
15 follows:

16 **23-5-145.5. Credit for work-related experience - plan - report**  
17 **- definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE  
18 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

19 (a) "COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "COMMISSION" HAS  
20 THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-101.1 (1).

21 (b) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE COUNCIL CREATED AND EXISTING  
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5, CONVENED BY THE COMMISSION ON  
23 HIGHER EDUCATION.

24 (c) "GUARANTEED-TRANSFER PATHWAYS" OR "GT PATHWAYS"  
25 MEANS THE STATEWIDE ARTICULATION MATRIX SYSTEM OF COMMON  
26 COURSE NUMBERING FOR GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES DESCRIBED IN  
27 SECTION 23-1-108.5 (3)(c).

1 (d) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"  
2 HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-135 (2).

3 (e) "STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT" MEANS A  
4 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
5 23-1-108 (7).

6 (f) "WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE" MEANS ANY EXPERIENCE  
7 ACQUIRED WITHIN THE PAST TEN YEARS THROUGH PAID OR UNPAID  
8 EMPLOYMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SELF-EMPLOYMENT, AN  
9 INTERNSHIP, A RESIDENCY, A PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, OR AN  
10 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM THAT MAY LEAD TO OR RESULT IN A BUSINESS  
11 CREDENTIAL, AN INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL, A TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE, OR  
12 A PROFESSIONAL LICENSE.

13 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2020, THE COMMISSION, IN  
14 CONSULTATION WITH ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION,  
15 SHALL DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR STUDENTS TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ANY  
16 COURSE IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM THROUGH SUCCESSFUL  
17 COMPLETION OF A PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT,  
18 EXAMINATION, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF THAT IS APPROPRIATE TO  
19 THE LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE.

20 (b) BEGINNING IN THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH  
21 INSTITUTION SHALL GRANT FULL COURSE CREDIT TO A STUDENT FOR A  
22 COURSE THAT THE STUDENT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THROUGH THE  
23 REQUIRED PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT,  
24 EXAMINATION, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF FREE OF TUITION. ANY  
25 COURSE CREDIT GRANTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) MUST BE  
26 TRANSFERABLE TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO COMMISSION  
27 POLICY REGARDING GT PATHWAYS OR A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER

1 AGREEMENT.

2 (c) AN INSTITUTION MAY ESTABLISH AND CHARGE A FEE TO A  
3 STUDENT TO ADMINISTER A PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL  
4 ASSESSMENT, EXAMINATION, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF. A FEE MUST  
5 BE TRANSPARENT AND REFLECT THE ACTUAL COST TO ADMINISTER A  
6 PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT, EXAMINATION, OR ANY  
7 COMBINATION THEREOF, INCLUDING FACULTY OR STAFF TIME AND  
8 RESOURCES, AND ANY APPROPRIATELY AMORTIZED INFRASTRUCTURE  
9 COST.

10 (d) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JULY 1  
11 THEREAFTER, EACH INSTITUTION SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION  
12 REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (2). THE REPORT  
13 MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

14 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO WERE AWARDED CREDIT AND  
15 TRANSFERRED CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2);

16 (II) DATA REGARDING THE AGE AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENTS  
17 WHO WERE AWARDED CREDIT AND TRANSFERRED CREDIT TO OR FROM THE  
18 INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2); AND

19 (III) THE FEE ESTABLISHED AND CHARGED BY THE INSTITUTION, IF  
20 ANY, TO ADMINISTER A PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT,  
21 EXAMINATION, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF PURSUANT TO THIS  
22 SUBSECTION (2).

23 (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, THE COUNCIL, IN  
24 COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION, SHALL CREATE, ADOPT, AND  
25 IMPLEMENT A PLAN, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "PLAN", TO  
26 AWARD POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COURSES IN GT  
27 PATHWAYS OR A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR

1 LEARNING DEMONSTRATED FROM WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE. IN  
2 CREATING THE PLAN, PRIORITY MAY BE GIVEN TO WORK-RELATED  
3 EXPERIENCE THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO WORKFORCE DEMANDS AND GROWING  
4 INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED BY THE MOST RECENT COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE  
5 REPORT PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103 OR IDENTIFIED IN  
6 CONSULTATION WITH THE COLORADO WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT  
7 COUNCIL IN SECTION 24-46.3-101.

