

CHAPTER 246

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

HOUSE BILL 18-1226

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Everett and Bridges, Lundeen, Beckman, Lewis, Neville P., Saine, Van Winkle, Becker J., McKean, Ransom, Sandridge, Buckner, Coleman, Exum, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Pettersen, Reyher, Roberts, Salazar, Sias, Valdez, Williams D., Wilson, Winkler, Young, Duran; also SENATOR(S) Smallwood and Fenberg, Court, Fields, Guzman, Kefalas, Kerr, Martinez Humenik, Moreno, Tate, Todd.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-135 as follows:

23-1-135. Department directive - undergraduate degree and certificate programs - annual return on investment report - definition - repeal. (1)(a) **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:**

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

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

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

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

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(V) ENSURING THAT STATE POLICYMAKERS AND CONSUMERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION CONCERNING UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING STUDENT COSTS AND AVERAGE DEBT, AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS OUTCOMES, IS CRITICAL TO EVALUATING HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM CHOICES AS WELL AS COLORADO'S ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE GOALS.

(b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PREPARE AN ANNUAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT THAT INCLUDES AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENT COSTS AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT COLORADO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION" MEANS THE STATE INSTITUTIONS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), THE LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES, AND THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES.

(3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2019, AND ON OR BEFORE JULY 31 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL PREPARE A RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE INSTITUTIONS, SHALL DETERMINE THE DESIGNATION OF DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT.

(b) THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT EACH INSTITUTION INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM:

(I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AND THE NUMBER OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED ANNUALLY FOR THE PROGRAM;

(II) THE AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETION FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED BY STUDENTS COMPLETING THE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM;

(III) THE AVERAGE COST FOR COMPLETION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, INCLUDING MANDATORY PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONAL FEES, FOR A STUDENT WITH IN-STATE TUITION CLASSIFICATION;

(IV) THE AVERAGE STUDENT LOAN DEBT FOR STUDENTS IN THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM;

(V) THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES. FOR PURPOSES OF THE REPORT, INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT RATE INCLUDES THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL GRADUATES, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL GRADUATES MATCHED THROUGH AVAILABLE DATA

SOURCES, AND THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL GRADUATES THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE EMPLOYMENT RATE, WITH AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE GRADUATES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE EMPLOYMENT RATE.

(VI) THE AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES ONE, FIVE, AND TEN YEARS AFTER GRADUATION OR COMPLETION; AND

(VII) ANY OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT.

(4) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY SUBMIT THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AND SHALL POST THE REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS.

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

SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2018-19 state fiscal year, \$74,153 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for administration related to the Colorado commission on higher education.

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

Approved: May 24, 2018