

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

**REVISED**

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

LLS NO. 10-0473.01 Michael Dohr

**SENATE BILL 10-088**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Johnston,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Massey,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Education

**House Committees**  
Education

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF TWO-YEAR DEGREES WITH**  
102 **ACADEMIC DESIGNATION.**

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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>.)*

The bill authorizes community colleges and junior colleges to offer 2-year degree programs with academic designation. Prior to offering the degree program, a community college must submit the degree program designation for review and approval by the state board for community colleges and occupational education and a junior college must submit the

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  
2nd Reading Unam ended  
April 1, 2010

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unam ended  
February 26, 2010

SENATE  
Am ended 2nd Reading  
February 24, 2010

degree program designation for review and approval by its board of trustees.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 23-60-201, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 to read:

4 **23-60-201. State system of community colleges established -**  
5 **local district colleges - role and mission.** There is hereby established a  
6 state system of community and technical colleges which shall be under  
7 the management and jurisdiction of the state board for community  
8 colleges and occupational education. The mission of the community  
9 colleges shall be to serve Colorado residents who reside in their service  
10 areas by offering a broad range of general, personal, vocational, and  
11 technical education programs. Each college shall be a two-year college.  
12 EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY OFFER TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS  
13 WITH OR WITHOUT ACADEMIC DESIGNATION. No college shall impose  
14 admission requirements upon any student. The objects of the community  
15 and technical colleges shall be to provide educational programs to fill the  
16 occupational needs of youth and adults in technical and vocational fields,  
17 two-year transfer educational programs to qualify students for admission  
18 to the junior year at other colleges and universities, basic skills,  
19 workforce development, and a broad range of personal and vocational  
20 education for adults.

21 **SECTION 2.** 23-60-202 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
22 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

23 **23-60-202. Duties of board with respect to state system.**  
24 (1) With respect to the community and technical colleges within the state  
25 system, the board has the authority, responsibility, rights, privileges,

1 powers, and duties customarily exercised by the governing boards of  
2 institutions of higher education, including the following:

3 (f.5) TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE DEGREE PROGRAMS DESCRIBED  
4 IN SECTION 23-60-211, SUBJECT ONLY TO THE REVIEW FUNCTION OF THE  
5 COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION RELATING TO FORMAL  
6 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS;

7 **SECTION 3.** Part 2 of article 60 of title 23, Colorado Revised  
8 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
9 read:

10 **23-60-211. Degrees.** (1) BEFORE A COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
11 OFFERS A TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM WITH ACADEMIC DESIGNATION, AS  
12 AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 23-60-201, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL  
13 DETERMINE THE PROGRAM DESIGNATION FOR THE DEGREE. A TWO-YEAR  
14 DEGREE PROGRAM WITH ACADEMIC DESIGNATION SHALL ONLY BE FOR A  
15 DEGREE PROGRAM THAT HAS A VALID STUDENT TRANSFER AGREEMENT  
16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108 (7). THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL  
17 THEN SUBMIT THE DEGREE PROGRAM DESIGNATION TO THE BOARD FOR ITS  
18 REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY OFFER THE  
19 DEGREE PROGRAM ONLY AFTER IT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD  
20 AND BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION. THE  
21 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL EXCLUSIVELY USE THE DEGREE PROGRAM  
22 DESIGNATION NAME IN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS, COURSE CATALOGS,  
23 DIPLOMAS, AND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS.

24 (2) SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR  
25 ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE WITH ACADEMIC DESIGNATION DOES NOT  
26 GUARANTEE THE DEGREE HOLDER ADMISSION TO A FOUR-YEAR  
27 STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; NOR DOES IT

1 GUARANTEE THE DEGREE HOLDER AUTOMATIC TRANSFER OF CREDITS  
2 UNLESS THE DEGREE HOLDER HAS FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN  
3 EXISTING STATEWIDE TRANSFER AGREEMENT.

4 **SECTION 4.** 23-71-123, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
5 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

6 **23-71-123. Duties of board of trustees - degrees.** (3) A JUNIOR  
7 COLLEGE MAY OFFER A TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM WITH OR WITHOUT  
8 ACADEMIC DESIGNATION. BEFORE A JUNIOR COLLEGE OFFERS A TWO-YEAR  
9 DEGREE PROGRAM WITH ACADEMIC DESIGNATION, AS AUTHORIZED BY THIS  
10 SUBSECTION (3), THE JUNIOR COLLEGE SHALL DETERMINE THE PROGRAM  
11 DESIGNATION FOR THE DEGREE. THE JUNIOR COLLEGE SHALL THEN SUBMIT  
12 THE DEGREE PROGRAM DESIGNATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR ITS  
13 REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THE JUNIOR COLLEGE MAY OFFER THE DEGREE  
14 PROGRAM ONLY AFTER IT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF  
15 TRUSTEES AND BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION.  
16 THE JUNIOR COLLEGE SHALL EXCLUSIVELY USE THE DEGREE PROGRAM  
17 DESIGNATION NAME IN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS, COURSE CATALOGS,  
18 DIPLOMAS, AND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS.

19 **SECTION 5. 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 11, 2010, if adjournment sine die is on May 12, 2010); 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 2010 and shall take effect on the date of the official  
2 declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.