

CHAPTER 310

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

SENATE BILL 26-156

BY SENATOR(S) Kipp and Carson, Exum, Marchman, Coleman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Phillips and Gonzalez R., Duran.

AN ACT

CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE STATE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S PRACTICES, AND,
IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend with relocated provisions** 24-46.3-100.3 as follows:

24-46.3-100.3. Definitions.

As used in this article 46.3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) **[Formerly 24-46.3-104 (2)(a)]** "Apprenticeship" means a registered apprenticeship program with a written plan that is designed to move an apprentice from a low- or no-skill entry-level position to full occupational proficiency. The program must comply with the parameters established under the FEDERAL "National Apprenticeship Act", 29 U.S.C. sec. 50, as amended, and regulations promulgated under the act, and must be administered by the United States department of labor's office of apprenticeship ~~LABOR~~ or a state apprenticeship agency recognized by the United States department of labor. An individual business, an employer association, or a labor organization sponsors a registered apprenticeship. Upon finishing a training program, the apprentice earns a "completion of registered apprenticeship" certificate, which is an industry-issued and nationally recognized credential that validates proficiency in an apprenticeable occupation, or is awarded a certificate of completion.

(2) **[Formerly 24-46.3-104 (2)(b)]** "Career pathway" means a series of connected education and training strategies and support services that enable ~~individuals~~ AN INDIVIDUAL to secure industry-relevant skills ~~and~~ OR certification where applicable,

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

to obtain employment within an occupational area, and to advance to higher levels of future education and employment.

(3) [Formerly 24-46.3-104 (2)(b.5)] "Certificate of completion" means a certificate awarded to an apprentice in recognition of the successful completion of an apprenticeship program.

(4) "Department" means the department of labor and employment.

(5) "Federal act" means the federal "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act", 29 U.S.C. sec. 3101 et seq.

(6) [Formerly 24-46.3-104 (2)(d)] "Growing industries" means industries that are:

(a) Projected to create new jobs annually for at least the next ten years; OR

(b) ALIGNED WITH THE STATE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.

(7) [Formerly 24-46.3-104 (2)(e)] "Partners" means, at a minimum, state agencies and organizations described in section 24-46.3-103, the state board for community colleges and occupational education created in section 23-60-104, C.R.S., and interested postsecondary education providers.

(8) "State council" means the state work force development council created in section 24-46.3-101 (1).

(9) [Formerly 24-46.3-104 (2)(g)] "Top jobs" means jobs that have strong projected average openings per year for ten years and pay a living HIGH wage as defined in the Colorado talent pipeline report prepared pursuant to section 24-46.3-103.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 24-46.3-103 as follows:

24-46.3-103. Growing industries and in-demand occupations talent pipeline working group - annual Colorado talent report - legislative declaration.

(1) (a) The general assembly hereby finds ~~determines~~, and declares that:

(I) Colorado's economy is diverse and constantly changing, and its ~~key~~ GROWING industries are dependent on an ~~accurately~~ APPROPRIATELY skilled workforce to continue to thrive;

(II) Colorado's ~~key~~ GROWING industry employers continue to lack the skilled workers they need to stay and grow in the state;

(III) THESE CONTINUOUSLY UNFILLED ROLES IN GROWING INDUSTRIES CONSTITUTE IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS IN COLORADO, AND IT IS IMPERATIVE TO THE STATE'S COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY THAT THERE IS A PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO:

(A) DETERMINE WHICH OCCUPATIONS ARE IN-DEMAND; AND

(B) ACCESS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOB PLACEMENT IN IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS;

~~(III)~~ (IV) Coloradans miss opportunities for good jobs in growing industries because they do not have access to the right education, training, or adequate hands-on experience ~~at the right time~~ to secure employment IN IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS;

