

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0765.01 Anna Petrini x5497

SENATE BILL 25-120

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Liston and Marchman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Soper,

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Senate Committees  
Education

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING PROMOTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
102 OPPORTUNITIES IN COLORADO'S NUCLEAR SECTOR.

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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 creates the Colorado nuclear workforce development and education program (program) in the department of higher education (department) to help meet growing workforce demand in the nuclear energy sector. The bill establishes a related grant program to provide grants to institutions of higher education for the development or expansion of nuclear engineering degree or certificate programs or course

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.*

offerings. The Colorado nuclear workforce development and education council shall advise and assist the department regarding the grant program's implementation and evaluation.

The department may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations for program-related purposes. The state treasurer shall credit the gifts, grants, and donations to the Colorado workforce development and education cash fund (cash fund). The general assembly shall not appropriate general fund dollars to implement or maintain program operations or grant awards. The department shall begin awarding grants only after the balance of the cash fund reaches or exceeds \$500,000.

The bill imposes requirements to report to the general assembly about the program's implementation and use of funds. The bill repeals the program, effective September 1, 2032, unless the program is extended pursuant to a sunset review.

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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** article 82 to title  
3 23 as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 82**

5 **Colorado Nuclear Workforce Development and**  
6 **Education Program**

7 **23-82-101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 82, UNLESS THE  
8 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (1) "CASH FUND" MEANS THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE  
10 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
11 23-82-107.

12 (2) "COAL TRANSITION COMMUNITY" MEANS A COAL TRANSITION  
13 COMMUNITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 8-83-502.

14 (3) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE  
15 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 23-82-104.

16 (4) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
17 EDUCATION CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

1 (5) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO NUCLEAR  
2 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM CREATED  
3 IN SECTION 23-82-103.

4 (6) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE  
5 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION  
6 23-82-102.

7 (7) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"  
8 MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN  
9 SECTION 23-18-102.

10 **23-82-102. Colorado nuclear workforce development and**  
11 **education program - created - guidelines and procedures.** (1) THE  
12 COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION  
13 PROGRAM IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE  
14 PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO MEET GROWING WORKFORCE DEMAND IN  
15 THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR BY:

16 (a) PROVIDING GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT  
17 OR EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE  
18 PROGRAMS OR COURSE OFFERINGS THROUGH THE COLORADO WORKFORCE  
19 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION  
20 23-82-103; AND

21 (b) PROVIDING INSTITUTIONS RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

22 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM IN  
23 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 82 AND SHALL DEVELOP, WITH  
24 ASSISTANCE FROM AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE COUNCIL, PROGRAM  
25 GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE  
26 PROGRAM.

27 **23-82-103. Colorado nuclear workforce development and**

1 **education grant program - created - guidelines and procedures.**

2 (1) THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
3 EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
4 EDUCATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO MEET GROWING  
5 WORKFORCE DEMAND IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR BY PROVIDING  
6 GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OR EXPANSION OF  
7 NUCLEAR ENGINEERING DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OR COURSE  
8 OFFERINGS.

9 (2) GRANT RECIPIENTS MAY USE THE MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH  
10 THE GRANT PROGRAM FOR NUCLEAR ENGINEERING PROGRAM OR COURSE  
11 DESIGN, PERSONNEL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE OR FACILITY EXPENSES  
12 NECESSARY TO DEVELOP OR EXPAND PROGRAM OR COURSE OFFERINGS.

13 (3) THE DEPARTMENT, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM AND IN  
14 COORDINATION WITH THE COUNCIL, SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT  
15 PROGRAM AND, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, SHALL AWARD  
16 GRANTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE 82. GRANTS MUST BE PAID OUT OF  
17 THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION  
18 CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 23-82-107.

19 **23-82-104. Colorado nuclear workforce development and**

20 **education council - created - duties.** (1) THE COLORADO NUCLEAR  
21 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL IS CREATED IN THE  
22 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

23 (2) (a) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF SEVEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY  
24 THE DESIGNATED APPOINTING OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS:

25 (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF  
26 THE COUNCIL:

27 (A) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

1 DEPARTMENT;

2 (B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A COAL  
3 TRANSITION COMMUNITY OR RURAL AREA OF THE STATE; AND

4 (C) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST OR ENGINEER  
5 FROM A FEDERAL LABORATORY; AND

6 (II) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
7 SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE  
8 MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL EACH  
9 APPOINT ONE MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRIVATE COMPANY  
10 IN THE NUCLEAR OR CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR.

11 (b) THE APPOINTING OFFICIALS SHALL MAKE THE INITIAL  
12 APPOINTMENTS TO THE COUNCIL NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026.

13 (c) THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS FOUR YEARS; EXCEPT THAT THE  
14 TERM OF EACH MEMBER INITIALLY APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
15 (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION IS TWO YEARS.

16 (3) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION  
17 BUT ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTUAL AND  
18 NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MEMBERS'  
19 DUTIES ON THE COUNCIL.

20 (4) (a) THE COUNCIL SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG THE  
21 COUNCIL'S MEMBERS TO SERVE FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS,  
22 AS DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL.

