

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-seventh General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 10-0505.02 Julie Pelegrin

HOUSE BILL 10-1208

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House Committees
Education

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REQUIRING STATEWIDE AGREEMENTS FOR THE**
102 **TRANSFER OF TWO-YEAR DEGREES AMONG ALL STATE**
103 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO.**

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill requires statewide degree transfer agreements (transfer agreements) to transfer associate of arts (AA) degrees and associate of science (AS) degrees from one state institution of higher education (institution) to another. A student who earns an AA or AS degree that is

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

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 19, 2010

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 18, 2010

the subject of a transfer agreement and who is admitted to a 4-year institution will be enrolled with junior status. However, an institution that admits the student may require the student to complete additional lower-level courses if necessary for the degree program to which the student transfers, so long as the additional credits do not extend the student's time to degree completion beyond that required for a student who begins and completes his or her degree at the institution.

By July 1, 2016, the Colorado commission on higher education, collaborating with the institution governing boards and the institution council, will complete at least 14 transfer agreements for degrees recommended by the institution governing boards based on student demand and workforce need.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 23-1-108 (7), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
3 amended to read:

4 **23-1-108. Duties and powers of the commission with regard to**
5 **systemwide planning.** (7) (a) The commission shall establish, after
6 consultation with the governing boards of institutions, and enforce
7 ~~student~~ STATEWIDE DEGREE transfer agreements between two-year and
8 four-year STATE institutions OF HIGHER EDUCATION and among four-year
9 STATE institutions OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Governing boards and STATE
10 institutions OF HIGHER EDUCATION shall ~~conform to such~~ IMPLEMENT THE
11 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER agreements and ~~to~~ THE commission
12 policies relating to ~~such~~ THE STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER agreements.
13 ~~Such~~ THE STATEWIDE DEGREE transfer agreements shall include
14 provisions under which STATE institutions OF HIGHER EDUCATION shall
15 accept all credit hours of acceptable course work for automatic transfer
16 ~~to~~ FROM AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE
17 PROGRAM IN another ~~state-supported~~ STATE institution of higher education
18 in Colorado. The commission shall have final authority in resolving
19 transfer disputes.

1 (b) (I) A STUDENT WHO COMPLETES AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR
2 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF A STATEWIDE
3 DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT AND WHO TRANSFERS FROM THE STATE
4 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT AWARDED THE DEGREE TO A
5 FOUR-YEAR STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL, IF
6 ADMITTED, BE ENROLLED WITH JUNIOR STATUS. SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION
7 OF AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE DOES NOT
8 GUARANTEE THE DEGREE HOLDER ADMISSION TO A FOUR-YEAR STATE
9 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

10 (II) A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT ADMITS AS
11 A JUNIOR A STUDENT WHO HOLDS AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE OR
12 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF A STATEWIDE
13 DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE THE STUDENT TO
14 COMPLETE ANY ADDITIONAL CREDIT HOURS OF LOWER-DIVISION GENERAL
15 EDUCATION COURSES; EXCEPT THAT THE INSTITUTION MAY REQUIRE THE
16 STUDENT TO COMPLETE ADDITIONAL LOWER-DIVISION GENERAL
17 EDUCATION COURSES IF NECESSARY FOR PREPARATION IN THE DEGREE
18 PROGRAM IN WHICH THE STUDENT ENROLLS SO LONG AS THE ADDITIONAL
19 COURSES ARE CONSISTENT WITH PUBLISHED DEGREE PROGRAM
20 REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIVE STUDENTS AND DO NOT EXTEND THE TIME TO
21 DEGREE COMPLETION BEYOND THAT REQUIRED FOR NATIVE STUDENTS IN
22 THE SAME DEGREE PROGRAM.

23 (c) (I) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2010, THE COMMISSION, IN
24 COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNING BOARDS AND THE COUNCIL
25 CONVENE PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108.5 (3) (a), SHALL NEGOTIATE
26 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS AND SHALL ENSURE THAT
27 THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS

1 IN PLACE NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2012, AND THAT, BY NO LATER THAN
2 JULY 1, 2016, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF AT LEAST FOURTEEN STATEWIDE
3 DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS.

4 (II) THE GOVERNING BOARDS SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE
5 COMMISSION THE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE
6 FOR STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS BASED ON STUDENT
7 DEMAND AND THE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE STATE.

8 (d) THE EXISTENCE OF STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER
9 AGREEMENTS DOES NOT PRECLUDE OR RESTRICT A STATE INSTITUTION OF
10 HIGHER EDUCATION FROM AWARDED NONTRANSFER ASSOCIATE OF ARTS
11 OR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREES, APPLIED ASSOCIATE DEGREES, OR
12 GENERAL LIBERAL ARTS ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE
13 DEGREES.