~~(IV)~~ (V) ~~Providing clear access to industry-driven career pathways for education and employment advancement can result in long-term improvements in the economic well-being of Coloradans and will provide industries with the talent pipeline needed to thrive now and in the future~~ MAINTAINING A COORDINATED STRATEGY ACROSS STATE AGENCIES TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO INDUSTRY-DRIVEN CAREER PATHWAYS IS CRITICAL TO SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF COLORADANS AND OF COLORADO'S INDUSTRIES;

~~(V)~~ (VI) ~~Creating a coordinated system to advance the skills and educational attainment of Coloradans across workforce development and education, in alignment with economic development goals, and in partnership with industry~~ ENSURING THAT PROVIDERS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS, THE STATE, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LABOR MARKET AND THE STATE'S OCCUPATIONAL NEEDS IS THE MOST PROMISING WAY TO ADVANCE COLORADANS AND SUPPLY INDUSTRY WITH THE TALENT IT DEMANDS;

~~(VI)~~ (VII) Deep, authentic, and ongoing employer engagement and input ~~is~~ ARE critical to ensure that education and training programs are ~~aligned with~~ DESIGNED TO MEET the real and current needs of industry; and

~~(VII)~~ (VIII) Sector partnerships are a proven, established model of engaging employers and coordinating workforce development, economic development, and education STRATEGIES in response to the needs of industry and on behalf of ~~workers~~ INDIVIDUALS seeking good jobs.

(b) The general assembly further finds ~~determines~~, and declares that it ~~will be~~ IS beneficial to create a working group with the state council, comprised of representatives from the relevant state departments and offices, to discuss and determine the most effective way to use sector partnerships at the regional level to align workforce development, economic development, and education ~~in the state to~~ WITH the needs of ~~key~~ GROWING industries AND IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS.

(2) The state council, the department of higher education, the department of education, the department of labor and employment, and the Colorado office of economic development shall work collaboratively to:

(a) ~~Discuss and determine needs across key industries and~~ ANALYZE COLORADO'S LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS TO IDENTIFY GROWING INDUSTRIES AND IN-DEMAND occupations ~~including~~ AND IDENTIFY challenges TO and opportunities ~~in~~ FOR developing and growing relevant talent pipelines;

(b) IDENTIFY THE IN-DEMAND AND HIGH-WAGE OCCUPATIONS IN COLORADO THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT, AS DEFINED IN THE FEDERAL "HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1001 ET SEQ., OR A SUCCESSOR ACT;

~~(b)~~ (c) Ensure that the talent pipeline development infrastructure includes:

(I) A listening process to collect ~~workforce needs for key industries~~ FEEDBACK ON OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND FROM employers;

(II) ~~Curriculum alignment for high-demand occupation skill needs~~ ANALYSIS OF THE STATE'S CURRENT TRAINING CAPACITY AND ABILITY TO SUPPORT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS;

(III) ~~Occupation-aligned education and training options with a clearly articulated progression~~ ANALYSIS OF THE SKILLS ESSENTIAL FOR IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS TO ASSIST TRAINING PROVIDERS IN MAINTAINING THE RELEVANCE OF THEIR PROGRAMS; AND

~~(IV) Skills assessments; and~~

~~(V)~~ (IV) Academic career counseling;

~~(e)~~ (d) Utilize sector partnerships to:

(I) Advise the development of career pathway programs for ~~critical~~ IN-DEMAND occupations in ~~key~~ GROWING industries; ~~and~~

(II) Ensure the coordination of education and workforce initiatives to develop a strong talent pipeline; and

(III) PROVIDE RESOURCES TO, PARTICIPATE IN, AND PROMOTE CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE; AND

~~(f)~~ (e) Utilize existing measures and data systems to improve ~~systems~~ alignment and interagency communication.

