



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 6/7/2017

Bill Number

House Bill 17-1180

Sponsors

Representatives Winter and Lawrence
Senators Neville and Kerr

Short Title

Tuition Assistance For Certificate Programs

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor on March 30, 2017, and becomes effective on August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Background

Under current law, the Department of Higher Education administers a tuition assistance program for students enrolled in career and technical education certificate programs who meet income eligibility requirements but do not qualify for the Federal Pell Grant Program, because their certificate program does not meet minimum credit hour requirements. The bill expands eligibility for the tuition assistance program to include students who meet a state income eligibility standard established by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

Federal Pell Grant Program. The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain postbaccalaureate students to use at one of approximately 5,400 participating institutions of higher education. The grant amount a student receives depends upon: the student's expected family contribution; the cost of attending the institution; whether the student is enrolled part-time or full-time; and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less.

House Action

House Education Committee (February 22, 2017). At the hearing, representatives from the

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Colorado Department of Higher Education and Pitkins Technical College testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (February 28, 2017). The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (March 1, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Education Committee (March 9, 2017). At the hearing, a representative from the Colorado Department of Higher Education testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Senate second reading (March 14, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate third reading (March 15, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.