

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0495.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1038

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ONLINE PLATFORM TO
102 PROVIDE STUDENTS PURSUING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
103 WITH INFORMATION ABOUT ACADEMIC CREDIT TRANSFERS.

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 department of higher education (department), subject to available appropriations, to develop and maintain a free, publicly accessible online platform (platform) to provide current and potential students who are pursuing postsecondary education in Colorado with relevant information about which credits and courses, work-related

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

experiences, and prior learning opportunities are transferable to or between the state's public institutions of higher education (institution).

On or before January 1, 2026, an institution shall submit to the department for inclusion in the platform:

- A comprehensive record of the institution's most recent awards of postsecondary transfer credit for all courses that the institution has identified as having learning outcomes equivalent to corresponding offerings at other institutions; and
- Descriptions of work-related experiences or prior learning opportunities for which the institution awards postsecondary academic credit.

Using the data provided by an institution, the department shall include in the platform information about the transferability to or between institutions for several sources of postsecondary academic credit. These sources include courses in the statewide common course numbering system, now referred to as the guaranteed transfer pathway matrix, and credits earned through various standardized tests.

A not-for-profit private institution of higher education may, but is not required to, submit applicable information for inclusion in the platform.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-125.5 as
3 follows:

4 **23-1-125.5. Department directive - statewide transfer credit**
5 **online platform - funding - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,
6 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM" MEANS THE FINAL
8 EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED AT THE COMPLETION OF A COURSE THAT
9 DELIVERS A COLLEGE-LEVEL CURRICULUM IN A PARTICULAR FIELD OF
10 STUDY AND THAT MAY RESULT IN AWARDING POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC
11 CREDIT BASED ON THE SCORE ACHIEVED ON THE END-OF-COURSE
12 EXAMINATION.

13 (b) "COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM EXAM" OR "CLEP

1 EXAM" MEANS A STANDARDIZED TEST CREATED AND ADMINISTERED BY
2 THE COLLEGE BOARD THAT MAY RESULT IN AWARDING POSTSECONDARY
3 ACADEMIC CREDIT BASED ON THE SCORE ACHIEVED. A TEST TAKER WHO
4 HAS ACQUIRED COMPREHENSIVE SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE THROUGH
5 INDEPENDENT OR PRIOR STUDY, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, OR CULTURAL
6 PURSUITS MAY DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF COLLEGE-LEVEL
7 MATERIAL BY ACHIEVING A CERTAIN SCORE ON THE CLEP EXAM.

8 (c) "DANTES SUBJECT STANDARDIZED TEST" OR "DSST" MEANS
9 A CREDIT-BY-EXAMINATION, SUBJECT MATTER TEST ORIGINATED BY THE
10 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S DEFENSE ACTIVITY FOR
11 NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT (DANTES) PROGRAM THAT
12 MAY RESULT IN AWARDING POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT.

13 (d) "GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE" MEANS A LOWER-DIVISION
14 COURSE OFFERED BY AN INSTITUTION THAT ANY DEGREE-SEEKING
15 STUDENT ENROLLED AT THE INSTITUTION MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE
16 IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ASSOCIATE OR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE
17 INSTITUTION.

18 (e) "GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX" MEANS A GROUP
19 OF GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES OR LOWER-DIVISION COURSES REQUIRED
20 FOR A SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION THAT EVERY STUDENT
21 ENROLLED IN THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTION MUST
22 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE IN ORDER TO TRANSFER TO OR FROM AN
23 INSTITUTION AND THAT HAS EQUIVALENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AS THE
24 SAME LEVEL OF COURSES OFFERED BY ANOTHER INSTITUTION.

25 (f) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
26 MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN
27 SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE CREATED

1 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THIS TITLE 23, OR AN AREA TECHNICAL
2 COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.

3 (g) "INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE" MEANS A PROGRAM OF
4 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFERED TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY A
5 NONPROFIT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION THAT MAY RESULT IN AWARDING
6 POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT.

7 (h) "LOWER-DIVISION COURSE" MEANS A COURSE NUMBERED FROM
8 ONE HUNDRED TO TWO HUNDRED NINETY-NINE OR ONE THOUSAND TO TWO
9 THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE.

10 (i) "REVERSE TRANSFER" MEANS A PROCESS THAT PERMITS
11 STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED FROM A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION TO A
12 FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION TO COMBINE CREDITS AND APPLY THE CREDITS
13 TOWARD AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE FROM THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION.