(3) (a) In doing the work specified in subsection (2) of this section, the state council, in partnership with the department of higher education, the department of education, the department of labor and employment, and the Colorado office of economic development, shall ~~coordinate the production of~~ PRODUCE an annual Colorado talent report. In preparing the annual Colorado talent report, the state council, the departments, and the office may use previously collected data and are not required to collect new data. ~~for the purposes of the report.~~ The talent report shall MUST:

~~(f)~~ Take into consideration the data contained in the annual job skills report produced by the department of higher education and use such data to inform workforce development issues across key industries;

~~(H)~~ (I) Utilize state-level data generated from state-level sources whenever possible;

~~(HH)~~ (II) Utilize and, as appropriate, expand existing data-sharing agreements between agencies and partners;

~~(IV)~~ Provide a progress report on the status of career pathway programs targeted at key industries;

~~(V)~~ (III) Provide an analysis of data regarding the skills required for key industry jobs IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS; AND

~~(VI)~~ (IV) Include recommendations related to FOR advancing talent pipeline and career pathways development.

~~(VII)~~ Include recommendations regarding the alignment and consistency of data nomenclature, collection practices, and data-sharing. The recommendations shall not allow the disclosure of the personally identifiable information of a student enrolled in kindergarten or one of grades one through twelve without informed written permission from the student's parent or legal guardian. The recommendations may disclose de-identified, anonymous, or aggregate kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade student data without permission from a parent or legal guardian.

~~(VIII)~~ Repealed.

~~(IX)~~ Include the report regarding the industry infrastructure grant program, prepared as required by section 24-46.3-405.

(b) The heads of the department of higher education, the department of education, the department of labor and employment, and the Colorado office of economic development shall include the recommendations from the state council, and any comments they may wish to add concerning the recommendations, to the house of representatives and senate committees of reference with jurisdiction over business issues by January 1, 2015. The heads of the departments shall annually present such recommendations and comments during the legislative hearings required pursuant to the "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act", part 2 of article 7 of title 2, C.R.S. MAY SHARE THEIR ANALYSIS ON HOW DATA IN THE REPORT IMPACTS THE STATE'S STRATEGIC GOALS THROUGH THEIR REGULAR REPORTING MECHANISMS.

(c) IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, AND THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL SUMMARIZE THE COLORADO TALENT REPORT, THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, AND OTHER COMMENTS IN A PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND LABOR COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, DURING THE HEARINGS HELD PURSUANT TO THE "SMART ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46.3-104, **amend** (1), (3)(a), (3)(b), (3)(c), (6), and (7); and **repeal** (2), (5), and (5.5) as follows:

24-46.3-104. Career pathways - design - legislative declaration - definition.

(1) The general assembly ~~hereby~~ finds that creating industry-driven career pathways for education assists students in entering the ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE and provides industries with the talent pipeline necessary to fuel Colorado's economy. Recognizing the need for the coordinated development of career pathways for students, the general assembly enacted section 24-46.3-103 in 2014, tasking the state council to work collaboratively with the department of higher education, the department of education, the department of labor and employment, and the Colorado office of economic development to ~~create the talent pipeline development infrastructure for use in creating~~ ANALYZE COLORADO'S LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS AND IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS TO INFORM THE CREATION AND EVOLUTION OF career pathways for students. Creating career pathways for ~~growing Colorado industries with occupations in high demand~~ JOB PLACEMENT IN GROWING INDUSTRIES AND IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS will:

(a) ~~Increase the number of Colorado citizens accessing postsecondary education and apprenticeships~~ IMPROVE EDUCATION AND CAREER ADVISING AND NAVIGATION FOR COLORADANS INTERESTED IN POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES DESIGNED TO MEET LABOR MARKET NEEDS;

(b) Increase the number of ~~Colorado citizens~~ COLORADANS completing degrees, apprenticeships, and other credentials;

(c) ~~Decrease the need for remediation at the postsecondary level;~~

(d) Increase entry into ~~employment~~ IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS and increase wages over time;

(e) Create better transitions for students in the career pathways from high school, community colleges, or adult education programs to apprenticeships, higher education, or into the ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE;

(f) Create better connections between postsecondary EDUCATION and ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE readiness initiatives in high school and adult ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE programs; and

(g) Through partnerships with industry, assist students in obtaining work experience and employment during and after THEIR participation in TRAINING AND educational programs.

