

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 19-0618.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 19-1121**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCluskie and Roberts,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN**  
102              **POSTSECONDARY COURSES DURING A FIFTH YEAR OF HIGH**  
103              **SCHOOL.**

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**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>.)*

Current law allows a school district to include in its pupil enrollment students who were enrolled in a school that was designated as an early college before June 6, 2018, and who, after completing 4 years of high school, enroll for the 2018-19 or 2019-20 budget year in postsecondary courses. The bill extends this authority for one year to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

include students who enroll in postsecondary courses for the 2020-21 budget year.

Under current law, the department of education (department) designates as ASCENT program participants qualified students who meet specified criteria. Beginning in the 2021-22 budget year, the bill directs the department to first designate from among the qualified students who meet the existing criteria each qualified student who meets additional criteria that indicate the student is likely to complete a high-demand postsecondary certificate or degree during the ASCENT program year. The concurrent enrollment advisory board must consult with several departments, the governing boards of state higher education institutions, and local education providers to develop guidelines for implementing the prioritization requirement.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-103, **amend**  
3 (10)(g) as follows:

4 **22-54-103. Definitions.** As used in this article 54, unless the  
5 context otherwise requires:

6 (10)(g) For ~~the BUDGET YEARS 2018-19 and 2019-20 budget years~~  
7 THROUGH 2020-21, a district may include in its pupil enrollment pupils  
8 who are enrolled in a school that was designated pursuant to section  
9 22-35-103 (10) as an early college before June 6, 2018, and who, after  
10 completing four years of high school, enroll for the 2018-19, ~~or~~ 2019-20,  
11 OR 2020-21 budget years YEAR in postsecondary courses.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35-108, **amend**  
13 (4); and **add** (2.5) as follows:

14 **22-35-108. Accelerating students through concurrent**  
15 **enrollment program - objectives - selection criteria - rules.**

16 (2.5) BEGINNING WITH THE ASCENT PROGRAM DESIGNATIONS FOR THE  
17 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT, IN DESIGNATING ASCENT  
18 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS FROM AMONG THE QUALIFIED STUDENTS WHO

1 MEET THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL  
2 FIRST DESIGNATE EACH QUALIFIED STUDENT WHO MEETS THE FOLLOWING  
3 CRITERIA, REGARDLESS OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IN WHICH THE  
4 QUALIFIED STUDENT IS ENROLLED:

5 (a) THE QUALIFIED STUDENT HAS EARNED TWENTY-FOUR OR MORE  
6 POSTSECONDARY CREDITS BY THE END OF THE TWELFTH-GRADE YEAR;

7 (b) THE QUALIFIED STUDENT IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE A  
8 POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM DURING THE  
9 ASCENT YEAR; AND

10 (c) THE QUALIFIED STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN A POSTSECONDARY  
11 CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM THAT IS IN HIGH DEMAND IN  
12 COLORADO, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO  
13 GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF  
14 THIS SECTION.

15 (4) (a) The board shall establish guidelines for the administration  
16 of the ASCENT program, including but not limited to selection criteria  
17 that the department may use pursuant to ~~subparagraph (v) of paragraph~~  
18 ~~(a) of subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(a)(V) of this section to designate  
19 qualified students as ASCENT program participants.

20 (b) THE BOARD SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
21 EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE  
22 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF STATE  
23 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS  
24 TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN  
25 SUBSECTION (2.5) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING GUIDELINES FOR  
26 DETERMINING WHETHER A POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE  
27 PROGRAM IS IN HIGH DEMAND IN COLORADO.

1           **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
2 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
3 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.