



Legislative Council Staff
Research Note

Version: Senate Second
Reading
Date: 3/4/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1083

Sponsors

***Representatives Brown and
Hamner
Senators Donovan and
Grantham***

Short Title

***Western State Colorado
University Role And Mission***

Research Analyst

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Status

This bill is currently pending before the Senate on second reading. This research note reflects the bill as passed by the Senate Education Committee on March 3, 2016.

Summary

Under current law, Western State Colorado University's (WCSU) admission standard is "moderately selective." This bill changes the admission standards for WCSU to "selective." The bill also removes the authorization for the university to offer teacher preparation and business degree programs, and replaces it with authorization to offer professional degree programs.

Background

To determine admission standards, institutions currently use "index scores," which are computed based on the 3-year average of the median high school grade point average and the median college entrance exam score of students admitted, with the median high school grade point average more heavily weighted.

The Department of Higher Education reports that highly selective institutions have an index score of 110 or higher, selective institutions have an index score of 92 or higher, and moderately selective institutions have an index score of 80 or higher.

Applicants can use a calculator on the Department of Higher Education's website to determine

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their own index score and how it compares to the index score requirements put in place by each institution's governing board.

Admission standards categories for each public college or university are laid out in state law. Currently, Colorado's public colleges and universities are classified as follows:

College or University	Statutory Admission Standard
Colorado School of Mines	Highly Selective
University of Colorado Boulder	Selective
Colorado State University - Fort Collins	Selective
University of Colorado Denver	Selective
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs	Selective
University of Northern Colorado	Selective
Fort Lewis College	Selective
Colorado Mesa University	Selective
Western State Colorado University	Moderately Selective
Colorado State University Global Campus	Moderately Selective
Colorado State University - Pueblo	Moderately Selective
Adams State University	Moderately Selective
Metropolitan State College of Denver	Modified Open
Community Colleges	Open

Source: C.R.S., Title 23

House Action

House Education Committee (February 10, 2016). At the hearing, the President of Western State Colorado University testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (February 16, 2016). The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (February 18, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Education Committee (March 3, 2016). At the hearing, the President of Western State Colorado University testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended to the Senate Committee of the Whole.