23 (b) THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE IN 2026, AND AT  
24 LEAST QUARTERLY EACH YEAR THEREAFTER. THE CHAIR MAY CALL SUCH  
25 ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO  
26 COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

27 (5) THE COUNCIL SHALL:

1 (a) REVIEW AND APPROVE GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND  
2 PROCEDURES;

3 (b) ADVISE AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT ON  
4 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM;

5 (c) REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT  
6 ON GRANT APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANT  
7 AWARD AMOUNTS; AND

8 (d) ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT IN EVALUATING THE GRANT  
9 PROGRAM.

10 (6) THE COUNCIL MAY PROMOTE NUCLEAR ENGINEERING  
11 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AMONG INSTITUTIONS TO ENHANCE  
12 THE INSTITUTIONS' ABILITY TO ATTRACT FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR  
13 FUNDING FOR NUCLEAR ENGINEERING EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND  
14 RELATED RESEARCH.

15 **23-82-105. Colorado nuclear workforce development and**  
16 **education grant program - application - criteria - awards.** (1) To  
17 RECEIVE A GRANT, AN INSTITUTION MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE  
18 COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES  
19 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-82-102 (2).

20 (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED  
21 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
22 DEPARTMENT REGARDING AWARDING THE GRANTS, THE COUNCIL SHALL  
23 PRIORITIZE INSTITUTIONS THAT CAN PROVIDE A TRAINED WORKFORCE  
24 EXPEDITIOUSLY. IN ADDITION TO OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, THE COUNCIL  
25 SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WHEN AWARDING GRANTS:

26 (a) THE DISTRIBUTION OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING PROGRAMS AND  
27 COURSES OFFERED ACROSS THE STATE;

1 (b) THE NEED FOR A NUCLEAR ENGINEERING WORKFORCE IN THE  
2 SURROUNDING COMMUNITY OR REGION OF THE STATE; AND

3 (c) THE PROJECTED STUDENT INTEREST IN THE NUCLEAR  
4 ENGINEERING PROGRAMS AT COMPETING INSTITUTIONS.

5 (3) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT  
6 SHALL BEGIN AWARDING GRANTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE 82 ONLY  
7 AFTER THE BALANCE OF THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE  
8 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION CASH FUND REACHES OR EXCEEDS FIVE  
9 HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.

10 **23-82-106. Reporting requirements.** (1) ON OR BEFORE  
11 NOVEMBER 1, 2027, AND ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 EACH YEAR  
12 THEREAFTER UNTIL THE REPEAL OF THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE  
13 DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM, THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT  
14 A REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ENERGY AND  
15 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EDUCATION  
16 COMMITTEE, THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY COMMITTEE,  
17 AND THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR  
18 COMMITTEES. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF  
19 THE PROGRAM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND ANY RELATED TECHNICAL  
20 ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING AN ACCOUNTING OF  
21 HOW MONEY WAS USED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 82 TO EXPAND OR  
22 SUPPORT NUCLEAR ENGINEERING DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OR  
23 COURSE OFFERINGS IN ORDER TO MEET GROWING WORKFORCE DEMAND IN  
24 THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR.

25 (2) BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2028, AND IN JANUARY EVERY YEAR  
26 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE, AS PART OF ITS  
27 PRESENTATION DURING ITS "SMART ACT" HEARING REQUIRED BY SECTION

1 2-7-203, AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE  
2 PROGRAM.

3 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE  
4 REPORTING REQUIREMENT SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION CONTINUES UNTIL  
5 THE PROGRAM REPEALS PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-82-109.

6 **23-82-107. Colorado nuclear workforce development and**  
7 **education cash fund.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND  
8 EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES  
9 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 82. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
10 TRANSMIT ALL MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS  
11 TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE  
12 COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION CASH  
13 FUND. SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
14 THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND ANY STATE MONEY FROM THE CASH FUND  
15 FOR DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED TO ADMINISTER THE  
16 PROGRAM.

17 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT APPROPRIATE GENERAL  
18 FUND DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING OR MAINTAINING  
19 PROGRAM OPERATIONS OR GRANT AWARDS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 82.

20 (3) THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
21 EDUCATION CASH FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE CASH  
22 FUND CONSISTS OF GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS CREDITED TO THE  
23 FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

24 (4) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND  
25 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE  
26 COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION CASH  
27 FUND TO THE FUND.



1           (5) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE CASH FUND  
3 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 82.

4           **23-82-108. Funding for program.** THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
5 SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE COLORADO NUCLEAR  
6 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION CASH FUND TO THE  
7 DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE  
8 A PORTION OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM  
9 TO PAY THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT INCURS  
10 TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

11           **23-82-109. Repeal of article - review of functions.** THIS ARTICLE  
12 82 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2032. BEFORE THE REPEAL, THIS  
13 ARTICLE 82 IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
14 24-34-104.

15           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **add**  
16 (33)(a)(X) as follows:

17           **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**  
18 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**  
19 **declaration - repeal.** (33) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,  
20 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2032:

21           (X) THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
22 EDUCATION PROGRAM CREATED IN ARTICLE 82 OF TITLE 23.

23           **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
24 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
26 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
27 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

1 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
2 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
3 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
4 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.