14 (e) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (7) SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO:

15 (I) PREVENT OR OTHERWISE INTERFERE WITH THE ABILITY OF A
16 STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO FULFILL ITS STATUTORY
17 ROLE AND MISSION; [REDACTED]

18 (II) PROHIBIT ONE OR MORE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
19 EDUCATION FROM ENTERING INTO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR
20 THE TRANSFER OF DEGREES AMONG THE AGREEING INSTITUTIONS; ==

21 (III) IMPAIR ANY MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OR
22 AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN EFFECT PRIOR TO THE
23 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (III); OR

24 (IV) REQUIRE THE TRANSFER OF COURSE CREDITS EARNED DURING
25 OR APPLICABLE TO A STUDENT'S JUNIOR OR SENIOR YEAR.

26 (b) (f) On or before October 1, 1993, the commission shall
27 establish and enforce student transfer agreements between degree

1 programs offered on the same campus or within the same institutional
2 system. Governing boards and STATE institutions OF HIGHER EDUCATION
3 shall ~~conform to such~~ IMPLEMENT THE agreements and to commission
4 policies relating to ~~such~~ THE agreements. In accordance with the
5 provisions of section 23-5-122, ~~such~~ THE agreements shall provide that:

6 (I) If, not more than ten years prior to transferring into an
7 undergraduate degree program, a student earns credit hours ~~which~~ THAT
8 are required for graduation from ~~such~~ THE undergraduate degree program,
9 ~~such~~ THE credit hours shall apply to the completion of ~~such~~ THE student's
10 graduation requirements from ~~such~~ THE undergraduate degree program
11 following ~~such~~ THE transfer;

12 (II) A student who transfers into an undergraduate degree program
13 shall not be required to complete a greater number of credit hours in those
14 courses ~~which~~ THAT are required for graduation from ~~such~~ THE
15 undergraduate degree program than are required of students who began
16 in ~~such~~ THE undergraduate degree program, nor shall there be any
17 minimum number of credit hours required post-transfer other than the
18 normal degree requirements for nontransferring students; and

19 (III) The grade point average ~~which~~ THAT is required for a student
20 to apply for and be fully considered for transfer into an undergraduate
21 degree program shall be no higher than that which is required for
22 graduation from ~~such~~ THE undergraduate degree program.

23 (g) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (7), UNLESS THE CONTEXT
24 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

25 (I) "NATIVE STUDENT" MEANS A STUDENT WHO BEGINS AND
26 COMPLETES AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM AT A SINGLE STATE
27 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

1 (II) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS A PUBLIC
2 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION THAT IS GOVERNED BY:

3 (A) THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE COLORADO STATE
4 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM;

5 (B) THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO;

6 (C) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF
7 MINES;

8 (D) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN
9 COLORADO;

10 (E) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ADAMS STATE COLLEGE;

11 (F) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF
12 COLORADO;

13 (G) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MESA STATE COLLEGE;

14 (H) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FORT LEWIS COLLEGE;

15 (I) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE
16 OF DENVER;

17 (J) THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND
18 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION; OR

19 (K) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF A JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT
20 ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THIS TITLE.

21 (III) "STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT" MEANS AN
22 AGREEMENT AMONG ALL OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
23 EDUCATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR AN
24 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE. A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER
25 AGREEMENT APPLIES TO COMMON DEGREE PROGRAMS AND SPECIFIES THE
26 COMMON TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS
27 ENROLLED IN STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER PROGRAMS.

1 **SECTION 2.** 23-1-113 (1) (c), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read:

3 **23-1-113. Commission directive - admission standards for**
4 **baccalaureate and graduate institutions of higher education.**

5 (1) (c) The standards established for transfer students shall use college
6 academic performance indicators as the eligibility criteria for admitted
7 transfer students. In lieu of such criteria, additional criteria may be used
8 for up to twenty percent of the admitted transfer students. The academic
9 admission standards and policies established for transfer students shall be
10 consistent with the student transfer agreements established by the
11 commission pursuant to section ~~23-1-108 (7)~~ 23-1-108 (7) (f). Students
12 who meet the minimum criteria for admission shall not be guaranteed
13 admission to the institution to which they have applied, but they shall be
14 eligible for consideration.

15 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 shall take 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 11, 2010, if adjournment sine die is on May 12, 2010); 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 shall not take effect
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
23 November 2010 and shall take effect on the date of the official
24 declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.