

TOPIC: 2010 LEGISLATION IMPACTING HIGHER EDUCATION

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I. SUMMARY

Several pieces of legislation have been introduced in the 2010 session that impact higher education. The Commission may want to discuss and take a position or remain neutral on the following bills that impact higher education policies across the system.

- HB-1208 Concerning Higher Education Statewide Transfer Agreements
- SB-079 Concerning Authority at Mesa State College to Offer Additional Programs
- SB-088 Concerning Two Year College Degree Designation
- SB-101 Concerning Colorado Mountain College to Offer Baccalaureate Degrees
- SB-108 Concerning Higher Ed Core Courses

II. BACKGROUND

Below is the Department’s tracking sheet information for the pieces of legislation listed above. The table provides summary information and the Department’s position.

Bill No./ LLS	Title	Sponsors	Support	Description and Comments
HB-1208	Higher Ed Statewide Transfer Agreements	Todd and Murray & Shaffer B. and King K	Support contingent on resources	Requires statewide transfer agreements from two year to four year institutions. Requires the CCHE collaborating with institution to complete at least 14 transfer agreements to be completed by 2016.
SB-079	Authority to Offer Additional Programs at Mesa State College	Penry & Bradford and King S.	Oppose	Broadens the role and mission of Mesa state College to offer more graduate level degree programs. Existing language makes Mesa a "specialized" graduate institution and specifies the types of programs offered. New language strikes "specialized" and limiting language and says "the college shall offer liberal arts and sciences, professional and technical degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels."
SB-088	Two-Year College Degree Designation	Johnston & Massey	Monitor	Allows CC's and LDJC's (Aims, CMC) to offer 2-year degree programs with academic designations. Requires CCCS Board and CCHE to approve the degree program designation. LDJC's only require approval from their board of trustees.
SB-101	CMC to Offer Baccalaureate Degrees	Gibbs & Scanlan and Massey	Oppose	Authorizes CMC to offer baccalaureate degrees in addition to its junior college offerings. 4 year programs may be offered that meet what the board of trustees determines appropriate to address the needs of the local community.
SB-108	Higher Ed Core Courses	King & Middleton	Monitor	Allows non-public institutions of higher education to choose to participate in gtPathways core course program to allow core course credits to transfer in statewide agreements. The CCHE is allowed to set a fee to reflect the cost of the reviews.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission may wish to take a position of Support, Oppose, or remain Neutral on these pieces of legislation. Since many of these bills may change while they go through the process the Commission may wish to take a position on general polices that are contained in the bills.

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