

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 18-0679.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 18-1226

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY STATE  
102 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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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 Colorado commission on higher education (commission) to conduct a review of and report on an analysis of program costs and student outcomes for undergraduate degree programs offered by the university of Colorado and Colorado state university.

The bill sets forth the components of the degree program review and analysis, including information concerning the cost of the degree

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

program to the student and to the institution of higher education (institution), the average time to complete the degree program, and employment and earnings outcomes for graduates.

As part of its review, the commission shall identify the highest-cost degree programs to students and to the institution and the lowest-performing degree programs with respect to graduate employment and earnings, and shall analyze the return on investment for those degree programs to graduates and to the institution.

Two years after the date of the first report, the commission shall complete the review and analysis required in the bill for all 4-year state institutions that were not included in the first report. Every 2 years thereafter, the commission shall update the review and analysis of undergraduate degree programs for all state institutions.

The commission's report shall be submitted to certain committees of the general assembly.

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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** 23-1-135 as  
3 follows:

4           **23-1-135. Commission directive - review of undergraduate**  
5 **degree programs - analysis of cost and program outcomes - legislative**  
6 **declaration - definition - report - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

8           (I) COLORADO'S ECONOMIC GROWTH DEPENDS UPON A STRONG  
9 WORKFORCE WITH THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING NECESSARY TO  
10 SUCCEED IN TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CAREERS;

11           (II) COLORADO'S STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS THE  
12 PRIMARY SOURCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR COLORADANS  
13 PURSUING THESE CAREERS;

14           (III) FURTHER, COLORADO'S SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION MUST  
15 MEET THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NEEDS OF ALL OF ITS RESIDENTS,  
16 INCLUDING PROVIDING REASONABLE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION  
17 STATEWIDE, IN ORDER FOR COLORADO TO SUCCEED IN MEETING ITS GOALS

1 FOR AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE;

2 (IV) WITH FUTURE STATE FUNDING LEVELS FOR HIGHER  
3 EDUCATION UNCERTAIN DUE TO COMPETING DEMANDS ON THE STATE'S  
4 BUDGET, THE STATE HAS AN OBLIGATION TO TAXPAYERS AND TO  
5 CONSUMERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO TO MAKE THE BEST  
6 POSSIBLE USE OF STATE RESOURCES; AND

7 (V) USING STATE RESOURCES TO FUND DUPLICATIVE OR  
8 INEFFICIENT UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT RESULT IN POOR  
9 STUDENT EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OUTCOMES AND INCREASED  
10 STUDENT LOAN DEBT IS DETRIMENTAL NOT ONLY TO CONSUMERS OF  
11 HIGHER EDUCATION BUT TO COLORADO'S ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE  
12 GOALS.

13 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS  
14 APPROPRIATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO REGULARLY REVIEW EXISTING  
15 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS AT COLORADO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
16 EDUCATION AND TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND  
17 STUDENT OUTCOMES, AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS TO  
18 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

19 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2019, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
20 CONDUCT A REVIEW OF AND REPORT ON UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE  
21 PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AND COLORADO  
22 STATE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING AN ANALYSIS OF DEGREE PROGRAM COSTS  
23 AND STUDENT OUTCOMES. AS PART OF ITS REVIEW, THE COMMISSION  
24 SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EACH DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED AT  
25 THE INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING:

26 (I) THE NAME OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM AND THE YEAR THE  
27 DEGREE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED;

1           (II) THE NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED ANNUALLY FOR THE  
2 DEGREE PROGRAM;

3           (III) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DEGREE  
4 PROGRAM FOR THE MOST RECENT ACADEMIC YEAR;

5           (IV) THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE  
6 DEGREE PROGRAM FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR AND THE TWO  
7 PRECEDING ACADEMIC YEARS;

8           (V) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE DEGREE  
9 PROGRAM, THE LENGTH OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM, THE AVERAGE TIME TO  
10 COMPLETION FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM, AND  
11 THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED BY STUDENTS COMPLETING  
12 THE DEGREE PROGRAM;

13           (VI) THE AVERAGE COST TO COMPLETION OF THE DEGREE  
14 PROGRAM, INCLUDING MANDATORY PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONAL FEES,  
15 FOR A STUDENT WITH IN-STATE TUITION CLASSIFICATION;

