

TOPIC: 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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I. SUMMARY

The General Assembly will convene on Wednesday, January 7, 2009. The Department of Higher Education has been working with legislators to draft the following pieces of legislation for the 2009 session.

Concerning funding of the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority

Sponsors: Sen. Bacon and Rep. Pommer

This legislation would change the distribution of the Waste Tire Recycling fee to increase the allocation to the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority (CHECRA) by \$0.15 per tire to \$0.25. The Authority has used existing funds to leverage \$16.5 million in grants from the National Science Foundation to the School of Mines and to the University of Colorado.

Concerning conforming COF Statute to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals decision

Sponsors: Rep. Todd and Sen. Bacon

This bill would repeal existing statutory provisions that prohibit participation of “pervasively sectarian” institutions in the College Opportunity Fund program or state financial aid. The revision is necessary due to the recent decision by the U. S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals that the existing provisions are unconstitutional.

Concerning exemptions of flight schools from the DPOS

Sponsors: Rep. Schafer and Sen. Spence

This legislation would exempt from Division of Private Occupational Schools regulation flight schools that are approved and regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Concerning dual enrollment and changes to remediation *Sponsors: Rep. Merrifield*

This legislation is expected to deal with dual and concurrent enrollment programs and with remediation programs, among other provisions.