A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEST SCORE AS AN ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR ADMISSION TO A COLORADO INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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 governing board of a state institution of higher education (institution) may, but is not required to, require a national assessment test score as an eligibility criterion for admission.

Each institution shall submit an annual report to the department of higher education concerning the first-time freshman cohort. The
department of higher education shall submit a collective annual report to
the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-113, amend
(1)(a), (1)(b), and (11)(c); and add (10.5) as follows:

23-1-113. Commission directive - admission standards for
baccalaureate and graduate institutions of higher education - policy
- report - definitions. (1) (a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1)(b)
of this section, the commission shall establish and the governing boards
shall implement academic admission standards for first-time freshmen
and transfer students at all state-supported baccalaureate and graduate
institutions of higher education in the state. The commission shall
establish and may subsequently review and amend the standards after
consultation with the governing boards of institutions. The academic
admission standards for students who do not have in-state status, as
determined pursuant to section 23-7-103, shall equal or exceed those
established for determining admission of in-state students.

(b) (I) The standards established for first-time admitted freshman
students must use a combination of high school academic performance
indicators and national assessment test scores for AS AN eligibility criteria
CRITERION. The academic performance indicators may include, but are not
limited to, grade point average, class rank, and content standard
performance level assessments. The criteria established and the specified
performance levels must be consistent with the role and mission
established for each state-supported institution of higher education. In
considering the high school academic performance indicators, the
commission and the governing boards may take into account the rigor of
a student's high school academic preparation and the academic content of
the courses taken. In lieu of the established statewide criteria, each
governing board may use additional criteria for up to twenty percent of
the freshmen students annually admitted to each institution under the
governing board's control. Students who meet the minimum criteria for
admission are not guaranteed admission to the institution to which they
have applied, but they are eligible for consideration.

(II) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the governing board
of a state-supported institution of higher education may, but is not
required to, require a national assessment test score as an eligibility
criterion of academic admission standards for first-time freshman students
who graduate from high school in 2021. The governing board of a
state-supported baccalaureate and graduate institution of
higher education may, but is not required to, require a national
assessment test score as an eligibility criterion.

(III) The criteria established and the specified
performance levels must be consistent with the role and mission
established for each state-supported baccalaureate and
graduate institution of higher education.

(IV) On or before an application deadline, an applicant
may submit a national assessment test score to a
state-supported baccalaureate and graduate institution of
higher education that does not require a national assessment
test score as an eligibility criterion and request that the
institution consider the national assessment test score. The
institution shall consider a national test score submission
pursuant to this subsection (1)(b)(IV) as a part of the admission
DECISION FOR THE APPLICANT.

(10.5) (a) (I) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDING:

(A) WHICH STATE-SUPPORTED BACCALAUREATE AND GRADUATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION REQUIRED, AND WHICH INSTITUTIONS DID NOT REQUIRE, A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEST SCORE AS AN ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR THE PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR'S FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN COHORT;

(B) THE PERCENTAGE OF FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN STUDENTS, BOTH STATEWIDE AND BY INSTITUTION, WHO SUBMITTED OR DID NOT SUBMIT A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEST SCORE, DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER;

(C) THE PERCENTAGE OF FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN STUDENTS, BOTH STATEWIDE AND BY INSTITUTION, WHO SUBMITTED OR DID NOT SUBMIT A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEST SCORE, DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER, AND ENROLLED IN AN INSTITUTION;

(D) THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS, BOTH STATEWIDE AND BY INSTITUTION, WHO SUBMITTED OR DID NOT SUBMIT A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEST SCORE, DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER, WHO ENROLLED IN THE INSTITUTION IN A SUBSEQUENT ACADEMIC YEAR;

(E) THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS, BOTH STATEWIDE AND BY INSTITUTION, WHO SUBMITTED OR DID NOT SUBMIT A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT TEST SCORE, DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER, WHO GRADUATED FROM THE INSTITUTION;

(F) AVAILABLE DATA CONCERNING THE PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENT
FIRST-GENERATION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
23-18-302 (12), FROM THE COHORT; AND

(G) AVAILABLE DATA CONCERNING THE PERCENTAGE OF
STUDENTS FROM THE COHORT WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FEDERAL PELL
GRANT.

(II) IN ADDITION TO SUBMITTING DATA FOR THE PREVIOUS
ACADEMIC YEAR'S FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN COHORT, THE DEPARTMENT
SHALL ALSO INCLUDE:

(A) THE DATA THAT IT SUBMITTED FOR THE PREVIOUS FIRST-TIME
FRESHMAN COHORTS IN PREVIOUS ANNUAL REPORTS PURSUANT TO THIS
SECTION; AND

(B) THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS
FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN COHORTS IN PREVIOUS ANNUAL REPORTS WHO
ENROLLED AND GRADUATED FROM THE INSTITUTION IN SUBSEQUENT
ACADEMIC YEARS.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I) TO THE
CONTRARY, ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30
EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT INCLUDING THE
INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (10.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

(c) BY JUNE 30, 2032, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INCLUDING AN ANALYSIS OF THE ANNUAL
REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (10.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION
AND AN ANALYSIS OF HOW THE OPTIONAL USE OF A NATIONAL
ASSESSMENT TEST SCORE AS AN ELIGIBILITY CRITERION IMPACTED ACCESS
TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS.
(11) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(c) "National assessment test scores" include, but are not limited to, AN ACT test scores and OR SAT test scores.

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