

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 24-0681.01 Jerry Barry x4341

**HOUSE BILL 24-1082**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Taggart and Mabrey,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Rich and Coleman,**

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**  
102 **EDUCATION AS FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

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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>.)*

The bill requires the department of higher education (department) to:

- Identify and designate state institutions of higher education (state institutions) as first-generation-serving institutions if:
  - The resident first-generation undergraduate population represents 45% or more of the

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

- institution's overall resident student population; or
- The institution secured a First Scholars Network of Institutions designation from the Center for First-generation Student Success or a similarly rigorous independent third-party designation;
- Post on the department's website the names of the state institutions that are so designated; and
- Notify the state institutions and the Colorado general assembly of the designations.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-143 as  
3 follows:

4           **23-1-143. Commission directive - first-generation-serving**  
5 **institution designation - legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) THE

6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7           (a) IN 2017, THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION,  
8 IN ITS MASTER PLAN, COLORADO RISES: ADVANCING EDUCATION AND  
9 TALENT DEVELOPMENT, SET A STATEWIDE ATTAINMENT GOAL FOR  
10 SIXTY-SIX PERCENT OF COLORADO'S ADULT POPULATION TO HOLD A  
11 POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL;

12           (b) COLORADO HAS MADE PROGRESS, BUT AS OF 2023, THE STATE  
13 HAS STILL NOT MET THIS GOAL;

14           (c) ONE OF THE WAYS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
15 HOLDING A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF  
16 FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS ATTENDING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
17 EDUCATION;

18           (d) BY RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
19 EDUCATION THAT SERVE A LARGE NUMBER OF FIRST-GENERATION  
20 STUDENTS, THE STATE SHOWS INCOMING STUDENTS AT THOSE

1 INSTITUTIONS THAT THE STUDENTS MAY SHARE A SENSE OF BELONGING  
2 WITH OTHERS OF SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS AND THAT THE INSTITUTIONS  
3 ARE COMMITTED TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF FIRST-GENERATION  
4 STUDENTS;

5 (e) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SERVING  
6 FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS INCUR INCREASED COSTS; AND

7 (f) IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A DESIGNATION TO  
8 RECOGNIZE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SERVING  
9 FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS.

10 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
11 REQUIRES:

12 (a) "FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE  
13 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

14 (I) WHOSE AVERAGE RESIDENT FIRST-GENERATION  
15 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POPULATION SHARE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
16 23-18-302, FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR THAT THE INFORMATION IS  
17 AVAILABLE AND THE TWO PREVIOUS YEARS EQUALS OR EXCEEDS THE  
18 STATEWIDE AVERAGE RESIDENT FIRST-GENERATION UNDERGRADUATE  
19 STUDENT POPULATION SHARE AS REPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE  
20 FALL 2022 TERM; OR

21 (II) THAT HAS SECURED A FIRST SCHOLARS NETWORK OF  
22 INSTITUTIONS DESIGNATION FROM THE CENTER FOR FIRST-GENERATION  
23 STUDENT SUCCESS OR A SIMILARLY RIGOROUS INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY  
24 DESIGNATION.

25 (b) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" HAS THE SAME  
26 MEANING AS "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" AS DEFINED IN  
27 SECTION 23-4.5-102.

1           (3) WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE ANNUAL PUBLIC RELEASE OF  
2 ENROLLMENT, RETENTION, AND GRADUATION DATA FROM EACH STATE  
3 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2024 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,  
4 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

5           (a) IDENTIFY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT MEET THE  
6 DEFINITION OF FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTIONS FOR THAT  
7 SCHOOL YEAR;

8           (b) POST ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE THE NAMES OF THE  
9 FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTIONS FOR THAT SCHOOL YEAR; AND

10          (c) NOTIFY EACH FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTION AND  
11 THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE DESIGNATIONS.

12           **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
13 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
14 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
15 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
16 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
17 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
18 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
19 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.