

CHAPTER 225

**EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

**SENATE BILL 07-209**

BY SENATOR(S) Schwartz, Boyd, Fitz-Gerald, Groff, Sandoval, Shaffer, Tapia, Tochtrop, Williams, and Windels;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Gallegos, Frangas, Green, McFadyen, Romanoff, and Todd.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING CREATION OF A COUNCIL TO FACILITATE COLLABORATION IN HEALTH CAREERS  
EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN COLORADO, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE  
SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION.**

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

**SECTION 1.** Title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:

**ARTICLE 74  
Southern Colorado Council for Excellence in  
Health Careers Education**

**23-74-101. Short title.** THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION ACT".

**23-74-102. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT:

(a) RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN COLORADO IS CURRENTLY A PRODUCT OF SEVERAL DISTINCT ENTITIES, INCLUDING ADAMS STATE COLLEGE, TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE, AND SEVERAL PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; AND

(b) ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL THAT INCLUDES REPRESENTATION FROM HEALTH EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO EXERCISE COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WILL BENEFIT SOUTHERN COLORADO THROUGH

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF ENHANCED AND EXPANDED HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, IMPROVED FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF EXISTING HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, AND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WHO RESIDE IN THE REGION AND ARE INTERESTED IN ENTERING HEALTH CARE CAREERS.

(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE DECLARES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO CREATE A COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN COLORADO TO COLLABORATE IN CREATING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH-RELATED EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND IN THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, AND PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

**23-74-103. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(1) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-74-104.

(2) "HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM" MEANS A VOCATIONAL OR POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON AN ASPECT OF PROVIDING HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NURSING, HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION, DENTAL PROFESSIONALS, AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

(3) "SOUTHERN COLORADO" MEANS THE AREA COMPRISED OF ALAMOSA, CONEJOS, COSTILLA, MINERAL, RIO GRANDE, AND SAGUACHE COUNTIES.

**23-74-104. Council for excellence in health careers education - creation - membership.** (1) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION TO BRING TOGETHER PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO COLLABORATE AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE FOR SOUTHERN COLORADO.

(2) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF NO MORE THAN FIFTEEN MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

(a) THE STATE SENATOR REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT FIVE;

(b) THE STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTING HOUSE DISTRICT SIXTY-TWO;

(c) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM ADAMS STATE COLLEGE, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED INITIALLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE;

(d) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED INITIALLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE;

(e) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS INITIALLY APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE SERVING ON THE COUNCIL:

(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SAN LUIS VALLEY AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER LOCATED IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

(II) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOCATED IN SOUTHERN COLORADO; AND

(III) NO MORE THAN SIX REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

(3) COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL SERVE FOR THE DURATION OF THE COUNCIL; HOWEVER, IF A VACANCY IN A COUNCIL POSITION OCCURS, IT SHALL BE FILLED BY A VOTE OF THE COUNCIL, SO LONG AS THE INITIAL REPRESENTATION IS MAINTAINED.

(4) ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2007, BUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2007, THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE. THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET QUARTERLY THEREAFTER, OR AS FREQUENTLY AS THE COUNCIL DEEMS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSES. ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2007, AND ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT A CHAIRPERSON AND A VICE-CHAIRPERSON FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

(5) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 2-2-307, C.R.S., THE COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. THE COUNCIL MAY REQUEST STAFF ASSISTANCE FROM ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND FROM TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE IN MEETING ITS PURPOSES.

**23-74-105. Council for excellence in health careers education - duties - task forces.** (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

(a) TO IDENTIFY, RECOMMEND, AND ASSIST IN DEVELOPING NEW HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO BE OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

(b) TO COLLABORATE ON STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO ENROLL IN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

(c) TO INCREASE THE COLLABORATION AMONG THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTH CARE EMPLOYERS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO IN ORDER TO ENRICH THE COURSE WORK AVAILABLE IN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY DEVELOPING INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPING OTHER COURSE WORK THAT INCLUDES HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

(d) TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING SHARED FACILITIES, INCLUDING CLASSROOMS, CLINICAL LABORATORIES, LECTURE HALLS, COMPUTER TRAINING ROOMS, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES;

(e) TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE CREATION OF NEW FUNDING SOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AND TO MAKE THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF SCARCE RESOURCES TO CREATE OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS IN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

(f) TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS THAT FACILITATE STUDENTS' TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK IN HEALTH CARE CAREERS AND ENABLE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO FIND REWARDING EMPLOYMENT

IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

(g) TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO TO BETTER PREPARE STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGING NEEDS OF THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY AND THEREBY ENHANCE THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR PERSONS LIVING IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

(h) TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ISSUES FOR PERSONS LIVING IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

(i) TO RECOMMEND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, AND PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO; AND

(j) TO PROVIDE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION CONCERNING RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

(2) THE COUNCIL MAY FORM TASK FORCES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE PERSONS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, FOR ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED IN MEETING ITS PURPOSES. THE TASK FORCES SHALL WORK UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNCIL AND MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, TASK FORCES TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

(a) NURSING EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION WITH THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY TO ASSIST IN TRANSITIONS TO EMPLOYMENT FOLLOWING GRADUATION;

(b) NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS;

(c) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

(d) COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ISSUES; AND

(e) STRATEGIES FOR SHARING FACILITIES FOR HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

**23-74-106. Council for excellence in health careers education - reporting requirements.** ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2008, AND ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AND TO THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION A REPORT EXPLAINING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS PROGRESS IN MEETING THE PURPOSES AND ADDRESSING THE ISSUES SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE. THE COUNCIL SHALL ALSO MAKE THE REPORTS AVAILABLE PUBLICLY THROUGH THE WEBSITES FOR ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE.

**23-74-107. Council for excellence in health careers education - funding.** ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE ARE AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, INCLUDING

GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS THAT INCLUDE STATED CONDITIONS OF USE; EXCEPT THAT A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF THE CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION REQUIRE ITS EXPENDITURE IN A MANNER CONTRARY TO LAW. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL, ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE ARE FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED IN SECTION 23-74-106 AN ACCOUNTING OF ANY MONEYS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND HOW THEY WERE USED.

**23-74-108. Repeal of article.** THIS ARTICLE IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012.

**SECTION 2. No appropriation.** The general assembly has determined that this act can be implemented within existing appropriations, and therefore no separate appropriation of state moneys is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

**SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act shall take effect upon passage.

**SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 14, 2007