16           (VII) THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME FACULTY AND  
17 STAFF ATTRIBUTABLE IN WHOLE OR IN PART TO THE DEGREE PROGRAM;

18           (VIII) ALL COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DEGREE PROGRAM,  
19 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FACULTY AND STAFF SALARIES, WAGES,  
20 BENEFITS, AND CAPITAL COSTS;

21           (IX) THE PROJECTED NUMBER OF NEW OR UNFILLED JOBS IN  
22 COLORADO OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS RELATED TO THE DEGREE  
23 PROGRAM FIELD;

24           (X) THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF DEGREE PROGRAM GRADUATES  
25 TWO YEARS, FIVE YEARS, AND TEN YEARS AFTER GRADUATION;

26           (XI) THE AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF DEGREE PROGRAM  
27 GRADUATES TWO YEARS, FIVE YEARS, AND TEN YEARS AFTER

1 GRADUATION;

2 (XII) THE FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT RATE FOR DEGREE  
3 PROGRAM GRADUATES; AND

4 (XIII) ANY OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE  
5 DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND  
6 STUDENT OUTCOMES.

7 (b) AS PART OF ITS REPORT, THE COMMISSION SHALL IDENTIFY THE  
8 HIGHEST-COST UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS, MEASURED BY THE  
9 TOTAL COST TO THE INSTITUTION OR BY STUDENT COST FOR COMPLETION,  
10 AND, FOR THE TOP TWENTY PERCENT OF THOSE DEGREE PROGRAMS,  
11 ANALYZE THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO GRADUATES OF THE DEGREE  
12 PROGRAM AND TO THE INSTITUTION. THE COMMISSION SHALL ALSO  
13 IDENTIFY THE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE THE LOWEST EMPLOYMENT  
14 AND EARNINGS OUTCOMES FOR GRADUATES REMAINING IN COLORADO,  
15 AND, FOR THE LOWEST TWENTY PERCENT OF THOSE DEGREE PROGRAMS,  
16 ANALYZE THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT TO GRADUATES OF THE DEGREE  
17 PROGRAM AND TO THE INSTITUTION.

18 (c) IF INFORMATION REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)  
19 IS UNAVAILABLE OR IMPRACTICABLE TO OBTAIN FOR A SPECIFIC DEGREE  
20 PROGRAM, INCLUDING INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE ANALYSIS OF  
21 DEGREE PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES, THE COMMISSION MAY  
22 USE THE BEST AVAILABLE NONDEGREE OR INSTITUTION-SPECIFIC  
23 AGGREGATE DATA FROM STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES OR OTHER  
24 ROUTINELY RELIED-UPON SOURCES TO COMPLETE THE DEGREE PROGRAM  
25 REVIEW AND THE ANALYSIS OF DEGREE PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT  
26 OUTCOMES.

27 (d) IF THE COMMISSION IS UNABLE TO COMPLETE A PORTION OF THE

1 DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND  
2 STUDENT OUTCOMES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), OR  
3 LACKS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO DO SO, INCLUDING NONSPECIFIC,  
4 AGGREGATE DATA, THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT TO THE  
5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN EXPLANATION OF THE REASON AND A  
6 DESCRIPTION OF ANY MISSING INFORMATION.

7 (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021, THE COMMISSION SHALL  
8 CONDUCT THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM REVIEW AND REPORT,  
9 INCLUDING THE ANALYSIS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES  
10 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, FOR THE STATE  
11 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION NOT INCLUDED IN THE JANUARY 1,  
12 2019, REPORT. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), ON OR  
13 BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EVERY TWO  
14 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW THE  
15 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT EACH STATE  
16 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND PREPARE AN UPDATED REPORT  
17 FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

18 (4) THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS REPORTS TO THE  
19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS THAT HAVE  
20 BEEN DISCONTINUED IN THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS OR THAT THE  
21 COMMISSION RECOMMENDS BE DISCONTINUED, AND THE REASON FOR THE  
22 RECOMMENDATION.

23 (5) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORTS REQUIRED  
24 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO  
25 THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OF  
26 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

27 (6) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102  
2 (10)(a), EXCLUDING AN INSTITUTION THAT IS GOVERNED BY THE STATE  
3 BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION.

4 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

5 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
8 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a  
9 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
10 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
11 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
12 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
13 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
14 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.