

Second Regular Session
Sixty-eighth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 12-0212.01 Brita Darling x2241

SENATE BILL 12-045

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hudak and King K., Bacon

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Massey and Fields, Holbert

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING GRANTING ASSOCIATE DEGREES TO STUDENTS WHO
102 TRANSFER FROM A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION.

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>.)

Educational Success Task Force. The bill requires a 4-year state institution of higher education to notify a 2-year institution when a student who transferred from the 2-year institution accumulates 60 credits.

The 2-year institution shall conduct a degree audit to determine

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.

whether the student meets the requirements for an associate degree and shall award the degree to the student unless the student declines the award.

The 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education shall inform students about the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-122.5 as
3 follows:

4 **23-5-122.5. Governing boards - associate degree completion**
5 **program - legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT SOME STUDENTS ACCUMULATE ACADEMIC CREDITS
7 WHILE ENROLLED AT AN INSTITUTION OFFERING A TWO-YEAR DEGREE
8 PROGRAM BUT TRANSFER TO A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION PRIOR TO
9 COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE. FURTHER,
10 FOR VARIOUS REASONS, SOME OF THESE TRANSFER STUDENTS DO NOT
11 COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AT THE
12 NEW INSTITUTION AND, CONSEQUENTLY, DO NOT RECEIVE A DEGREE IN
13 SPITE OF THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD OBTAINING POSTSECONDARY
14 EDUCATION.

15 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS
16 BENEFICIAL TO STUDENTS AND TO THE STATE TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO
17 DEGREE COMPLETION THAT MAY ARISE WHEN A STUDENT SUCCESSFULLY
18 ACCUMULATES CREDITS AT A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION BUT TRANSFERS TO
19 A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION PRIOR TO COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
20 AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

21 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
22 REQUIRES:

23 (a) "ASSOCIATE DEGREE" MEANS AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR

1 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE.

2 (b) "FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE-SUPPORTED
3 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT
4 BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.

5 (c) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE COMPLETION
6 PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

7 (d) "TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE-SUPPORTED
8 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, THAT
9 IS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT ASSOCIATE DEGREES.

10 (3) (a) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE
11 COMPLETION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF AWARDING AN ASSOCIATE
12 DEGREE TO A TRANSFER STUDENT AT A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION WHEN THE
13 STUDENT TRANSFERRED FROM A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION PRIOR TO
14 COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

15 (b) THE GOVERNING BOARD OF A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION SHALL
16 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM IN COORDINATION WITH THE
17 GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS. THE PROGRAM
18 SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2012-13 ACADEMIC
19 YEAR. AT A MINIMUM, THE PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE:

20 (I) THE GOVERNING BOARD OF A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION TO
21 NOTIFY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION WHEN A
22 TRANSFER STUDENT FROM THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION ACCUMULATES
23 SIXTY CREDIT HOURS; AND

24 (II) THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION TO
25 AUDIT THE STUDENT'S TRANSCRIPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE STUDENT
26 HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.
27 UPON COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE

1 TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION SHALL NOTIFY THE STUDENT THAT EITHER:

2 (A) THE STUDENT HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ASSOCIATE
3 DEGREE AND THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION WILL
4 AWARD AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE UNLESS THE STUDENT NOTIFIES THE
5 TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION THAT HE OR SHE DOES NOT WANT THE DEGREE
6 CONFERRED; OR

7 (B) THE STUDENT HAS NOT MET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN
8 ASSOCIATE DEGREE, IN WHICH CASE THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE
9 TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION SHALL NOTIFY THE STUDENT OF THE ADDITIONAL
10 REQUIREMENTS THAT HE OR SHE MUST SATISFY PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF
11 AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE GOVERNING
12 BOARD OF THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION WILL AWARD THE DEGREE WHEN
13 THOSE REQUIREMENTS ARE SATISFIED.

14 (4) EACH TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION SHALL ENSURE
15 THAT STUDENTS ENROLLED AT THE INSTITUTION ARE INFORMED ABOUT
16 THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANTING OF AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE
17 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND THE REASONS WHY A STUDENT MAY
18 CHOOSE TO DECLINE THE GRANTING OF THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE.

19 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
22 7, 2012, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2012); except that, if a
23 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
24 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
25 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect
26 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

1 November 2012 and shall take effect on the date of the official
2 declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.