

NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signature of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.

An Act

SENATE BILL 10-088

BY SENATOR(S) Johnston, Foster, Hodge, Newell, Romer, Sandoval, Steadman, Tapia, Tochtrop, Whitehead, Williams;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Massey, Apuan, Frangas, King S., Labuda, Lambert, Looper, McFadyen, Merrifield, Murray, Pace, Primavera, Priola, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Solano, Stephens, Summers, Todd, Vigil, Carroll T.

CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF TWO-YEAR DEGREES WITH ACADEMIC DESIGNATION.

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

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

23-60-201. State system of community colleges established - local district colleges - role and mission. There is hereby established a state system of community and technical colleges which shall be under the management and jurisdiction of the state board for community colleges and occupational education. The mission of the community colleges shall be to serve Colorado residents who reside in their service areas by offering a broad range of general, personal, vocational, and technical education programs. Each college shall be a two-year college. EACH COMMUNITY

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

COLLEGE MAY OFFER TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH OR WITHOUT ACADEMIC DESIGNATION. No college shall impose admission requirements upon any student. The objects of the community and technical colleges shall be to provide educational programs to fill the occupational needs of youth and adults in technical and vocational fields, two-year transfer educational programs to qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and universities, basic skills, workforce development, and a broad range of personal and vocational education for adults.

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

23-60-202. Duties of board with respect to state system.

(1) With respect to the community and technical colleges within the state system, the board has the authority, responsibility, rights, privileges, powers, and duties customarily exercised by the governing boards of institutions of higher education, including the following:

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

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

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

(2) SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS OR ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE WITH ACADEMIC DESIGNATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE DEGREE HOLDER ADMISSION TO A FOUR-YEAR STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THE DEGREE HOLDER AUTOMATIC TRANSFER OF CREDITS UNLESS THE DEGREE HOLDER HAS FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN EXISTING STATEWIDE TRANSFER AGREEMENT.

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

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

SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 11, 2010, if adjournment sine die is on May 12, 2010); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect unless

approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2010 and shall take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Brandon C. Shaffer
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Terrance D. Carroll
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Karen Goldman
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Marilyn Eddins
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED _____

Bill Ritter, Jr.
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO