

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

REREVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the Second House*

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
Education

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.*

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unam ended
March 27, 2012

HOUSE
Am ended 2nd Reading
March 23, 2012

SENATE
3rd Reading Unam ended
February 16, 2012

SENATE
Am ended 2nd Reading
February 15, 2012

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 23-1-130** as
3 follows:

4 **23-1-130. Commission directive - associate degree completion**
5 **program - legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT, DUE TO THE DEMANDS OF A
7 GLOBAL ECONOMY, THE STATE AND THE NATION HAVE AN INCREASING
8 NEED FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL OR DEGREE.
9 MANY STUDENTS BEGIN THEIR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN A
10 TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION AND TRANSFER TO A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION
11 PRIOR TO RECEIVING AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE. SOME STUDENTS WHO
12 SUBSEQUENTLY ACCUMULATE THE CREDIT HOURS NECESSARY FOR AN
13 ASSOCIATE DEGREE WHILE AT THE FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION, OR WHO
14 LEAVE THE FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION PRIOR TO COMPLETING A BACHELOR'S
15 DEGREE, WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE AWARD OF AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.
16 THE AWARD OF AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE NOT ONLY REWARDS THE
17 STUDENT'S EFFORTS IN ATTAINING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, BUT ALSO
18 RECOGNIZES THE INVESTMENT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN
19 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION BY BOTH THE STUDENT AND THE STATE.

20 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT THE
21 STATE'S TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS SHOULD WORK IN
22 COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A PROCESS THAT
23 REDUCES A POTENTIAL BARRIER TO DEGREE COMPLETION BY PROVIDING

1 STUDENTS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR AN
2 ASSOCIATE DECREE.

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

5 (a) "ASSOCIATE DEGREE" MEANS AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR
6 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE.

7 (b) "FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE-SUPPORTED
8 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT
9 BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.

10 (c) "TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE-SUPPORTED
11 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, OR A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, THAT
12 IS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT ASSOCIATE DEGREES.

13 (3) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE
14 GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS TO
15 DEVELOP AND COORDINATE A PROCESS TO NOTIFY STUDENTS CONCERNING
16 ELIGIBILITY FOR THE AWARD OF AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE. THE
17 NOTIFICATION PROCESS SHALL APPLY TO STUDENTS AT A FOUR-YEAR
18 INSTITUTION WHO HAVE ACCUMULATED SEVENTY CREDIT HOURS AT A
19 FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION AND WHO TRANSFERRED TO THE INSTITUTION
20 AFTER COMPLETING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ASSOCIATE
21 DEGREE AT A TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION. THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS
22 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL SPECIFY THE ROLE OF THE
23 STUDENT, THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR
24 INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROCESS, WITH THE ROLE OF THE FOUR-YEAR
25 INSTITUTIONS LIMITED TO PROVIDING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR
26 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS. THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED
27 NO LATER THAN THE BEGINNING OF THE 2013-14 ACADEMIC YEAR.

1 (b) THE TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS SHALL AGREE
2 UPON THE CONTENTS OF THE NOTIFICATION TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS. AT A
3 MINIMUM, THE NOTIFICATION SHALL INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
4 DEGREE AUDIT BY THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION AND INFORMATION
5 CONCERNING THE PROCESS FOR A STUDENT TO BE AWARDED AN ASSOCIATE
6 DEGREE IN THE FUTURE IF THE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET OR
7 THE STUDENT DECLINES THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE AT THE TIME OF THE
8 NOTIFICATION.

9 (c) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION LIMITS THE ABILITY OF THE
10 GOVERNING BOARDS OF TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS TO
11 DEVELOP REVERSE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH
12 THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION.

13 (4) EACH TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE
14 STUDENTS WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROCESS DEVELOPED
15 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

16 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.