

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 12-0212.01 Brita Darling x2241

**SENATE BILL 12-045**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hudak and King K.**, Bacon

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Massey and Fields**, Holbert

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**Senate Committees**  
Education

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

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

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**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.

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

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

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

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