

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 19-0788.01 Jerry Barry x4341

**SENATE BILL 19-097**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Story and Coram,** Todd, Donovan, Fields, Gonzales, Rodriguez

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCluskie and Soper,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Education

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES.**

**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 establishes a grant program to provide money to area technical colleges (ATC) for specified capital construction and equipment purchases. An ATC may submit a request to the Colorado commission on higher education (commission). The commission may include the grant request in its budget request for ATCs in the following state fiscal year. If the ATC receives grant money, the ATC must submit a report back to the commission in any year in which it expends grant money.

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

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

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) Career and technical education ensures that qualified workers  
5 are ready to enter high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields that  
6 are vital to Colorado's infrastructure and growing economy;

7           (b) Career and technical education plays a key role in reaching the  
8 statewide sixty-six percent postsecondary attainment goal by providing  
9 career-ready skills to historically underserved and nontraditional students;

10           (c) Career and technical education is critical to mitigating the  
11 equity gap by offering affordable and accessible educational opportunities  
12 that allow students to graduate debt-free and enter fields with competitive  
13 wages and benefits;

14           (d) Career and technical education is required for many of the  
15 fastest growing occupations according to the federal bureau of labor  
16 statistics, including nursing, welding, massage therapy, dental and  
17 medical assisting, and barbering and cosmetology; and

18           (e) Industry demand for skilled workers in today's growing  
19 economy continues to outpace the rates of career and technical education  
20 certificate completion, particularly in the construction and health care  
21 fields.

22           (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the general assembly to establish  
23 a grant program for the area technical colleges to provide accessible,  
24 high-quality, and current career and technical education programs.

25           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-71-304 as  
26 follows:

1           **23-71-304. Area technical college grant program - established**  
2   **- report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE

3   CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

4           (a) "AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS  
5   DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103 (1).

6           (b) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON  
7   HIGHER EDUCATION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-102.

8           (c) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
9   EDUCATION CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

10          (d) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
11   GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS  
12   SECTION.

13          (2) THERE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE AREA  
14   TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE UP TO FOUR MILLION  
15   DOLLARS EACH FISCAL YEAR IN GRANTS TO AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES  
16   FOR IDENTIFIED CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT PURPOSES IN  
17   ADDITION TO THE DIRECT GRANTS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
18   23-18-304 (2)(a). ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 2019, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH  
19   JULY 15 THEREAFTER, AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY SUBMIT A  
20   GRANT APPLICATION DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
21   SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT. IF MORE THAN ONE GRANT APPLICATION IS  
22   SUBMITTED DURING ANY YEAR, ON OR BEFORE JULY 30, THE AREA  
23   TECHNICAL COLLEGES SHALL JOINTLY SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A LIST  
24   OF THE GRANTS IN PRIORITIZED ORDER. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW  
25   THE APPLICATION AND RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION WHETHER TO  
26   INCLUDE MONEY FOR THE GRANT IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST PURSUANT TO  
27   SECTION 23-18-304 (2) FOR THE FOLLOWING STATE FISCAL YEAR. THE

1 COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER TO INCLUDE MONEY FOR THE  
2 GRANT IN THE BUDGET REQUEST, AND, IF THE COMMISSION INCLUDES  
3 MORE THAN ONE GRANT IN ITS REQUEST, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
4 PRIORITIZE THE REQUESTS. IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MONEY FOR THE  
5 GRANT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE  
6 GRANT TO THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

7 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A FORM FOR THE GRANT  
8 APPLICATION THAT MUST INCLUDE:

9 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF HOW THE GRANT MONEY WILL BE SPENT;

10 (b) SPECIFICATION OF HOW THE GRANT MONEY WILL BENEFIT  
11 STUDENTS AND ANY PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL; AND

12 (c) ANY MATCHING MONEY TO BE ADDED TO THE GRANT MONEY  
13 AND THE SOURCE OF THE MATCHING MONEY.

14 (4) IF AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE RECEIVES GRANT MONEY  
15 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 OF THE BUDGET  
16 YEAR FOLLOWING ANY EXPENDITURE OF MONEY FROM A GRANT, THE AREA  
17 TECHNICAL COLLEGE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT ON A  
18 FORM DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT MUST INCLUDE:

19 (a) THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT RECEIVED;

20 (b) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT EXPENDITURES MADE DURING  
21 THE PREVIOUS BUDGET YEAR;

22 (c) AN ITEMIZATION OF THE GRANT EXPENDITURES MADE DURING  
23 THE PREVIOUS BUDGET YEAR; AND

24 (d) THE IMPACT OF THE GRANT EXPENDITURES ON STUDENTS.

25 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

26 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-304, **amend**

27 (2) as follows:

1           **23-18-304. Funding for specialty education programs - area**  
2 **technical colleges - local district colleges.** (2) (a) Except as provided in  
3 ~~paragraph (b) of this subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION,  
4 for the 2015-16 state fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the direct  
5 grants made to eligible area technical colleges pursuant to part 3 of article  
6 71 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 23 for a state fiscal year must be equal to the amount  
7 of the grants made in the preceding state fiscal year, increased or  
8 decreased by a percentage equal to the percentage change in the total state  
9 appropriation for the applicable state fiscal year from the total state  
10 appropriation for the preceding state fiscal year.

11           (b) The commission may recommend as part of its budget request  
12 that:

13           (I) Direct grants to area technical colleges increase by a  
14 percentage that is greater than the percentage change in the total state  
15 appropriation for the preceding state fiscal year or decrease by a  
16 percentage that is less than the percentage change in the total state  
17 appropriation for the applicable fiscal year from the total state  
18 appropriation for the preceding state fiscal year; AND

19           (II) IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT RECEIVED PURSUANT TO  
20 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OR (2)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, ONE OR MORE AREA  
21 TECHNICAL COLLEGES RECEIVE ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR GRANTS  
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-71-304.

23           **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.