(2) ~~As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:~~

(a) ~~"Apprenticeship" means a registered apprenticeship program with a written plan that is designed to move an apprentice from a low- or no-skill entry-level position to full occupational proficiency. The program must comply with the parameters established under the "National Apprenticeship Act", 29 U.S.C. sec. 50, as amended, and regulations promulgated under the act, and must be administered~~

by the United States department of labor's office of apprenticeship or a state apprenticeship agency recognized by the United States department of labor. An individual business, an employer association, or a labor organization sponsors a registered apprenticeship. Upon finishing a training program, the apprentice earns a "completion of registered apprenticeship" certificate, which is an industry-issued and nationally recognized credential that validates proficiency in an apprenticeable occupation, or is awarded a certificate of completion.

~~(b) "Career pathway" means a series of connected education and training strategies and support services that enable individuals to secure industry-relevant skills and certification where applicable, to obtain employment within an occupational area, and to advance to higher levels of future education and employment.~~

~~(b.5) "Certificate of completion" means a certificate awarded to an apprentice in recognition of the successful completion of an apprenticeship program.~~

~~(c) "Critical occupations" means top jobs or employment in jobs that lead to top jobs.~~

~~(d) "Growing industries" means industries that are projected to create new jobs annually for at least the next ten years.~~

~~(e) "Partners" means, at a minimum, state agencies and organizations described in section 24-46.3-103, the state board for community colleges and occupational education created in section 23-60-104, C.R.S., and interested postsecondary education providers.~~

~~(f) "State council" means the state work force development council created in section 24-46.3-101.~~

~~(g) "Top jobs" means jobs that have strong projected average openings per year for ten years and pay a living wage as defined in the Colorado talent pipeline report prepared pursuant to section 24-46.3-103.~~

(3) (a) The state council, in collaboration with its partners, and after consulting with local ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE boards and a task force within the department of education consisting of leadership from the department of education and superintendents of local school districts, shall design, MAINTAIN, AND UPDATE integrated career pathways for students within industry sectors identified in the annual Colorado talent report prepared pursuant to section 24-46.3-103 ~~that are~~ AS growing industries and that have ~~critical~~ IN-DEMAND occupations. ~~that are without clearly articulated career pathways.~~

(b) (I) In collaboration with its partners pursuant to subsection (3)(a) of this section, AND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2026-27 ACADEMIC YEAR AND AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH ACADEMIC YEAR THEREAFTER, the state council shall,

~~(A) Design at least one career pathway that is ready for implementation by or before the 2016-17 academic year for critical occupations in a growing industry; and~~

~~(B)~~ subject to available appropriation or money from other sources, design at least two OR UPDATE career pathways that are ready for implementation at the beginning of each subsequent academic year for critical IN-DEMAND occupations in growing industries.

~~(II) Based on the top jobs listing in the talent pipeline report prepared in January 2014, the first three growing industries for design of a career pathway are construction and related skilled trades, information technology, and health care~~ THE STATE COUNCIL SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK TO IDENTIFY GROWING INDUSTRIES AND IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE FOR CAREER PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT BASED ON THE DATA PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL COLORADO TALENT REPORT.

(c) Industry, through regional sector partnerships, ~~and~~ statewide trade associations, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COUNCILS OR ENTITIES, shall review each career pathway annually to ensure that the career pathway remains relevant to the industry and shall provide input for ongoing adjustments to the career pathway to meet ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE needs.

