

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0525.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1221

---

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick and Garcia Sander,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Lundeen,

---

House Committees  
Education

Senate Committees

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING AUTHORIZING EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO  
102 OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE.

---

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 permits Emily Griffith technical college (college) to offer an associate of applied science degree program (degree program) with approval from the state board for community colleges and occupational education (board). The degree program must include a registered apprenticeship program and certain transferable general education courses.

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.*

In considering the college's request to offer a degree program, the board shall consider student and workforce demand, alignment with registered apprenticeship programs, cost-effectiveness for students and the state, and accreditation and licensing requirements. An approved degree program is eligible to receive federal "Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act" funds.

---

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) Over the past decade, higher education in the United States has  
5 expanded its ability to meet the needs of students through adjustments to  
6 the role and mission of its institutions and through innovations in  
7 workforce training and education, including the expansion of  
8 apprenticeship opportunities;

9 (b) Colorado has been at the forefront of these innovations, and  
10 the state's institutions have played a critical role in developing programs  
11 that address the needs of today's learners;

12 (c) Emily Griffith technical college plays an integral role in  
13 Colorado's education system, providing career-relevant training and  
14 instruction that includes registered apprenticeships;

15 (d) Registered apprenticeships offer learners high-quality career  
16 pathways through paid hands-on work in a chosen field. Through  
17 registered apprenticeships, learners gain the skills and competencies to  
18 make informed choices about their futures while employers build their  
19 talent pipelines.

20 (e) While registered apprenticeships can give students a valuable,  
21 nationally recognized credential, many Emily Griffith learners complete  
22 apprenticeship programs just a few general education credits shy of an

1 applied associate degree;

2 (f) According to data from the Georgetown University Center on  
3 Education and the Workforce, students in many high-demand applied  
4 associate degree programs have higher earning potential than those with  
5 certificates or high school diplomas;

6 (g) According to a 50-state analysis conducted in 2021 by  
7 Advance CTE, over a quarter of responding states reported that their area  
8 technical colleges offered associate degrees; and

9 (h) Allowing Emily Griffith technical college to build on its  
10 apprenticeship programs by adding associate degrees to its offerings gives  
11 learners greater access to the job market and promotes lifelong learning.  
12 Programmatic growth at this vital institution is necessary to ensure that  
13 Colorado's higher education landscape continues to serve the needs of  
14 today's learners and employers.

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-60-211, **add** (6)  
16 as follows:

17 **23-60-211. Degrees.** (6) PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-60-804, THE  
18 EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF  
19 APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE.

20 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-60-804 as  
21 follows:

22 **23-60-804. Emily Griffith technical college - associate of**  
23 **applied science degree program - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS  
24 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

25 (a) "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
26 AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-60-104.

27 (b) "DEGREE PROGRAM" MEANS A DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED BY

1 THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)  
2 OF THIS SECTION THAT CONFERS AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE  
3 DEGREE.

4 (2) THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY, WITH BOARD  
5 APPROVAL, OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM  
6 TO STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP  
7 PROGRAM.

8 (3) THE DEGREE PROGRAM MUST:

9 (a) INCLUDE A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM WITHIN ITS  
10 CURRICULAR DESIGN;

11 (b) INCLUDE SUFFICIENT TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION  
12 COURSES TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DESIGNATED DEGREE  
13 PROGRAM, AS APPLICABLE, AND PURSUANT TO THE GUARANTEED  
14 TRANSFER PATHWAYS MATRIX DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-1-108.5 OR A  
15 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT;

16 (c) ALIGN WITH HIGH-NEED, HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS AS  
17 IDENTIFIED BY STUDENT DEMAND AND THE MOST RECENT COLORADO  
18 TALENT REPORT CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103 (3); AND

19 (d) BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
20 EDUCATION FOR INCLUSION IN STATEWIDE PUBLICATIONS OF ACADEMIC  
21 DEGREE PROGRAMS AND THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAYS MATRIX  
22 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-1-108.5, AS APPLICABLE.

23 (4) (a) BEFORE THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY  
24 OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PURSUANT TO  
25 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL  
26 COLLEGE SHALL DETERMINE THE PROGRAM DESIGNATION FOR THE  
27 DEGREE.

1 (b) AFTER DETERMINING THE PROGRAM DESIGNATION FOR THE  
2 ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a)  
3 OF THIS SECTION, THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE SHALL  
4 SUBMIT THE DEGREE PROGRAM TO THE BOARD FOR THE BOARD'S REVIEW  
5 AND APPROVAL. THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY OFFER  
6 THE DEGREE PROGRAM ONLY AFTER THE DEGREE PROGRAM HAS BEEN  
7 APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

8 (5) (a) IN DECIDING WHETHER TO APPROVE A REQUEST BY THE  
9 EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO OFFER A DEGREE PROGRAM  
10 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL  
11 CONSIDER ONLY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

12 (I) STUDENT AND WORKFORCE DEMAND;

13 (II) ALIGNMENT OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM WITH OTHER  
14 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE EMILY GRIFFITH  
15 TECHNICAL COLLEGE;

16 (III) COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM FOR THE  
17 STUDENTS AND THE STATE; AND

18 (IV) ACCREDITATION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
19 DEGREE PROGRAM.

20 (b) THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON  
21 HIGHER EDUCATION OF EACH DEGREE PROGRAM THAT THE BOARD  
22 APPROVES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

23 (6) CONSISTENT WITH THE STATEWIDE MASTER PLAN CREATED  
24 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108 (1.5), A DEGREE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED  
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUNDS THROUGH THE  
26 FEDERAL "CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
27 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 2301 ET SEQ.

1           **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
4 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
5 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
6 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
7 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
8 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
9 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.