

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 10-0697.01 Julie Pelegrin

**SENATE BILL 10-108**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**King K.,** Bacon, Scheffel, Schultheis, Spence, Steadman

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Middleton,** Massey, Summers, Gardner B., King S., McNulty, Murray

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**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL EDUCATION CORE**  
102 **COURSES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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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>.)*

Current law requires the Colorado commission on higher education (commission) to define a process whereby students enrolled in public institutions of higher education may test out of core courses and receive credit for those courses without paying tuition. The bill requires the commission to put this process in place for use beginning in the 2010-11

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.*

academic year.

The bill allows a nonpublic institution of higher education (nonpublic institution) to choose to participate in the core course guidelines. Also, for a fee, a nonpublic institution may request the department of higher education (department) to review the nonpublic institution's core courses and include them in the matrix of core courses for which credit may transfer from one institution of higher education to another. A nonpublic institution that includes its courses in the matrix will also be included in the statewide transfer agreements for core course credits. The commission will set the amount of the fee to reflect the department's costs in reviewing the courses.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** 23-1-125 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
3 amended, and the said 23-1-125 is further amended BY THE ADDITION  
4 OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

5           **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**  
6 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test.**

7 (4) **Competency testing.** ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2010, the commission  
8 shall, in consultation with each public institution of higher education,  
9 define a process for students to test out of core courses, including  
10 specifying use of a national test or the criteria for approving  
11 institutionally devised tests. BEGINNING IN THE 2010-11 ACADEMIC YEAR,  
12 EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL GRANT FULL  
13 COURSE CREDITS TO students ~~shall be granted credit~~ for the core courses  
14 they successfully test out of, free of tuition for those courses.

15           (5) **Nonpublic institutions of higher education.** (a) A  
16 NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ MAY CHOOSE TO  
17 CONFORM ITS CORE COURSES TO THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE  
18 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. IN  
19 ADDITION, UPON REQUEST OF A NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION AND PAYMENT OF A FEE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE  
2 CORE COURSES THAT THE NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION IDENTIFIES AS MEETING  
3 THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE GUIDELINES AND INCLUDE THEM IN THE  
4 MATRIX DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. A  
5 NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT CONFORMS ITS CORE  
6 COURSES TO THE GUIDELINES AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION (5) AND  
7 WHOSE COURSES ARE INCLUDED IN THE MATRIX SHALL BE INCLUDED IN  
8 THE STATEWIDE AGREEMENTS FOR TRANSFERABILITY OF CORE COURSE  
9 CREDITS.

10 (b) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT,  
11 SHALL ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE FOR REVIEW OF A NONPUBLIC  
12 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S COURSES, WHICH AMOUNT SHALL  
13 NOT EXCEED THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED BY THE  
14 DEPARTMENT IN REVIEWING THE NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION'S CORE COURSES  
15 AND INCLUDING THEM IN THE MATRIX. THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED  
16 TO COLLECT THE FEE FROM NONPUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
17 EDUCATION AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (5).

18 (c) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (5), "NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF  
19 HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OPERATING IN  
20 THIS STATE THAT:

21 (I) DOES NOT RECEIVE STATE GENERAL FUND MONEYS IN SUPPORT  
22 OF ITS OPERATING COSTS;

23 (II) ADMITS AS REGULAR STUDENTS ONLY PERSONS HAVING A HIGH  
24 SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR THE RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL  
25 DIPLOMA;

26 (III) IS ACCREDITED BY A REGIONAL ACCREDITING AGENCY OR  
27 ASSOCIATION;

1           (IV) PROVIDES AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR WHICH IT AWARDS  
2           A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR A GRADUATE DEGREE;

3           (V) IS AUTHORIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
4           TO DO BUSINESS IN COLORADO PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-2-103.3;

5           (VI) MAINTAINS A PHYSICAL CAMPUS OR INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITY  
6           IN COLORADO; AND

7           (VII) HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES  
8           DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BE ELIGIBLE TO ADMINISTER FEDERAL  
9           FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO TITLE IV OF THE FEDERAL  
10          "HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965", AS AMENDED.

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