

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0630.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 23-224

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, Bridges

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Bockenfeld, Bird

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Senate Committees  
Appropriations

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING POLICIES TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COLORADO  
102 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION RELATED TO  
103 POSTGRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

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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/>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** If the Colorado commission on higher education (commission) enters into a professional student exchange program through the western interstate commission on higher education (WICHE), then, subject to available appropriations, the commission shall establish policies to maximize the benefit of the exchange program to

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

Colorado residents. The policies may include, but need not be limited to:

- Policies for Colorado residents seeking postsecondary optometry degrees at institutions in other states in which, beginning in the 2024-25 academic year, the commission shall ensure that any student who enters the postsecondary optometry program, as a part of the student's post-educational service commitment, shall agree to provide services to Coloradans enrolled in programs established pursuant to the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act"; and
- Policies that promote the provision of services in underserved areas. Such policies may include reducing the service requirement for an individual to meet the individual's post-educational service requirement by serving in areas that have insufficient access to optometry services.

The bill aligns Colorado law with the current operation of WICHE professional student exchange programs.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-108, **amend**  
3 (10) as follows:

4           **23-1-108. Duties and powers of the commission with regard to**  
5 **systemwide planning - reporting - definitions.** (10) (a) The  
6 commission may enter INTO, on behalf of the state of Colorado, into  
7 agreements with another state or with the western interstate commission  
8 for higher education on behalf of another state for the granting of full or  
9 partial waivers of the ~~nonresident~~ tuition to residents of such other states  
10 who are postgraduate or professional students at or are eligible for  
11 admission as postgraduate students to any of the ~~state-supported~~  
12 institutions of higher education in Colorado. ~~if the agreement provides~~  
13 ~~that, under substantially the same circumstances, such other state will~~  
14 ~~grant reciprocal waivers to residents of Colorado who are postgraduate~~  
15 ~~or professional students of universities or colleges in such other states.~~

1 SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE COMMISSION MAY ALSO  
2 ENTER INTO, ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, AGREEMENTS WITH  
3 ANOTHER STATE OR WITH THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR  
4 HIGHER EDUCATION FOR RECIPROCAL FULL OR PARTIAL TUITION WAIVERS  
5 OR MAY GRANT TUITION SUBSIDIES TO COLORADO RESIDENTS WHO ARE  
6 POSTGRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS AT OR ARE ELIGIBLE FOR  
7 ADMISSION AS POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AT INSTITUTIONS IN OTHER  
8 STATES THAT OFFER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN A SUBJECT THAT IS  
9 DETERMINED TO BE A STATE NEED AND FOR WHICH APPROPRIATE TRAINING  
10 IS NOT AVAILABLE WITHIN THE STATE. IF AN AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR A  
11 TUITION SUBSIDY TO A COLORADO RESIDENT TO ATTEND AN OUT-OF-STATE  
12 INSTITUTION, THE AGREEMENT MUST INCLUDE A REQUIREMENT THAT THE  
13 STUDENT FULFILL A POST-EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REQUIREMENT OR REPAY  
14 THE SUBSIDY. The commission, in consultation with the affected Colorado  
15 institutions, shall establish regulations governing the administration of  
16 agreements and the granting of waivers. In 1996 and in each subsequent  
17 even-numbered year, the commission shall report to the governor and the  
18 general assembly on these programs, INCLUDING REPORTING ON ANY  
19 CHANGES IMPLEMENTED AND THE IMPACT OF THOSE CHANGES.

20 (b) IF THE COMMISSION ENTERS INTO A PROFESSIONAL STUDENT  
21 EXCHANGE PROGRAM THROUGH THE WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION  
22 ON HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-60-601, THE  
23 COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFIT OF THE  
24 EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO COLORADO RESIDENTS. THE POLICIES MAY  
25 INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

26 (I) POLICIES IN WHICH, IF THE COMMISSION CONTINUES TO  
27 PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS SEEKING

1 POSTSECONDARY OPTOMETRY DEGREES AT INSTITUTIONS IN OTHER  
2 STATES, THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE THAT ANY STUDENT WHO ENTERS  
3 THE POSTSECONDARY OPTOMETRY PROGRAM BEGINNING IN THE 2024-25  
4 ACADEMIC YEAR AND THEREAFTER, AS A PART OF THE STUDENT'S  
5 POST-EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COMMITMENT, SHALL AGREE TO PROVIDE  
6 SERVICES TO COLORADANS ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED  
7 PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ACT", ARTICLES 4,  
8 5, AND 6 OF TITLE 25.5; AND

9 (II) POLICIES THAT PROMOTE THE PROVISION OF SERVICES IN  
10 UNDERSERVED AREAS. SUCH POLICIES MAY INCLUDE REDUCING THE  
11 SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO MEET THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
12 POST-EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REQUIREMENT BY SERVING IN AREAS THAT  
13 HAVE INSUFFICIENT ACCESS TO OPTOMETRY SERVICES. THE COMMISSION  
14 SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
15 ENVIRONMENT TO IDENTIFY AREAS THAT ARE UNDERSERVED IN  
16 OPTOMETRY OR OTHER MEDICALLY RELATED FIELDS.

17 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
18 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
19 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
20 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
21 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
22 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
23 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
24 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
25 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.