

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0469.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 20-143

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Story,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Young,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT
102 TRANSITION PILOT PROGRAM.

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://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill establishes the higher education student transition pilot program (pilot program) in the department of higher education (department) to provide grants to partnering 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education that establish a transition program that allows students to enroll in courses and access student services at both of the partnering institutions. Grants are awarded for one year and are renewed

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

annually if the partnering institutions continue to operate a transition program. The pilot program is repealed, effective June 30, 2026.

In order to be eligible for a grant, a 2-year institution and a 4-year institution must enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish a transition program. An individual institution is not eligible for a grant. Participation in the transition program must be free for each student, though students are responsible for tuition and fees for enrolling in courses and using student services. A transition program must:

- ! Classify each participating student as a student of both partnering institutions and allow the student to enroll in courses at either partnering institution;
- ! Provide participating students with access to the same student services and benefits available to a student enrolled in either partnering institution and offer wraparound support services; and
- ! Include a comprehensive advising program to ensure that the courses students are taking satisfy the requirements for a degree at both the 2-year institution and the 4-year institution.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 79 to title
3 23 as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 79**

5 **Higher Education Student Transition Pilot Program**

6 **23-79-101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 79, UNLESS THE
7 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
9 EDUCATION CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

10 (2) "FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE-SUPPORTED
11 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO GRANT
12 BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.

13 (3) "GRANTEE" MEANS PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE
14 AWARDED A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 79.

1 (4) "PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS" MEANS THE TWO-YEAR
2 INSTITUTION AND THE FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION THAT ENTER INTO A
3 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ESTABLISH A TRANSITION
4 PROGRAM.

5 (5) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT
6 TRANSITION PILOT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 23-79-102.

7 (6) "TRANSITION PROGRAM" MEANS A STUDENT TRANSITION
8 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS AS DESCRIBED IN
9 SECTION 23-79-103.

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

13 **23-79-102. Higher education student transition pilot program**
14 **- created - department duties.** (1) THE HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT
15 TRANSITION PILOT PROGRAM IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE
16 GRANTS TO PARTNERING TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS THAT
17 ESTABLISH A TRANSITION PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ENROLL
18 IN COURSES AND ACCESS STUDENT SERVICES AT BOTH OF THE PARTNERING
19 INSTITUTIONS.

20 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.
21 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

22 (a) DEVELOP A GRANT APPLICATION AND ESTABLISH THE
23 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS TO APPLY FOR A
24 GRANT, INCLUDING DEADLINES;

25 (b) ACCEPT AND REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS;

26 (c) NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2021, AWARD GRANTS; AND

27 (d) ANNUALLY REVIEW GRANTEE'S OPERATING TRANSITION

1 PROGRAMS AND RENEW THE GRANT OF EACH ELIGIBLE GRANTEE.

2 (3) IN AWARDING GRANTS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE
3 GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS IN ORDER TO, TO THE
4 EXTENT POSSIBLE, ENSURE THAT GRANTS ARE AWARDED TO INSTITUTIONS
5 THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO CONSIDER THE
6 STUDENT POPULATION OF PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO
7 MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION IN TRANSITION PROGRAMS BY STUDENTS WHO
8 MAY NOT OTHERWISE ENROLL IN A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION.

9 **23-79-103. Grant eligibility - application - transition program**

10 **requirements.** (1) IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT, A TWO-YEAR
11 INSTITUTION AND A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION MUST ENTER INTO A
12 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ESTABLISH A TRANSITION
13 PROGRAM AND DETAIL THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH
14 INSTITUTION. AN INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT.

15 (2) PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS THAT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
16 GRANT PROGRAM SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT.
17 AT A MINIMUM, A GRANT APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

18 (a) AN EXPLANATION OF HOW THE TRANSITION PROGRAM MEETS
19 THE REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION;

20 (b) THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS TO
21 PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSITION PROGRAM;

22 (c) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS'
23 DEGREE PATHWAYS ARE ALIGNED SO THAT STUDENTS CAN EFFICIENTLY
24 MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DEGREE AT BOTH PARTNERING
25 INSTITUTIONS;

26 (d) WHETHER THE PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS' INFORMATION
27 TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS ARE COMPATIBLE IN A MANNER THAT ALLOWS THE

1 INSTITUTIONS TO SHARE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO OPERATE THE
2 TRANSITION PROGRAM AND, IF NOT, A PLAN TO ACHIEVE SUCH
3 COMPATIBILITY;

4 (e) STATED SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSITION PROGRAM FROM
5 LEADERS OF EACH PARTNERING INSTITUTION;

6 (f) A PLAN FOR MARKETING THE TRANSITION PROGRAM TO
7 INCREASE STUDENT AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION;

8 (g) THE TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE TRANSITION PROGRAM;

9 (h) THE PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS' GOALS TO EXPAND THE
10 TRANSITION PROGRAM DURING THE DURATION OF THE GRANT; AND

11 (i) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS WILL
12 USE GRANT MONEY TO FURTHER THE GOALS OF THE TRANSITION PROGRAM.

