

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB296

Chairperson: Senator Dave Murman

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: January 28, 2025

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

In order to ensure the education services for students under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court are not disrupted and that the educational records for such students are complete, LB 296 requires the State Department of Education to create and maintain a centralized education records system by July 1, 2026. Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education is directed to employ registrars responsible for maintaining accurate and timely records for students under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.

LB 296 authorizes the Commissioner of Education to award credit hours to any high school student who is or was under the juvenile court if an analysis of education records provide evidence of the completion of academic work generally required for such credit hours. Credit hours awarded by the commissioner shall be recognized by any approved or accredited school and shall count towards meeting graduation requirements. The cost for the centralized education records system and registrars shall be paid from the State Department of Education Improvement Grant Fund.

The bill also allows a student who completes the minimum high school credit hours pursuant to 79-729 and who was under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and residing in an out-of-home placement at any point during high school to either: (1) request a high school diploma from a public school in which such student was enrolled at any point during high school or; (2) request a state high school diploma.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John Arch