



Attention Governmental Affairs Council Members:

The Colorado Chamber staff has received requests to support two pieces of legislation as follows:

**HB 1306 – Accreditation of Post-Secondary Institutions (bill sponsors: Reps. Garnett & Geitner; Senators Rodriguez & Lundeen)**

**SB 252 – Community Revitalization Program (Bill sponsors: Sens. Fenberg & Holbert; Reps. Lontine & Titone)**

Talking points on this legislation have been provided to staff and are outlined below:

**HB 21-1306** - Would allow apprentices to more easily transfer credits earned in construction industry apprenticeship programs should they decide to pursue a construction management degree. The bill proposes a statutory change that allows accreditation by an accreditor approved by DOE or CHEA. As of today, five other states (AK, AL, IL, KY, MT) allow accreditors approved by both CHEA and DOE. Construction apprenticeship programs will gain the opportunity to work with and be accredited by the American Council for Construction Education, the only accrediting agency that is recognized by the construction industry and allow registered apprenticeship programs to provide access to certain degrees in the industry. Additional arguments in support of the bill:

- improves career mobility for apprentice graduates that wish to take advantage of other positions that already exist in the construction industry.
- Allows for stackable credentials that eliminate redundant classes or course work not applicable to our industry.
- Improves access to professional degrees for underserved Coloradans while removing most, if not all, student loan debt.
- Provides long-term workforce development infrastructure and better equips our industry to meet any future demands.

*Bill status:* Assigned to House Education Committee. Not scheduled yet.

*Recommendation:* **SUPPORT**

**SB 252** - Would provide \$65 million for mixed used development projects to stimulate Colorado's creative economy, revitalize communities and create jobs. The grants would be awarded through Colorado Creative Industries (CCI). The goal of the grant program is to jumpstart stalled real estate projects, invigorate commercial centers and main street areas, support creative workers and job creation, address Colorado's widespread housing shortage, fuel tourism, support historic preservation, battle blight, and promote cultural vitality in all regions of our state.

*Bill status:* Scheduled in Senate Local Government Committee on 5/13/21.

*Recommendation:* **SUPPORT**

Please contact Loren Furman at [lfurman@cochamber.com](mailto:lfurman@cochamber.com) or at 303-888-9387 if you have any questions or disagree with these recommendations by Friday, May 14th.

Thank you!

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