13 (3) A TRANSITION PROGRAM MUST:

14 (a) ESTABLISH A PROCESS BY WHICH STUDENTS MAY APPLY TO AND
15 BE ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM;

16 (b) CLASSIFY EACH STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM AS
17 A STUDENT OF BOTH PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS;

18 (c) ALLOW EACH STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM TO
19 ENROLL IN COURSES AT EITHER PARTNERING INSTITUTION, BUT NOT
20 REQUIRE A STUDENT TO BE ENROLLED IN A COURSE AT BOTH PARTNERING
21 INSTITUTIONS IN EACH SEMESTER;

22 (d) ALLOW EACH STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM
23 ACCESS TO THE SAME STUDENT SERVICES AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO A
24 STUDENT ENROLLED IN EITHER PARTNERING INSTITUTION, INCLUDING
25 PARTICIPATION IN CAMPUS LIFE AND STUDENT HOUSING, SO LONG AS THE
26 STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN A COURSE AT EITHER PARTNERING INSTITUTION;

27 (e) PROVIDE WRAPAROUND SUPPORT SERVICES TO STUDENTS

1 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM; AND

2 (f) INCLUDE A COMPREHENSIVE ADVISING PROGRAM, STAFFED BY
3 FULL-TIME, DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS WHOSE PRIMARY
4 PHYSICAL OFFICES ARE LOCATED AT THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION, TO
5 GENERALLY ADVISE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE TRANSITION
6 PROGRAM, INCLUDING TRACKING STUDENT PROGRESS TO ENSURE THAT
7 EACH STUDENT TAKES COURSES TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN
8 ASSOCIATE DEGREE AT THE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION AND A
9 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AT THE FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION, AND TO
10 PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON SERVICES AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO EACH
11 STUDENT.

12 (4) IN DEVELOPING STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE
13 TRANSITION PROGRAM, THE PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS SHALL CONSIDER
14 INCREASING PARTICIPATION BY STUDENTS WHO TRADITIONALLY HAVE NOT
15 COMPLETED A COURSE OF STUDY AT A FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION AND
16 REDUCING COSTS FOR STUDENTS, INCLUDING COST SAVINGS THAT MAY
17 RESULT FROM REDUCING A STUDENT'S TIME TO DEGREE COMPLETION.

18 (5) THE PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS SHALL NOT CHARGE A FEE TO
19 ANY STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSITION PROGRAM. SUCH
20 STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TUITION AND FEES FOR ENROLLING
21 IN COURSES AT, OR USING STUDENT SERVICES OFFERED BY, THE
22 PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS.

23 **23-79-104. Grant awards - amount - use of grant money.**

24 (1) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF
25 EACH GRANT AWARD IS ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
26 ANNUALLY. EACH GRANT HAS AN INITIAL TERM OF ONE YEAR, AND THE
27 DEPARTMENT SHALL RENEW EACH GRANT ANNUALLY FOR AN ADDITIONAL

1 FOUR YEARS SO LONG AS THE PARTNERING INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO
2 OPERATE THE TRANSITION PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE
3 79.

4 (2) PILOT PROGRAM GRANT MONEY MAY BE USED FOR:

5 (a) FUNDING PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR POSITIONS THAT SATISFY THE
6 ADVISING PROGRAM REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-79-103

7 (3)(f);

8 (b) MARKETING THE TRANSITION PROGRAM TO CURRENT AND
9 PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS OF EACH PARTNERING INSTITUTION; AND

10 (c) ANY OTHER PURPOSE DESCRIBED IN THE GRANT APPLICATION
11 THAT FURTHERS THE GOALS OF THE TRANSITION PROGRAM.

12 **23-79-105. Institution report - department report.** (1) EACH
13 GRANTEE SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE FOLLOWING
14 INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRANSITION PROGRAM:

15 (a) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM;

16 (b) THE COMBINED GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF STUDENTS
17 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM;

18 (c) PROGRAM RETENTION RATES; AND

19 (d) THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE
20 DURING THE DURATION OF THE GRANT:

21 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE TRANSITION
22 PROGRAM WHO COMPLETE SIXTY CREDIT HOURS AND SUBSEQUENTLY
23 ENROLL IN COURSES AT THE PARTNERING FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION;

24 (II) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM
25 WHO TRANSFER TO A DIFFERENT FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION; AND

26 (III) THE GRADUATION RATE AND TIME TO DEGREE COMPLETION
27 OF STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

1 (2) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE
2 PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE
3 INFORMATION REPORTED BY GRANTEEES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. IN ITS
4 FINAL REPORT PRIOR TO THE REPEAL OF THIS ARTICLE 79, THE
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL RECOMMEND WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD
6 BE CONTINUED.

7 **23-79-106. Repeal of article.** THIS ARTICLE 79 IS REPEALED,
8 EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2026.

9 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
10 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
11 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
12 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
13 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
14 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
15 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
16 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
17 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.