

**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.**

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.

Furthermore, state institutions of higher education (institutions) are

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.

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;

22 (e) The plan must be open, transparent, and credible so students

1 can progress more efficiently along pathways into postsecondary
2 education and the workforce;

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

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

12

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

15 **23-5-145.5. Credit for work-related experience - plan - report**
16 **- definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
17 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

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

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

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

27 (d) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"

1 HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-135 (2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 (4) THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE:

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

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

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

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

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

26 (c) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLORADO WORK FORCE
27 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL;

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

5 (e) REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION.

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

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

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

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

26 (9) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE MARCH
27 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT TO THE

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

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

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

11 (III) THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES OF THIS SECTION;

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**
26 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test -**
27 **prior learning - prior work-related experience. (4.7) Prior**

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

6 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.