

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 19-0639.01 Jacob Baus x2173

HOUSE BILL 19-1252

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Geitner and McLachlan,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Lundeen and Bridges,

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>.)

The bill requires the council created and existing pursuant to section 23-1-108.5 (council) to implement a plan for determining and awarding academic credit for postsecondary education based on past and present work-related experience.

As a part of the plan, the council must also determine how academic credit for postsecondary education will transfer to the extent

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.

possible from career and technical education programs and technical certificate programs to state public 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education.

The council must consult with representatives from state institutions of higher education, representatives of the Colorado work force development council, and representatives from growing industries in implementing the plan.

The bill requires state institutions of higher education to develop plans to evaluate whether postsecondary education was acquired by work experience and to accept and transfer academic credit awarded for work-related experience as courses with guaranteed-transfer designation or as a part of a statewide articulation agreement.

The bill supplements Colorado's student bill of rights to include a provision declaring that the council shall implement a plan to award academic credit for past and present work-related experience.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-146 as
3 follows:

4 **23-5-146. Credit for work-related experience - plan - report**
5 **- legislative declaration - definitions - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7 (I) IN 2001, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED LEGISLATION
8 CREATING A STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS, WHICH STATES, PURSUANT TO
9 SECTION 23-1-125 (1)(a), THAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPLETE
10 THEIR ASSOCIATE OF ARTS AND ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMS
11 IN NO MORE THAN SIXTY CREDIT HOURS OR THEIR BACCALAUREATE
12 PROGRAMS IN NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY CREDIT HOURS;

13 (II) THE STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS ALSO STATES, PURSUANT TO
14 SECTION 23-1-125 (1)(c), THAT STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO CLEAR AND
15 CONCISE INFORMATION CONCERNING WHICH COURSES MUST BE
16 COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES;

17 (III) THE STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS ALSO STATES, PURSUANT TO

1 SECTION 23-1-125 (1)(d), THAT STUDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHICH
2 COURSES ARE TRANSFERABLE AMONG THE STATE PUBLIC TWO-YEAR AND
3 FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

4 (IV) THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES THAT ARE TRANSFERABLE
5 AMONG THE STATE PUBLIC TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF
6 HIGHER EDUCATION HAVE BECOME KNOWN AS GUARANTEED TRANSFER
7 PATHWAYS COURSES, WHICH GIVE STUDENTS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE FROM
8 HUNDREDS OF COURSES THAT ARE TRANSFERABLE;

9 (V) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE THEIR PRIOR LEARNING
10 EVALUATED FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT CONSIDERATION, PURSUANT TO
11 SECTION 23-1-125 (4.5);

12 (VI) STUDENTS CAN BENEFIT FROM THE ABILITY TO HAVE
13 WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE BEYOND GENERAL EDUCATION COUNT
14 TOWARD ACADEMIC CREDIT AND POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS AT STATE
15 PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

16 (VII) STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COURSES, PROGRAMS, OR
17 WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES THAT DEMONSTRATE POSTSECONDARY
18 LEARNING SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR COLLEGE CREDIT AWARDED TOWARD
19 THE ATTAINMENT OF A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL;

20 (VIII) STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE COURSES, PROGRAMS, OR
21 WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO THE COMPLETION
22 OF A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO HAVE
23 THOSE COURSES, PROGRAMS, OR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES ENHANCED
24 AND APPLIED TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF A POSTSECONDARY
25 CREDENTIAL THROUGH A STATEWIDE PROCESS;

26 (IX) TO ENSURE THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF COLORADO, EVERY
27 BUSINESS NEEDS ACCESS TO A SKILLED WORKFORCE, AND EVERY

1 COLORADAN NEEDS ACCESS TO MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT;

2 (X) DURING THE 2016-17 AND 2017-18 SCHOOL YEARS, HIGH
3 SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE EARNED NINE THOUSAND INDUSTRY
4 CREDENTIALS, WHEN ALIGNED WITH GUARANTEED TRANSFER COURSES OR
5 STATEWIDE ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS, RELATED TO HIGH-DEMAND JOBS
6 AND INDUSTRIES IN COLORADO. THESE INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS SHOULD
7 COUNT TOWARD CREDIT THAT IS TRANSFERABLE TO POSTSECONDARY
8 CREDENTIALS.

