A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY STATE 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 degree programs offered by the university of Colorado and Colorado state university.

The bill sets forth the components of the degree program review 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 4-year state institutions that were not included in the first report. Every 2 years thereafter, the commission shall update the review and analysis of undergraduate degree programs for all state institutions.

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

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 23-1-135 as follows:

\[\text{23-1-135. Commission directive - review of undergraduate degree programs - analysis of cost and program outcomes - legislative declaration - definition - report - repeal.} \]

(a) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(I) Colorado's economic growth depends upon a strong workforce with the education and training necessary to succeed in twenty-first-century careers;

(II) Colorado's state system of higher education is the primary source of education and training for Coloradans pursuing these careers;

(III) Further, Colorado's system of higher education must meet the postsecondary education needs of all of its residents, including providing reasonable access to higher education statewide, in order for Colorado to succeed in meeting its goals.
FOR AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE;

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

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

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

(2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2019, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT A REVIEW OF AND REPORT ON UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AND COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING AN ANALYSIS OF DEGREE PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES. AS PART OF ITS REVIEW, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EACH DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED AT THE INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING:

(I) THE NAME OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM AND THE YEAR THE DEGREE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED;
(II) The number of degrees awarded annually for the degree program;

(III) The number of students enrolled in the degree program for the most recent academic year;

(IV) The average number of students enrolled in the degree program for the current academic year and the two preceding academic years;

(V) The number of credits required to complete the degree program, the length of the degree program, the average time to completion for students enrolled in the degree program, and the average number of credits earned by students completing the degree program;

(VI) The average cost to completion of the degree program, including mandatory program and institutional fees, for a student with in-state tuition classification;

(VII) The number of full-time and part-time faculty and staff attributable in whole or in part to the degree program;

(VIII) All costs attributable to the degree program, including but not limited to faculty and staff salaries, wages, benefits, and capital costs;

(IX) The projected number of new or unfilled jobs in Colorado over the next ten years related to the degree program field;

(X) The employment rate of degree program graduates two years, five years, and ten years after graduation;

(XI) The average annual earnings of degree program graduates two years, five years, and ten years after
GRADUATION;

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

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

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

(c) IF INFORMATION REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS UNAVAILABLE OR IMPRACTICABLE TO OBTAIN FOR A SPECIFIC DEGREE PROGRAM, INCLUDING INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE ANALYSIS OF DEGREE PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES, THE COMMISSION MAY USE THE BEST AVAILABLE NONDEGREE OR INSTITUTION-SPECIFIC AGGREGATE DATA FROM STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES OR OTHER ROUTINELY RELIED-UPON SOURCES TO COMPLETE THE DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW AND THE ANALYSIS OF DEGREE PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES.

(d) IF THE COMMISSION IS UNABLE TO COMPLETE A PORTION OF THE
DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND
STUDENT OUTCOMES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), OR
LACKS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO DO SO, INCLUDING NONSPECIFIC,
AGGREGATE DATA, THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN EXPLANATION OF THE REASON AND A
DESCRIPTION OF ANY MISSING INFORMATION.

(3) On or before January 1, 2021, the commission shall
conduct the undergraduate degree program review and report,
including the analysis of program costs and student outcomes
required pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, for the state
institutions of higher education not included in the January 1,
2019, report. Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), on or
before January 1, 2023, and on or before January 1 every two
years thereafter, the commission shall review the
undergraduate degree programs offered at each state
institution of higher education and prepare an updated report
for the general assembly.

(4) The commission shall include in its reports to the
general assembly undergraduate degree programs that have
been discontinued in the previous five years or that the
commission recommends be discontinued, and the reason for the
recommendation.

(5) The commission shall submit the reports required
pursuant to this section to the joint budget committee and to
the education committees of the house of representatives and of
the senate, or any successor committees.

(6) As used in this section, "state institution of higher
EDUCATION” HAS THE SAME MEANING AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102
(10)(a), EXCLUDING AN INSTITUTION THAT IS GOVERNED BY THE STATE
BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION.

(7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a
referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.