

## CHAPTER 335

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**EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

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**SENATE BILL 10-101**

BY SENATOR(S) Gibbs, Schwartz, Romer, Bacon, Cadman, Hudak, Johnston, Kester, Sandoval, Scheffel, Steadman, Tapia, White, Brophy, Heath, Hodge, Penry, Spence, Tochtrop, Whitehead, Williams;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Scanlan and Massey, Balmer, Baumgardner, Curry, Frangas, Liston, Merrifield, Pace, Casso, Labuda, Priola, Summers, Todd.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING AUTHORIZING COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE TO OFFER BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.**

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

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly declares that:

(a) It is a priority in Colorado to afford the citizens in rural areas of the state greater access to higher education; and

(b) Four-year degrees are of increasing importance in enabling individuals to qualify for and obtain jobs.

(2) It is therefore in the best interests of the state of Colorado to grant Colorado Mountain College, a junior college that was created to offer two-year degrees, the authority to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees.

**SECTION 2.** 23-71-102, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1) "Junior college" means an educational institution ~~which~~ THAT provides not more than two years of training in the arts, sciences, and humanities beyond the twelfth grade of the public high school curriculum or vocational education and ~~which~~ THAT conducts occupational, technical, and community service programs, with no term limitations, and general education, including college transfer programs,

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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.*

with unrestricted admissions; EXCEPT THAT COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, IN ADDITION TO ITS MISSION AS A JUNIOR COLLEGE, MAY ALSO OFFER NO MORE THAN FIVE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS AS ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES DETERMINES APPROPRIATE TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES WITHIN ITS SERVICE AREA AND THAT ARE APPROVED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

**SECTION 3.** Part 1 of article 71 of title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

**23-71-133. Approval of baccalaureate degrees.** (1) WHEN APPROVING BACCALAUREATE DEGREES FOR COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY IN SECTION 23-71-102 (1), THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL MAKE ITS DETERMINATION BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(a) WHETHER COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE CAN DEMONSTRATE WORKFORCE AND STUDENT DEMAND FOR THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM BY PROVIDING DATA;

(b) WHETHER COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE CAN DEMONSTRATE REGIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS, WHEN APPLICABLE, AND COMPLIANCE WITH THOSE REQUIREMENTS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE AT BOTH THE INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM LEVELS;

(c) WHETHER COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT ITS PROVISION OF THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM IS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PROVIDING THE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM IN ITS SERVICE AREA; AND

(d) WHETHER COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE CAN PROVIDE A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS SHOWING THAT THE ADDITIONAL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM WILL NOT CREATE A NEGATIVE IMPACT FOR THE COLLEGE OR REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STATE APPROPRIATED MONEYS TO OPERATE.

**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 27, 2010