

## **FACT SHEET : SENATE BILL 25-087**

**Title:** Reasonable Accommodations in Higher Education

**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Marchman; Rep. Stewart R., Brooks

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Drafting Number:** LLS 25-0372

**Fiscal Analyst:** John Armstrong (303-866-6289)

### **Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 25-087 requires institutions of higher education in Colorado to develop and implement clear policies and procedures to support students with disabilities in requesting academic adjustments. These policies will ensure students can self-disclose their disabilities and receive necessary accommodations without undue burden.

### **Key Provisions**

- Institutions must establish and distribute policies that outline:
  - The process for determining eligibility for academic adjustments.
  - Documentation requirements for requesting adjustments.
  - Available disability resources and academic accommodations.
  - A grievance procedure for students to challenge decisions.
- Institutions must make the policies accessible through multiple channels:
  - Student application process.
  - Orientation materials.
  - Academic catalogues.
  - Institution websites.
- Acceptable documentation for academic adjustments includes:
  - Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
  - Section 504 Plans.
  - Medical records from qualified healthcare providers.
  - Documentation of disabilities due to military service.

### **Fiscal Impact**

- **No state appropriations required.**
- Institutions may experience increased workloads to revise policies and process accommodation requests.
- The fiscal note assumes institutions will use internal revenues to cover any necessary costs.
- Some institutions estimate costs ranging from **\$74,000 to \$1.1 million annually**, depending on increased demand for disability services and staffing needs.

## Background

- Under federal law, academic adjustments ensure institutions do not discriminate against students with disabilities.
- Currently, higher education institutions set their own policies for accommodations in compliance with federal guidelines (ADA, Section 504, etc.).
- This bill standardizes the process and expands access to academic adjustments for qualifying students.

## Recent Amendment (SB087\_L.001)

- Clarifies that students must self-disclose their disability and engage in an interactive process with their institution.
- Revises language regarding the approval, denial, or modification of academic adjustments.
- Removes the requirement to distribute policy information to parents.

## Implementation Timeline

- **Effective 90 days after the General Assembly adjourns**, unless a referendum petition is filed.
- If referred to a statewide vote in November 2026, the bill would take effect upon official voter approval.

## Contact Information

For more information, contact **Senate Education Committee** or **Fiscal Analyst John Armstrong (303-866-6289)**.