14 (j) "STATEWIDE TRANSFER ARTICULATION AGREEMENT" MEANS AN
15 AGREEMENT AMONG ALL OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
16 EDUCATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR AN
17 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE. A STATEWIDE TRANSFER ARTICULATION
18 AGREEMENT APPLIES TO COMMON DEGREE PROGRAMS AND SPECIFIES THE
19 COMMON TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND EXPECTATIONS FOR A STUDENT
20 ENROLLED IN A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER PROGRAM.

21 (2) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS OR MONEY FROM
22 OTHER SOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT,
23 MANAGE, AND MAINTAIN A FREE, PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ONLINE PLATFORM
24 TO PROVIDE A CURRENT OR POTENTIAL STUDENT PURSUING
25 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN COLORADO WITH RELEVANT
26 INFORMATION TO ASSIST THE STUDENT IN UNDERSTANDING WHICH CREDITS
27 AND COURSES, WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES, AND PRIOR LEARNING

1 OPPORTUNITIES, AS AWARDED POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT, ARE
2 TRANSFERABLE TO OR BETWEEN THE STATE'S INSTITUTIONS.

3 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, AN INSTITUTION SHALL
4 SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR INCLUSION IN THE ONLINE PLATFORM:

5 (I) A COMPREHENSIVE RECORD OF THE INSTITUTION'S MOST
6 RECENT AWARDS OF POSTSECONDARY TRANSFER CREDIT FOR ALL COURSES
7 THAT THE INSTITUTION HAS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE INSTITUTION'S
8 CURRENT TRANSFER AND COURSE ARTICULATION PROCESS AS HAVING
9 LEARNING OUTCOMES EQUIVALENT TO CORRESPONDING COURSES AT
10 OTHER COLORADO INSTITUTIONS; AND

11 (II) DESCRIPTIONS OF WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCES OR PRIOR
12 LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WHICH THE INSTITUTION AWARDS
13 POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT, INCLUDING LEARNING
14 OPPORTUNITIES FROM WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE FOR WHICH THE
15 INSTITUTION AWARDS POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR COURSES
16 IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX OR A STATEWIDE
17 TRANSFER ARTICULATION AGREEMENT DESCRIBED PURSUANT TO SECTION
18 23-5-145.5.

19 (b) TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION REFLECTED
20 IN THE ONLINE PLATFORM, EACH INSTITUTION SHALL UPDATE THE
21 INFORMATION REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION ON A
22 SCHEDULE TO BE ONGOING AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN
23 CONSULTATION WITH THE INSTITUTIONS.

24 (4) USING STATEWIDE DATA PROVIDED BY INSTITUTIONS, THE
25 DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ONLINE PLATFORM INFORMATION
26 ABOUT THE TRANSFERABILITY TO OR BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS FOR THE
27 FOLLOWING SOURCES OF POSTSECONDARY ACADEMIC CREDIT:

1 (a) ALL COURSES IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY
2 MATRIX SYSTEM;

3 (b) ALL COURSES IN STATEWIDE TRANSFER ARTICULATION
4 AGREEMENT PATHWAYS;

5 (c) ALL REVERSE TRANSFER COURSES;

6 (d) ALL ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM CUT-OFF SCORES
7 DEMONSTRATING THE LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY REQUIRED FOR A STUDENT
8 TO RECEIVE GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN A COURSE IN THE
9 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX;

10 (e) ALL INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE EXAM CUT-OFF SCORES
11 DEMONSTRATING THE LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY REQUIRED FOR A STUDENT
12 TO RECEIVE GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT IN A COURSE IN THE
13 GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAY MATRIX;

14 (f) ALL CLEP EXAM CUT-OFF SCORES DEMONSTRATING THE LEVEL
15 OF PROFICIENCY REQUIRED FOR A STUDENT TO RECEIVE GENERAL
16 EDUCATION CREDIT IN A COURSE IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER
17 PATHWAY MATRIX; AND

18 (g) ALL DSST EXAM CUT-OFF SCORES DEMONSTRATING THE LEVEL
19 OF PROFICIENCY REQUIRED FOR A STUDENT TO RECEIVE GENERAL
20 EDUCATION CREDIT IN A COURSE IN THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER
21 PATHWAY MATRIX.

22 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A
23 STATEWIDE DATABASE TO STORE AND ORGANIZE THE INFORMATION
24 OBTAINED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION TO
25 POPULATE THE ONLINE PLATFORM.

26 (6) A PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN
27 SECTION 23-18-102, MAY, BUT IS NOT REQUIRED TO, SUBMIT APPLICABLE

1 INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION
2 FOR INCLUSION IN THE ONLINE PLATFORM.

3 (7) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE
4 GENERAL FUND OR FROM ANY OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCE TO THE
5 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION,
6 MANAGEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ONLINE PLATFORM. IN
7 ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
8 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
9 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

10 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
13 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
14 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
15 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
16 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
17 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.