

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

March 12, 2025

TOPIC: Legislative Update

PRESENTED BY:

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EXPLANATION:

(Report generated on March 3, 2025.) The 75th General Assembly convened on January 8th and is now halfway through the 120- day legislative session. On March 12th, it will be Day 64 of the session.

Update on the State Budget

In late February, the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) discussed funding for Capital Construction and Controlled Maintenance (CM), prioritizing projects ranked 1-4 on the [Capital Development Committee's \(CDC\) FY 2025-26 list](#). Controlled Maintenance Level 1 projects—which include dozens of higher education projects—remain a funding priority. The Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) Safety Center was the only higher ed project included. The Joint Technology Committee ([JTC](#)) recommended to the JBC funding all submitted IT capital projects, an unlikely and not helpful recommendation given the current budget situation. Outside of CM Level 1 projects, CCCS currently does not have any capital renewal, construction, or IT projects recommended for funding by the JBC. The JBC tabled final funding decisions on capital and will revisit them in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead in March:

- Higher Ed Figure Setting: Scheduled for Monday, March 10, where the JBC will discuss funding decisions, including tuition caps, for higher education.
- March Revenue Forecast: Expected Monday, March 17, which will guide the final FY-26 budget decisions. Staff now estimate the General Assembly has a [\\$1.2 billion budget hole to remedy](#).
- Final JBC Budget Decisions: Anticipated the week of March 17, following the revenue forecast selection.

- **Long Bill Introduction:** The JBC's final budget recommendations are incorporated into the Long Bill, which serves as the state's annual budget. This year, the Long Bill is anticipated for introduction in late March and will start in the Senate Chamber for consideration by the full General Assembly.

Key Higher Education Bills

- **HB25-1038 Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website:** Through gifts, grants, and donations, the Department of Higher Education (CDHE) proposes the creation of a statewide transfer website that allows students to easily research and compare potential transfer institutions in Colorado.

CCCS in Neutral position and has engaged closely with this CDHE on the development of this bill. While an amendment has made the bill permissive for institutions of higher education to submit data, records, and other information to DHE for the purposes of the online platform, CCCS plans to participate should the bill pass.

- **HB25-1218 Concurrent Enrollment & Higher Education Courses:** On Thursday, February 27, the House Education Committee unanimously voted to postpone HB25-1218 indefinitely, effectively ending the bill for this session.

CCCS opposed the bill as it would have altered the Concurrent Enrollment Program Act in ways that jeopardized the program's integrity. The bill sought to exempt certain higher education programs that may not be accredited, may not transfer statewide, and fail to meet Concurrent Enrollment's statutory standards. These changes could have introduced costs for students, created inconsistencies in credit transferability, and weakened the protections that ensure Concurrent Enrollment remains a credible, tuition-free, high-quality, and fully transferable pathway for high school students.

To safeguard the program's core principles, CCCS activated a coordinated lobbying and strategic advocacy effort. These efforts, including direct engagement with legislators and key stakeholders, helped reinforce the importance of maintaining the current, proven Concurrent Enrollment framework. As discussions on this topic continue, CCCS remains committed to collaborating with stakeholders to support responsible expansion of Concurrent Enrollment while preserving its core principles and student benefits.

Additional Updates

The legislative team will provide additional updates to the Board during the March 12th meeting.

Monitored Bills:

As of March 3, 2025, 477 bills have been introduced and CCCS is tracking 33 bills. The table below lists bills that CCCS is tracking.

Key: UC = Under Consideration; PI'd = Postponed Indefinitely (killed)

#	Bill	Status
1	SB25-094 Department of Higher Education Supplemental	Passed
2	HB25-1125 State Agency Budget Transparency	PI'd
3	HB25-1218 Concurrent Enrollment & Higher Education Courses	PI'd
4	SB25-138 Permanent Reductions to State Income Tax	PI'd
5	HB25-1012 Income Tax Expenditures for Service Members	UC
6	HB25-1038 Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website	UC
7	HB25-1041 Student Athlete Name Image or Likeness	UC
8	HB25-1078 Forestry & Firefighter Workforce & Education	UC
9	HB25-1090 Protections Against Deceptive Pricing Practices	UC
10	HB25-1101 State Disbursement Process	UC
11	HB25-1130 Labor Requirements for Government Construction Projects	UC
12	HB25-1131 Eliminate Student Cap at Colorado State University's Veterinary Program	UC
13	HB25-1158 Digital Education Materials	UC
14	HB25-1169 Housing Developments on Faith and Educational Land	UC
15	HB25-1186 Work-Based Learning Experiences in Higher Education	UC
16	HB25-1192 Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement	UC
17	HB25-1221 Emily Griffith Associate of Applied Science Degree	UC
18	HB25-1232 Liability When Means of Self-Defense Prohibited	UC
19	HB25-1239 Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act	UC
20	HB25-1242 Government Transparency Laws	UC
21	HB25-1278 Education Accountability System	UC
22	HB25-1284 Regulating Apprentices in Licensed Trades	UC
23	HB25-1286 Protecting Workers from Extreme Temperatures	UC
24	SB25-001 Colorado Voting Rights Act	UC
25	SB25-003 Semiautomatic Firearms & Rapid-Fire Devices	UC
26	SB25-005 Worker Protection Collective Bargaining	UC
27	SB25-028 Public Employees' Retirement Association Risk-Reduction Measures	UC
28	SB25-037 Coal Transition Grants	UC
29	SB25-050 Racial Classifications on Government Forms	UC
30	SB25-077 Modifications to Colorado Open Records Act	UC
31	SB25-087 Academic Adjustments in Higher Education	UC
32	SB25-120 Nuclear Workforce Development & Education Program	UC
33	SB25-154 Access to Educator Pathways	UC

RECOMMENDATION:

No Board action required.

ATTACHMENT(S):
No Attachments