

**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. 12-0209.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 12-1072

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Massey and Fields, Holbert

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bacon and King K., Hudak

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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 the commission on higher education, after consulting with public institutions of higher education (institutions), to develop criteria for awarding credit for a student's prior learning through work experience, military service, community involvement, or independent study and to define a process to assess prior learning. Beginning with the 2013-14 academic year, public institutions will implement a program awarding academic credit for a

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.*

student's prior learning.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) Many adults entering Colorado community colleges, state
5 colleges, and universities have acquired college-level knowledge in the
6 workplace, through military service, in the community, or through
7 independent study;

8 (b) A student can save time and money in completing a certificate
9 or degree program if the institution at which the student enrolls assesses
10 the student's college-level knowledge and awards academic credit as
11 appropriate based on the assessment;

12 (c) Awarding academic credit for a student's prior learning will
13 increase the likelihood that the student will complete his or her certificate
14 or degree and achieve his or her academic and economic goals; and

15 (d) Colorado's economic development depends upon a
16 well-educated workforce with the academic credentials necessary to
17 compete in the job market.

18 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is beneficial
19 to students and to the development of an educated workforce in Colorado
20 for community colleges and other public institutions of higher education
21 to develop a policy or program to recognize a student's college-level
22 learning that takes place outside of the classroom.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-125, **amend** (5)
24 (e) (III); and **add** (4.5) as follows:

25 **23-1-125. Commission directive - student bill of rights - degree**

1 **requirements - implementation of core courses - competency test -**
2 **prior learning. (4.5) Prior learning.** BEGINNING IN THE 2013-14
3 ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL
4 ADOPT AND MAKE PUBLIC A POLICY OR PROGRAM TO DETERMINE
5 ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING.

6 (5) **Nonpublic institutions of higher education.** (e) As used in
7 this subsection (5), "nonpublic institution of higher education" means an
8 educational institution operating in this state that:

9 (III) Is accredited by ~~a regional~~ AN accrediting agency or
10 association APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
11 EDUCATION;

12 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
15 7, 2012, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2012); except that, if a
16 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
17 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
18 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
19 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
20 November 2012 and will take effect on the date of the official declaration
21 of the vote thereon by the governor.