

CHAPTER 71

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

SENATE BILL 22-003

BY SENATOR(S) Buckner and Donovan, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hisey, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Lee, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Sonnenberg, Winter, Woodward, Garcia; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Mullica and Exum, Amabile, Bacon, Benavidez, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Lindsay, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Roberts, Sandridge, Snyder, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Young, Garnett.

AN ACT**CONCERNING PERMITTING COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING TO CERTAIN STUDENTS.**

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-60-211, **amend** (5) as follows:

23-60-211. Degrees. (5) Subject to the requirements of sections 23-1-113.7 and 23-1-107, a community college that is part of the state system of community and technical colleges established and governed by this part 2 may, with board approval, offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing as a completion degree to students who have or are pursuing an associate degree in nursing OR A PRACTICAL NURSING CERTIFICATE. In considering whether to approve a request by a community college to offer a bachelor of science in nursing as a completion degree, the board shall consider student and workforce demand, cost effectiveness for the students, and accreditation and licensing requirements. The board shall provide such information to the Colorado commission on higher education and solicit the commission's input in a joint meeting of the board and the commission. A community college that is seeking board approval shall provide the board with data regarding its current partnerships with existing bachelor of science nursing degree programs and its plans to continue such partnerships. At least ninety days prior to requesting board approval to offer a bachelor of science degree in nursing as a completion degree, the community college seeking such board approval shall provide notice to the Colorado commission on higher education and all state public and nonpublic institutions of higher education.

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.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-133, **amend** (2)(a) introductory portion as follows:

23-1-133. Commission directive - bachelor of science degree in nursing program - Aims community college - approval. (2) (a) In determining whether to approve a bachelor of science degree in nursing program as a completion degree to students who have or are pursuing an associate degree in nursing OR A PRACTICAL NURSING CERTIFICATE for Aims community college pursuant to section 23-71-102 (1)(b)(II)(B), the commission shall consider the following criteria:

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-71-102, **amend** (1)(b)(II)(B) as follows:

23-71-102. Definitions. As used in this article 71, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1)(a) of this section:

(II) Aims community college, in addition to its mission as a local district college, may also offer, as its board of trustees determines appropriate to address the needs of the communities within its service area:

(B) Bachelor of science degree in nursing programs, as a completion degree to students who have or are pursuing an associate degree in nursing OR A PRACTICAL NURSING CERTIFICATE, that are approved by the Colorado commission on higher education pursuant to section 23-1-133 (2).

SECTION 4. 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; 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 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 7, 2022