~~(5) The state council and partners shall use the model developed to create the manufacturing career pathway pursuant to section 23-60-1003, C.R.S., including any improvements to the model based upon the implementation of the manufacturing career pathway. Consistent with the manufacturing career pathway, career pathways created pursuant to this section must have the components described in section 23-60-1003 (2), C.R.S., as they relate to the specific career pathway being created.~~

~~(5.5) (a) As used in this subsection (5.5), "energy sector" means current and emerging establishments and partnerships engaged in electromechanical generation and maintenance, electrical energy transmission and distribution, energy efficiency and environmental technology, and renewable energy production. The energy sector includes but is not limited to occupations and activities relating to the development, installation, and maintenance of products or technologies in the areas of carbon capture, energy storage, building electrification, electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, hydrogen fuel cell technology, and renewable natural gas.~~

~~(b) The state council and partners, including the department of natural resources, shall create an industry-driven energy sector career pathway for implementation by or before the 2022-23 academic year. The state council shall comply with the provisions of this section, including career pathway design, components, implementation, industry review, and promotion of the energy sector career pathway.~~

~~(c) The strengthening photovoltaic and renewable careers (SPARC) workforce development program, created in part 5 of this article 46.3, shall provide money and other supports for in-demand and growing occupations in the energy sector career pathway created pursuant to this subsection (5.5).~~

(6) Once a career pathway is completed pursuant to this section, the state council, IN COORDINATION WITH PARTNER AGENCIES, TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, AND OTHER COUNCILS OR ENTITIES, shall facilitate outreach and training ~~related to advising~~ TO

ADVISE students on the career pathways for all partners involved in implementing the career pathway, as well as other local, regional, or state entities that are interested in promoting the career pathway to students.

(7) (a) Once a career pathway is completed pursuant to this section, the state council shall, subject to available appropriation or money from other sources, collaborate with the department of higher education and the department of labor and employment to ~~create a microsite concerning~~ PUBLISH the career pathway on a state-provided, free online resource. At a minimum, the following information must be included:

(I) Industry-sector career awareness;

(II) Salary and wage information for the industry-sector career;

(III) The industry-sector employment forecast;

(IV) Information on programs within the career pathway, services provided, and financial aid opportunities for students; and

(V) Online student support services.

(b) ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS MAY, IN DESIGNING OR UPDATING PROGRAMS:

(I) INTEGRATE CAREER PATHWAYS INTO STUDENT ADVISING AND ACADEMIC PLANNING;

(II) ALIGN ACADEMIC AND TRAINING PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE CLEAR CURRICULAR SEQUENCES THAT LEAD TO STACKABLE, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS; AND

(III) EMBED ALIGNED, WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE IN COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRY.

~~(b)~~ (c) The state council may use money appropriated by the general assembly pursuant to section 24-46.3-101 (13) or money from any other source to add additional information and tools to ~~a~~ THE ONLINE PLATFORM THAT PROMOTES career pathways. ~~microsite, similar to the information and tools provided in the microsite relating to the manufacturing career pathway.~~

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46.3-302, **amend** (1) and (2)(a) as follows:

24-46.3-302. Postsecondary and workforce readiness statewide coordinator - position created - duties.

(1)(a) There is created the position of postsecondary and ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE readiness statewide coordinator to work under the direction of the state ~~work force development~~ council. The statewide coordinator ~~works~~ SHALL WORK with and ~~helps~~ ~~to~~ HELP coordinate the efforts of local education providers, businesses, industry, area technical colleges, community colleges, apprenticeship programs, the department of education, the ~~work force development~~ STATE council, the career and

technical education division within the Colorado community college system, the department of higher education, college preparation programs, and other appropriate entities to raise the level of postsecondary and ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE readiness that Colorado high school graduates ~~achieve~~ HAVE ACCESS TO, especially with regard to readiness upon high school graduation, for skilled career positions in business and industry, INCLUSIVE OF INDICATORS IDENTIFIED IN THE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK.

(b) The executive committee of the state ~~work force development~~ council shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the commissioner of education as necessary to enable the statewide coordinator to collaborate with the office of postsecondary readiness and other appropriate offices and divisions within the department of education in implementing initiatives to increase the level of postsecondary and ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE readiness that high school graduates achieve.