9 (XI) THE COUNCIL'S STATE PLAN TO ALLOW WORK-RELATED
10 EXPERIENCE TO COUNT TOWARD A STUDENT'S POSTSECONDARY
11 EDUCATION MUST BE OPEN, TRANSPARENT, AND CREDIBLE SO STUDENTS
12 CAN PROGRESS SMOOTHLY AND MORE EFFICIENTLY ALONG PATHWAYS
13 INTO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE; AND

14 (XII) INDUSTRY MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY MEMBERS FROM GROWING
15 INDUSTRIES WITH CRITICAL OCCUPATIONS AND TOP JOBS THAT ARE
16 IDENTIFIED IN THE ANNUAL COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT, ARE
17 IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS IN THIS PROCESS TO ENSURE OUR HIGHER
18 EDUCATION SYSTEM IS PERMEABLE AND SEAMLESS FOR STUDENTS AND
19 THE CURRENT WORKFORCE.

20
21 (b) THEREFORE, BY REQUIRING THE COUNCIL TO ADOPT AND
22 IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR AWARDED CREDIT FOR POSTSECONDARY
23 EDUCATION ACQUIRED THROUGH WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE, THE
24 GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL ENSURE MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO CAREER AND
25 FINANCIAL SUCCESS FOR COLORADO STUDENTS AND WORKERS AND WILL
26 ENSURE THAT THESE PATHWAYS LEAD TO POSTSECONDARY CREDIT
27 TRANSFERABLE UNDER THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAYS

1 FRAMEWORK OR, WHERE POSSIBLE, WITHIN A STATEWIDE ARTICULATION
2 AGREEMENT.

3 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
4 REQUIRES:

5 (a) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE COUNCIL CREATED AND EXISTING
6 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5, CONVENED BY THE COMMISSION ON
7 HIGHER EDUCATION.

8 (b) "PRIOR LEARNING" MEANS POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT
9 FOR DEMONSTRATED LEARNING THAT OCCURS THROUGH EDUCATION,
10 EMPLOYMENT, MILITARY SERVICE, OR OTHER EXPERIENCES.

11 (c) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
12 HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10); EXCEPT
13 THAT "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
14 INCLUDES EACH LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE THAT IS PART OF A LOCAL
15 COLLEGE DISTRICT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF TITLE 23 AND
16 AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103 (1).

17 (d) "WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE" MEANS ANY EXPERIENCE
18 ACQUIRED THROUGH WORK WITHIN THE PAST TEN YEARS, INCLUDING BUT
19 NOT LIMITED TO A BUSINESS CREDENTIAL, AN INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL, A
20 TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE, AN INTERNSHIP, A RESIDENCY, A
21 PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, OR AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

22 (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021, THE COUNCIL SHALL CREATE,
23 ADOPT, IMPLEMENT, AND MAKE PUBLIC A PLAN TO DETERMINE AND AWARD
24 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR COMPETENCIES
25 DEMONSTRATED FROM PAST AND PRESENT WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE
26 FOR THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATED
27 WITH THE FASTEST-GROWING INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT

1 COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT.

2 (4) THE COUNCIL, AS A PART OF THE PLAN FOR ADOPTION AND
3 IMPLEMENTATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL:

4 (a) IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO DETERMINE HOW POSTSECONDARY
5 EDUCATION CREDIT WILL TRANSFER FROM CAREER AND TECHNICAL
6 EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE TO STATE PUBLIC
7 TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

8 (b) DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR ALIGNING COMPETENCIES AND
9 RELATED PRIOR LEARNING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION; AND

10 (c) IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO DETERMINE HOW COMPETENCIES,
11 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES, PRIOR LEARNING DEMONSTRATIONS
12 THROUGH WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE, CERTIFICATES, ASSOCIATE
13 DEGREES, OR OTHER CREDENTIALS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF
14 THIS SECTION RESULT IN POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT WITH
15 GUARANTEED-TRANSFER DESIGNATION.

16 (5) IN FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
17 SECTION, THE COUNCIL MUST REQUIRE PRIORITIZATION OF OCCUPATIONS
18 THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO WORKFORCE DEMANDS AND ARE INDUSTRIES
19 IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT.