8 (4) THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE:

9 (a) A PROCESS FOR ASSESSING AND ALIGNING WORK-RELATED  
10 EXPERIENCE TO THE KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED FOR  
11 AWARDING POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COURSES IN GT  
12 PATHWAYS OR A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT, WHICH  
13 CREDIT GRANTED MUST BE TRANSFERABLE TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION  
14 PURSUANT TO COMMISSION POLICY REGARDING GT PATHWAYS OR A  
15 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT; AND

16 (b) A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING CREDENTIALS EARNED BY A  
17 STUDENT AT AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE PURSUANT TO SECTION  
18 23-60-802 AND DETERMINING HOW POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT  
19 WILL TRANSFER FROM AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, IF APPROPRIATE, TO  
20 PUBLIC TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
21 EDUCATION.

22 (5) THE COUNCIL, IN CREATING THE PLAN, SHALL CONSULT WITH:

23 (a) REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT  
24 LIMITED TO, FACULTY MEMBERS AND REGISTRARS;

25 (b) REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT REPRESENT  
26 STUDENTS IN COLORADO;

27 (c) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLORADO WORK FORCE

1 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL;

2 (d) REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH WORKFORCE  
3 DEMAND AND GROWING INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT  
4 COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT AND ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING  
5 THEM; AND

6 (e) REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION.

7 (6) UPON COMPLETION OF THE PLAN, THE COUNCIL, IN  
8 COLLABORATION WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION  
9 (5) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD EXPANDING  
10 OPPORTUNITIES FOR AWARDED POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR  
11 LEARNING ACQUIRED FROM WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE NOT OTHERWISE  
12 ADDRESSED IN THIS SECTION.

13 (7) BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR, UNLESS THE PLAN  
14 IS IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC  
15 YEAR, AN INSTITUTION SHALL ACCEPT IN AND TRANSFER WITHIN THE  
16 INSTITUTION AND TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC  
17 CREDIT AWARDED FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE FOR A COURSE THAT  
18 IS GT PATHWAYS DESIGNATED OR PART OF A STATEWIDE DEGREE  
19 TRANSFER AGREEMENT.

20 (8) (a) DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
21 SEVENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2022, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
22 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF  
23 THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
24 COMMITTEES, REGARDING THE CREATION, ADOPTION, AND  
25 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

26 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (8) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

27 (9) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE MARCH

1 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT TO THE  
2 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, REGARDING THE  
4 CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE REPORT MUST  
5 INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

6 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO WERE AWARDED CREDITS AND  
7 WHO TRANSFERRED CREDITS TO OR FROM AN INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO  
8 THIS SECTION;

9 (II) DATA REGARDING THE AGE AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENTS  
10 WHO WERE AWARDED CREDITS AND WHO TRANSFERRED CREDITS TO OR  
11 FROM AN INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION;

12 (III) THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES OF THIS SECTION;

13 (IV) THE FEE ESTABLISHED AND CHARGED BY INSTITUTIONS, IF  
14 ANY, TO ADMINISTER A PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT, INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT,  
15 EXAMINATION, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
16 (2) OF THIS SECTION;

17 (V) THE DIRECT COSTS IMPOSED ON INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT  
18 THIS SECTION; AND

19 (VI) ANY RECOMMENDED STATUTORY REVISIONS TO THIS SECTION.

20 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136  
21 (11)(a)(I), THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION  
22 (9) CONTINUES UNTIL THE REPEAL OF THIS SUBSECTION (9).

23 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

24 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **add** (4.7)  
25 as follows:

26 **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**  
27 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test -**

1 **prior learning - prior work-related experience. (4.7) Prior**  
2 **work-related experience.** PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.5, THE  
3 COUNCIL CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5, IN  
4 COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION, SHALL CREATE, ADOPT, AND  
5 IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO DETERMINE AND AWARD POSTSECONDARY  
6 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE.

7 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2020-21 state fiscal year,  
8 \$156,828 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This  
9 appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that  
10 the department will require an additional 0.9 FTE. To implement this act,  
11 the department may use this appropriation for administration related to  
12 the Colorado commission on higher education and higher education  
13 special purpose programs.

14 **SECTION 5. 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, or safety.