

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REREVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0174.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 26-1029

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick and Carter, Bacon, Clifford, Duran, Espenoza, Froelich, Garcia, Goldstein, Jackson, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Nguyen, Phillips, Rutinel, Soper, Stewart K., Titone

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Education
Appropriations

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ENHANCING REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY**
102 **ALTERING THE MEMBERSHIP OF CERTAIN ENTITIES INVOLVED IN**
103 **HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE.**

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 enhances student representation in higher education by expanding the Colorado commission on higher education (commission) from 11 to 13 voting members by adding 2 student members who are enrolled at a state-supported institution of higher education (student members). The bill adds:

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
3rd Reading Unamended
May 12, 2026

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
May 11, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 3rd Reading
May 7, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 6, 2026

- One student member from a graduate research university or a 4-year institution of higher education; and
- One student member from a community college, local district college, or area technical college.

The bill shrinks the advisory committee to the commission from 13 to 12 members by removing the advisory committee member designated to represent the students of the state.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-102, **amend** (3)
 3 and (4); and **add** (3.5) and (9) as follows:

4 **23-1-102. Commission established - terms of office - definition.**

5 (3) (a) The commission consists of the following members,
 6 appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate:

7 (I) One member from each congressional district in the state; **and**

8 (II) Three members from the state at large;

9 (III) ONE STUDENT MEMBER WHO, AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT,
 10 IS ENROLLED AS A STUDENT AT A STATE-SUPPORTED GRADUATE RESEARCH
 11 UNIVERSITY OR A STATE-SUPPORTED FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
 12 EDUCATION; AND

13 (IV) ONE STUDENT MEMBER WHO, AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT,
 14 IS ENROLLED AS A STUDENT AT A STATE-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY
 15 COLLEGE, LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

16 (b) The governor shall select the members of the commission on
 17 the basis of their knowledge of and interest in higher education. At least
 18 one member of the commission WHO IS NOT A STUDENT MEMBER must
 19 reside west of the continental divide. No more than a minimum majority
 20 of the members of the **commission** may be affiliated with the same
 21 political party at any time. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE
 22 COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP MUST INCLUDE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND

1 REFLECT THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE. A STUDENT
2 MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS A NONVOTING MEMBER
3 OF THE COMMISSION.

4 (c) The term of each NON-STUDENT member is four years, AND
5 THE TERM OF A STUDENT MEMBER IS TWO YEARS; except that the terms
6 ~~shall be~~ ARE staggered so that no more than a minimum majority of
7 members' terms expire in the same year. No member of the commission
8 may serve more than two consecutive full ~~four-year~~ terms. A STUDENT
9 MEMBER WHO GRADUATES FROM THE STUDENT'S STATE-SUPPORTED
10 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING THE STUDENT'S TERM MAY
11 CONTINUE TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION THROUGH THE NATURAL
12 EXPIRATION DATE OF THE STUDENT MEMBER'S TERM.

13 (3.5) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAKE
14 THE INITIAL APPOINTMENTS OF STUDENT MEMBERS.

15 (b) IF A STUDENT MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
16 (3)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION WITHDRAWS FROM EITHER A STATE-SUPPORTED
17 GRADUATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY OR A STATE-SUPPORTED FOUR-YEAR
18 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY
19 RE-ENROLL AS A STUDENT AT A DIFFERENT STATE-SUPPORTED GRADUATE
20 RESEARCH UNIVERSITY OR STATE-SUPPORTED FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF
21 HIGHER EDUCATION, THEN A VACANCY IS CREATED. IF A STUDENT MEMBER
22 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION
23 WITHDRAWS FROM A STATE-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LOCAL
24 DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND DOES NOT
25 IMMEDIATELY RE-ENROLL AS A STUDENT AT A DIFFERENT
26 STATE-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR
27 AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, THEN A VACANCY IS CREATED. THE GOVERNOR

1 SHALL FILL A VACANCY CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3.5)(b)
2 BY APPOINTING A NEW STUDENT MEMBER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE
3 UNEXPIRED TERM.

4 (4) (a) At the time of appointment, ~~no~~ A member of the
5 commission ~~shall~~ MUST NOT have been an officer, employee, or member
6 of a governing board or an officer or employee of ~~any~~ A state-supported
7 institution of higher education in the state for a period of one year prior
8 to ~~his or her~~ THE MEMBER'S appointment. During ~~his or her~~ A MEMBER OF
9 THE COMMISSION'S term of office, ~~no~~ THE member ~~of the commission~~
10 ~~shall~~ MUST NOT be a member of the general assembly or an officer,
11 employee, or member of a governing board or an officer or employee of
12 a state-supported institution of higher education.

13 (b) THE REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION
14 REGARDING CONNECTIONS WITH A GOVERNING BOARD OR
15 STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DO NOT APPLY TO
16 A STUDENT MEMBER.

17 (9) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
18 REQUIRES, "STUDENT MEMBER" MEANS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION
19 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a)(III), (3)(a)(IV), OR (3.5) OF
20 THIS SECTION.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-103, **amend** (1)
22 introductory portion and (1)(b) as follows:

23 **23-1-103. Advisory committee to the Colorado commission on**
24 **higher education.**

25 (1) There is ~~hereby~~ established an advisory committee to the
26 commission for the purpose of suggesting solutions for the problems and
27 needs of higher education and maintaining liaison with the general

1 assembly and the governing boards for state-supported institutions of
2 higher education. The advisory committee ~~shall consist~~ CONSISTS of not
3 less than ~~thirteen~~ TWELVE members, to be designated as follows:

4 (b) ~~One member shall be selected and designated by the~~
5 ~~commission to represent the faculty in the state and one member shall be~~
6 ~~selected and designated by the commission to represent the students in the~~
7 ~~state. On and after August 5, 2009, THE COMMISSION SHALL SELECT AND~~
8 ~~DESIGNATE ONE MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE FACULTY IN THE STATE. The~~
9 ~~commission shall select and designate one member who, at the time of~~
10 ~~designation, is a parent of a student who is enrolled in a state-supported~~
11 ~~institution of higher education in Colorado to represent the parents of~~
12 ~~students.~~

13 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-105.5, **amend**
14 (1)(a) as follows:

15 **23-1-105.5. Duties and powers of the commission with respect**
16 **to student fees - report on tuition and fees.**

17 (1) (a) The commission shall adopt policies concerning the
18 collection and use of student fees by the governing boards of the state
19 institutions of higher education, as defined in section 23-5-119.5. The
20 policies may address, but need not be limited to, the purposes for student
21 fees; categories of student fees; the distinctions between tuition revenue
22 and student fee revenue; accounting for student fee revenue; student fee
23 fund balances; the minimum level of student involvement in the processes
24 for establishing, reviewing, changing the amount of, and discontinuing
25 student fees; and student fees that apply to a student concurrently enrolled
26 pursuant to article 35 of title 22. In preparing the policies, the commission
27 shall seek input from the governing boards, the state institutions of higher

1 education, and the student representative to the advisory committee
2 created pursuant to section 23-1-103 and representatives of the student
3 governments at the state institutions of higher education.

4 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** (1) Except
5 as otherwise provided in this section, this act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on
6 the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final
7 adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment
8 sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed
9 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this
10 act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act,
11 item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people
12 at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case,
13 will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon
14 by the governor.

15 (2) Section 2 of this act takes effect only if Senate Bill 26-078
16 does not become law, in which case section 2 takes effect on the
17 applicable effective date of this act.