

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chairman of Committee

February 9, 2012

Date

Committee on Education.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

SB12-045 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2 substitute:

3 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-130 as
4 follows:

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

21 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT THE
22 STATE'S TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS SHOULD WORK IN
23 COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A PROCESS THAT
24 REDUCES A POTENTIAL BARRIER TO DEGREE COMPLETION BY PROVIDING
25 STUDENTS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR AN
26 ASSOCIATE DECREE.

27 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
28 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "ASSOCIATE DEGREE" MEANS AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR
2 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE.

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

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

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

24 (b) AT A MINIMUM, THE NOTIFICATION TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
25 SHALL INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE AUDIT BY THE
26 TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION AND INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROCESS
27 FOR A STUDENT TO BE AWARDED AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN THE FUTURE IF
28 THE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT MET OR THE STUDENT DECLINES THE
29 ASSOCIATE DEGREE AT THE TIME OF THE NOTIFICATION.

30 (c) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION LIMITS THE ABILITY OF THE
31 GOVERNING BOARDS OF TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS TO
32 DEVELOP REVERSE TRANSFER AGREEMENTS THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH
33 THE INTENT OF THIS SECTION.

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

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

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