

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

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0525.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1221

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick and Garcia Sander,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Lundeen,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AUTHORIZING EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO**
102 **OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE.**

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 permits Emily Griffith technical college (college) to offer an associate of applied science degree program (degree program) with approval from the state board for community colleges and occupational education (board). The degree program must include a registered apprenticeship program and certain transferable general education courses.

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.

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 3, 2025

In considering the college's request to offer a degree program, the board shall consider student and workforce demand, alignment with registered apprenticeship programs, cost-effectiveness for students and the state, and accreditation and licensing requirements. An approved degree program is eligible to receive federal "Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act" funds.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Over the past decade, higher education in the United States has
5 expanded its ability to meet the needs of students through adjustments to
6 the role and mission of its institutions and through innovations in
7 workforce training and education, including the expansion of
8 apprenticeship opportunities;

9 (b) Colorado has been at the forefront of these innovations, and
10 the state's institutions have played a critical role in developing programs
11 that address the needs of today's learners;

12 (c) Emily Griffith technical college plays an integral role in
13 Colorado's education system, providing career-relevant training and
14 instruction that includes registered apprenticeships;

15 (d) Registered apprenticeships offer learners high-quality career
16 pathways through paid hands-on work in a chosen field. Through
17 registered apprenticeships, learners gain the skills and competencies to
18 make informed choices about their futures while employers build their
19 talent pipelines.

20 (e) While registered apprenticeships can give students a valuable,
21 nationally recognized credential, many Emily Griffith learners complete
22 apprenticeship programs just a few general education credits shy of an

1 applied associate degree;

2 (f) According to data from the Georgetown University Center on
3 Education and the Workforce, students in many high-demand applied
4 associate degree programs have higher earning potential than those with
5 certificates or high school diplomas;

6 (g) According to a 50-state analysis conducted in 2021 by
7 Advance CTE, over a quarter of responding states reported that their area
8 technical colleges offered associate degrees; and

9 (h) Allowing Emily Griffith technical college to build on its
10 apprenticeship programs by adding associate degrees to its offerings gives
11 learners greater access to the job market and promotes lifelong learning.
12 Programmatic growth at this vital institution is necessary to ensure that
13 Colorado's higher education landscape continues to serve the needs of
14 today's learners and employers.

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-60-211, **add** (6)
16 as follows:

17 **23-60-211. Degrees.** (6) PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-60-804, THE
18 EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF
19 APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE.

20 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-60-804 as
21 follows:

22 **23-60-804. Emily Griffith technical college - associate of**
23 **applied science degree program - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS
24 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

25 (a) "BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES
26 AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-60-104.

27 (b) "DEGREE PROGRAM" MEANS A DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED BY

1 THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)
2 OF THIS SECTION THAT CONFERS AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE
3 DEGREE.

4 (2) THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY, WITH BOARD
5 APPROVAL, OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM
6 TO STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP
7 PROGRAM.

8 (3) THE DEGREE PROGRAM MUST:

9 (a) INCLUDE A REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM WITHIN ITS
10 CURRICULAR DESIGN;

11 (b) INCLUDE SUFFICIENT TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION
12 COURSES TO COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DESIGNATED DEGREE
13 PROGRAM, AS APPLICABLE, AND PURSUANT TO THE GUARANTEED
14 TRANSFER PATHWAYS MATRIX DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-1-108.5 OR A
15 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT;

16 (c) ALIGN WITH HIGH-NEED, HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS AS
17 IDENTIFIED BY STUDENT DEMAND AND THE MOST RECENT COLORADO
18 TALENT REPORT CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103 (3); AND

19 (d) BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
20 EDUCATION FOR INCLUSION IN STATEWIDE PUBLICATIONS OF ACADEMIC
21 DEGREE PROGRAMS AND THE GUARANTEED TRANSFER PATHWAYS MATRIX
22 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-1-108.5, AS APPLICABLE.

23 (4) (a) BEFORE THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY
24 OFFER AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PURSUANT TO
25 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL
26 COLLEGE SHALL DETERMINE THE PROGRAM DESIGNATION FOR THE
27 DEGREE.

1 (b) AFTER DETERMINING THE PROGRAM DESIGNATION FOR THE
2 ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a)
3 OF THIS SECTION, THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE SHALL
4 SUBMIT THE DEGREE PROGRAM TO THE BOARD FOR THE BOARD'S REVIEW
5 AND APPROVAL. THE EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY OFFER
6 THE DEGREE PROGRAM ONLY AFTER THE DEGREE PROGRAM HAS BEEN
7 APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

8 (5) (a) IN DECIDING WHETHER TO APPROVE A REQUEST BY THE
9 EMILY GRIFFITH TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO OFFER A DEGREE PROGRAM
10 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL
11 CONSIDER ONLY THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

12 (I) STUDENT AND WORKFORCE DEMAND;

13 (II) ALIGNMENT OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM WITH OTHER
14 REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE EMILY GRIFFITH
15 TECHNICAL COLLEGE;

16 (III) COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM FOR THE
17 STUDENTS AND THE STATE; AND

18 (IV) ACCREDITATION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
19 DEGREE PROGRAM.

20 (b) THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON
21 HIGHER EDUCATION OF EACH DEGREE PROGRAM THAT THE BOARD
22 APPROVES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

23 (6) CONSISTENT WITH THE STATEWIDE MASTER PLAN CREATED
24 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108 (1.5), A DEGREE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUNDS THROUGH THE
26 FEDERAL "CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
27 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 2301 ET SEQ.

1 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
4 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
5 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
6 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
7 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
8 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
9 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.