



Sunset Review: Private Occupational Education Act of 1981

Background

What is regulated?

The Private Occupational Education Act of 1981 (Act) is created in section 23-64-101, *et seq.*, Colorado Revised Statutes, and provides regulatory oversight of private occupational schools. Private occupational schools, which are also referred to as vocational or trade schools, charge tuition for postsecondary education and training, offering services or credentials that constitute occupational education.

Why is it regulated?

The purpose of the Act is to provide standards for and to foster and improve private occupational schools and their educational services and to protect Coloradans against fraudulent or substandard schools.

Who is regulated?

To operate a private occupational school in Colorado, an applicant is required to obtain a certificate of approval from the Private Occupational School Board (Board) in the Department of Higher Education. Agents who are associated with in-state private occupational schools are required to be registered.

How is it regulated?

The Board consists of seven members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate and serve four-year terms provides oversight of private occupational schools in Colorado.

What does it cost?

In fiscal year 21-22, the Division of Private Occupational Schools expended \$1,436,022 and allotted 9.8 full-time equivalent employees to implement the program.

What disciplinary activity is there?

In fiscal years 17-18 through 21-22, there were 352 complaints filed against private occupational schools and registered agents, and 149 disciplinary actions were imposed by the Board.

Key Recommendations

- Continue the Act for 11 years, until 2025.
- Amend the Act to require a change of ownership to be approved by the Board prior to the change.