20 (6) THE COUNCIL, AS A PART OF THE PLAN FOR ADOPTION AND
21 IMPLEMENTATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL
22 EVALUATE TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS TO DETERMINE WHICH
23 CERTIFICATES MAY APPLY TOWARD A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.
24 THESE CERTIFICATES CAN BE EARNED IN AREAS INCLUDING BUSINESS,
25 MILITARY, EDUCATION, OR INDUSTRY.

26 (7) THE COUNCIL, IN CREATING THE PLAN FOR ADOPTION AND
27 IMPLEMENTATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, MUST

1 CONSULT WITH AND INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS, TO THE EXTENT
2 PRACTICABLE, FROM:

3 (a) REPRESENTATIVES OF INSTITUTIONS;

4 (b) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLORADO WORK FORCE
5 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; AND

6 (c) REPRESENTATIVES OF GROWING INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED IN THE
7 MOST RECENT COLORADO TALENT PIPELINE REPORT AND ORGANIZATIONS
8 REPRESENTING THEM.

9 (8) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, THE COUNCIL SHALL CREATE,
10 ADOPT, IMPLEMENT, AND MAKE PUBLIC A PLAN TO DETERMINE AND AWARD
11 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR COMPETENCIES
12 DEMONSTRATED FROM PAST AND PRESENT WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE
13 FOR ADDITIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS NOT
14 ADDRESSED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

15 (9) THE PLAN CREATED, ADOPTED, AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE
16 COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION MUST REQUIRE
17 EACH CAMPUS OF THE INSTITUTION TO:

18 (a) EVALUATE WHETHER POSTSECONDARY-LEVEL EDUCATION WAS
19 ACQUIRED BY A STUDENT FROM WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE AND AWARD
20 APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE
21 CONSISTENT WITH STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL'S PLAN; AND

22 (b) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, ACCEPT AND TRANSFER WITHIN
23 THE INSTITUTION AND TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS ACADEMIC CREDIT
24 AWARDED FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE AS COURSES WITH
25 GUARANTEED-TRANSFER DESIGNATION, UNLESS THE COUNCIL CREATES,
26 ADOPTS, AND IMPLEMENTS A NEW PLAN PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2023,
27 CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ACADEMIC CREDIT AWARDED FOR

1 WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE FOR COURSES WITH GUARANTEED-TRANSFER
2 DESIGNATION. THE NEW PLAN MUST REQUIRE EACH CAMPUS TO ACCEPT
3 THE TRANSFER OF ACADEMIC CREDIT AWARDED BY AN INSTITUTION FOR
4 WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE. EACH CAMPUS MAY ALSO ACCEPT OTHER
5 PRIOR ACADEMIC CREDIT AWARDED FOR WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE
6 TOWARD THE STUDENT'S PROGRAM OF STUDY IF THE CREDIT MEETS
7 STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE CAMPUS.

8 (10) (a) DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE
9 SEVENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2021, THE DEPARTMENT OF
10 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF
11 THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
12 COMMITTEES, REGARDING THE CREATION, ADOPTION, AND
13 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSTITUTIONS' PLANS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
14 THIS SECTION.

15 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (10) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

16 (11) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE
17 MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL REPORT TO
18 THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, REGARDING THE
20 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE, AT A
21 MINIMUM:

22 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE TRANSFERRED CREDITS
23 TO OR FROM AN INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION;

24 (II) DATA REGARDING THE AGE AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENTS
25 WHO HAVE TRANSFERRED CREDITS TO OR FROM AN INSTITUTION PURSUANT
26 TO THIS SECTION:

27 (III) THE IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES OF THIS SECTION; AND

1 (IV) ANY RECOMMENDED STATUTORY REVISIONS TO THIS SECTION.

2 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136
3 (11)(a)(I), THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
4 (11) CONTINUES UNTIL THE REPEAL OF THIS SUBSECTION (11).

5 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (11) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **add** (4.7)
7 as follows:

8 **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**
9 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test -**
10 **prior learning - prior work-related experience. (4.7) Prior**
11 **work-related experience.** PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-146, THE COUNCIL
12 CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5 SHALL CREATE,
13 ADOPT, IMPLEMENT, AND MAKE PUBLIC A PLAN TO DETERMINE AND AWARD
14 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PAST AND PRESENT WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE.

15 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
18 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
23 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.