

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0840.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 17-1164

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Everett, Humphrey, Leonard, Van Winkle, Lundeen, Nordberg, McKean, Beckman, Sias, Buck, Navarro, Neville P., Ransom, Williams D.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY STATE**
102 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the Colorado commission on higher education (commission) to conduct a review of and report on an analysis of program costs and student outcomes for undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by the university of Colorado and Colorado state university.

The bill sets forth the components of the degree program review

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

and analysis, including information concerning the cost of the degree program to the student and to the institution of higher education (institution), the average time to complete the degree program, and employment and earnings outcomes for graduates.

As part of its review, the commission shall identify the highest-cost degree programs to students and to the institution and the lowest performing degree programs with respect to graduate employment and earnings, and shall analyze the return on investment for those degree programs to graduates and to the institution.

Two years after the date of the first report, the commission shall complete the review and analysis required in the bill for all state institutions that were not included in the first report. Every 2 years thereafter, the commission shall update the review and analysis of undergraduate and graduate degree programs for all state institutions.

The commission's report shall be submitted to certain committees of the general assembly.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-134 as
3 follows:

4 **23-1-134. Commission directive - review of undergraduate and**
5 **graduate degree programs - analysis of cost and program outcomes**
6 **- report - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND
7 DECLARES THAT:

8 (I) COLORADO'S ECONOMIC GROWTH DEPENDS UPON A STRONG
9 WORKFORCE WITH THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING NECESSARY TO
10 SUCCEED IN TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY CAREERS;

11 (II) COLORADO'S STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS THE
12 PRIMARY SOURCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR COLORADANS
13 PURSUING THESE CAREERS;

14 (III) FURTHER, COLORADO'S SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION MUST
15 MEET THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NEEDS OF ALL OF ITS RESIDENTS,
16 INCLUDING PROVIDING REASONABLE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

1 STATEWIDE, IN ORDER FOR COLORADO TO SUCCEED IN MEETING ITS GOALS
2 FOR AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE;

3 (IV) WITH FUTURE STATE FUNDING LEVELS FOR HIGHER
4 EDUCATION UNCERTAIN DUE TO COMPETING DEMANDS ON THE STATE'S
5 BUDGET, THE STATE HAS AN OBLIGATION TO TAXPAYERS AND TO
6 CONSUMERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO TO MAKE THE BEST
7 POSSIBLE USE OF STATE RESOURCES; AND

8 (V) USING STATE RESOURCES TO FUND DUPLICATIVE OR
9 INEFFICIENT UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT
10 RESULT IN POOR STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OUTCOMES AND
11 INCREASED STUDENT LOAN DEBT IS DETRIMENTAL NOT ONLY TO
12 CONSUMERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, BUT TO COLORADO'S ECONOMIC AND
13 WORKFORCE GOALS.

14 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS
15 APPROPRIATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO REGULARLY REVIEW EXISTING
16 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT COLORADO
17 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF
18 PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES, AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS
19 AND CONCLUSIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

20 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2018, THE COMMISSION SHALL
21 CONDUCT A REVIEW OF AND REPORT ON UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE
22 DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AND
23 COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING AN ANALYSIS OF DEGREE
24 PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES. AS PART OF ITS REVIEW, THE
25 COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EACH DEGREE PROGRAM
26 OFFERED AT THE INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING:

27 (I) THE NAME OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM AND THE YEAR THE

- 1 DEGREE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED;
- 2 (II) THE NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED ANNUALLY FOR THE
3 DEGREE PROGRAM;
- 4 (III) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DEGREE
5 PROGRAM FOR THE MOST RECENT ACADEMIC YEAR;
- 6 (IV) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE
7 DEGREE PROGRAM FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR AND THE TWO
8 PRECEDING ACADEMIC YEARS;
- 9 (V) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE DEGREE
10 PROGRAM, THE LENGTH OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM, THE AVERAGE TIME TO
11 COMPLETION FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM, AND
12 THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED BY STUDENTS COMPLETING
13 THE DEGREE PROGRAM;
- 14 (VI) THE AVERAGE COST TO COMPLETION OF THE DEGREE
15 PROGRAM, INCLUDING MANDATORY PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONAL FEES,
16 FOR A STUDENT WITH IN-STATE TUITION CLASSIFICATION;
- 17 (VII) THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME FACULTY AND
18 STAFF ATTRIBUTABLE IN WHOLE OR IN PART TO THE DEGREE PROGRAM;
- 19 (VIII) ALL COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DEGREE PROGRAM,
20 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FACULTY AND STAFF SALARIES, WAGES,
21 BENEFITS, AND CAPITAL COSTS;
- 22 (IX) THE PROJECTED NUMBER OF NEW OR UNFILLED JOBS IN
23 COLORADO OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS RELATED TO THE DEGREE
24 PROGRAM FIELD;
- 25 (X) THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF DEGREE PROGRAM GRADUATES
26 TWO YEARS, FIVE YEARS, AND TEN YEARS AFTER GRADUATION;
- 27 (XI) THE AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF DEGREE PROGRAM

1 GRADUATES TWO YEARS, FIVE YEARS, AND TEN YEARS AFTER
2 GRADUATION;

3 (XII) THE FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT RATE FOR DEGREE
4 PROGRAM GRADUATES; AND

5 (XIII) ANY OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE
6 DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND
7 STUDENT OUTCOMES.

8 (b) AS PART OF ITS REPORT, THE COMMISSION SHALL IDENTIFY THE
9 HIGHEST-COST UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS,
10 MEASURED BY THE TOTAL COST TO THE INSTITUTION OR BY STUDENT COST
11 FOR COMPLETION, AND, FOR THE TOP TWENTY PERCENT OF THOSE DEGREE
12 PROGRAMS, ANALYZE THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO GRADUATES OF THE
13 DEGREE PROGRAM AND TO THE INSTITUTION. THE COMMISSION SHALL
14 ALSO IDENTIFY THE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE THE LOWEST
15 EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OUTCOMES FOR GRADUATES REMAINING IN
16 COLORADO, AND, FOR THE LOWEST TWENTY PERCENT OF THOSE DEGREE
17 PROGRAMS, ANALYZE THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO GRADUATES OF THE
18 DEGREE PROGRAM AND TO THE INSTITUTION.

19 (c) IF THE COMMISSION IS UNABLE TO COMPLETE A PORTION OF THE
20 DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND
21 STUDENT OUTCOMES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), OR
22 LACKS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO DO SO, THE COMMISSION SHALL
23 INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN EXPLANATION OF
24 THE REASON AND A DESCRIPTION OF ANY MISSING INFORMATION.

25 (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2020, THE COMMISSION SHALL
26 CONDUCT THE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM
27 REVIEW OF AND REPORT ON ITS ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND

1 STUDENT OUTCOMES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS
2 SECTION FOR THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION NOT
3 INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY 1, 2018, REPORT. ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1,
4 2022, AND, NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR
5 BEFORE JANUARY 1 EVERY TWO YEARS THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION
6 SHALL REVIEW THE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
7 OFFERED AT EACH STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
8 PREPARE AN UPDATED REPORT FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

9 (4) THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS REPORTS TO THE
10 GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREE
11 PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED IN THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS
12 OR THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS BE DISCONTINUED, AND THE
13 REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION.

14 (5) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORTS REQUIRED
15 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO
16 THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OF
17 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

18 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

19 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
22 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
23 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
24 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
25 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
26 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.