(2) (a) The statewide coordinator shall assist local WORKFORCE CENTERS AND education providers in:

(I) Developing and implementing initiatives to increase the level of postsecondary and ~~work force~~ WORKFORCE readiness OPPORTUNITIES that high school graduates achieve, which may include but need not be limited to HAVE ACCESS TO, INCLUDING specialized, industry-based curricula and programs; apprenticeship programs; and internships and externships;

~~(H) Implementing concurrent enrollment programs as provided in article 35 of title 22, C.R.S., and in entering into concurrent enrollment agreements with area technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year institutions of higher education;~~

~~(HH) (II) Identifying local industry and work force~~ WORKFORCE needs and existing educational tools, programs, and resources to help prepare middle and high school students to meet those needs upon graduating from high school;

~~(IV) (III) Working with state and federal programs that provide career and work force~~ WORKFORCE development opportunities for AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH AND students enrolled in middle and high school and in accessing ~~any~~ state or federal ~~moneys that are~~ MONEY THAT IS available to local education providers to support and implement the programs;

~~(V) (IV) Promoting opportunities for industry to engage in the classroom~~ with students enrolled in grades six through twelve AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH; AND

~~(VI) Engaging students with the manufacturing career pathway created pursuant to section 23-60-1003, C.R.S.; and~~

~~(VII) (V) Developing partnerships with businesses, industry;~~ INDUSTRIES, unions, area technical colleges, community colleges, apprenticeship programs, and other entities to create opportunities for students to participate in educational and training programs that lead to obtaining ~~a career entry-level credential~~ THE SKILLS,

CREDENTIALS, AND EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT IN IN-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS IN COLORADO.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 24-46.3-303 as follows:

24-46.3-303. Annual report.

The state ~~work force development~~ council and the department of education shall annually review the work of the statewide coordinator in implementing the duties described in section 24-46.3-302, AND SUCH REVIEW SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFIC METRICS AND DATA THAT DEMONSTRATE THE PROGRESS AND GROWTH OF THE STATEWIDE COORDINATOR. The state ~~work force development~~ council shall include a summary of the review in the Colorado talent report prepared pursuant to section 24-46.3-103 (3).

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-43.7-109, **amend** (14) as follows:

22-43.7-109. Financial assistance for public school capital construction - application requirements - evaluation criteria - local match requirements - technology grants - career and technical education capital construction grants - rules - definitions - repeal.

(14) For fiscal year 2019-20 and for each succeeding fiscal year, the board, with the support of the division and subject to the approval of the state board regarding financial assistance awards as specified in this section, may provide financial assistance in the form of career and technical education capital construction grants. In conjunction with its establishment of an annual financial assistance timeline as required by subsection (2)(a) of this section, the board shall annually notify all potential applicants, by such means as the board deems appropriate, that it will accept and consider applications for financial assistance in the form of career and technical education capital construction grants. To be eligible for a career and technical education capital construction grant, an applicant for financial assistance must apply specifically for that grant in accordance with the financial assistance timeline established by the board pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section and must submit an application in the form prescribed by the board pursuant to subsection (4) of this section. The board may award career and technical education capital construction grants to fund career and technical education capital construction projects. In awarding grants, the board shall consider whether each grant application describes a career and technical education capital construction project that concerns a professional field that is identified as a ~~key~~ GROWING industry in the most recent annual Colorado talent report produced by the state work force development council pursuant to section 24-46.3-103 (3). Nothing in this subsection (14) prohibits the board from considering other factors in awarding and denying career and technical education capital construction grants.

SECTION 7. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill. (1) To implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of labor and employment for use by the division of employment and training for workforce development council is decreased by \$46,605.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year if:

(a) The amount of the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of labor and employment for use by the division of employment and training for workforce development council is less than the amount of the adjustment required in subsection (1) of this section; or

(b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of labor and employment for use by the division of employment and training for workforce development council.

SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that section 7 of this act takes effect only if the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which case section 7 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever is later, and except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 2, 2026