

First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 23-0630.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 23-224

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, Bridges

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Bockenfeld, Bird

Senate Committees
Appropriations

House Committees

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.

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.

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 29, 2023

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.

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.