

CHAPTER 115

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

SENATE BILL 19-097

BY SENATOR(S) Story and Coram, Todd, Donovan, Fields, Gonzales, Rodriguez, Bridges, Court, Crowder, Danielson, Foote, Gardner, Ginal, Hisey, Lee, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Tate, Williams A., Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McCluskie and Soper, Baisley, Bird, Bockenfeld, Buckner, Buentello, Caraveo, Catlin, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Galindo, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hooton, Jaquez Lewis, Kraft-Tharp, Lontine, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Rich, Roberts, Sandridge, Snyder, Sullivan, Titone, Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Wilson, Becker.

AN ACT**CONCERNING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES.**

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

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

(a) Career and technical education ensures that qualified workers are ready to enter high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields that are vital to Colorado's infrastructure and growing economy;

(b) Career and technical education plays a key role in reaching the statewide sixty-six percent postsecondary attainment goal by providing career-ready skills to historically underserved and nontraditional students;

(c) Career and technical education is critical to mitigating the equity gap by offering affordable and accessible educational opportunities that allow students to graduate debt-free and enter fields with competitive wages and benefits;

(d) Career and technical education is required for many of the fastest growing occupations according to the federal bureau of labor statistics, including nursing, welding, massage therapy, dental and medical assisting, and barbering and cosmetology; and

(e) Industry demand for skilled workers in today's growing economy continues to outpace the rates of career and technical education certificate completion,

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

particularly in the construction and health care fields.

(2) Therefore, it is the intent of the general assembly to establish a grant program for the area technical colleges to provide accessible, high-quality, and current career and technical education programs.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-71-304** as follows:

23-71-304. Area technical college grant program - established - report - definitions - repeal. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103 (1).

(b) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-102.

(c) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

(d) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) THERE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE UP TO FOUR MILLION DOLLARS EACH FISCAL YEAR IN GRANTS TO AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES FOR IDENTIFIED CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT PURPOSES IN ADDITION TO THE DIRECT GRANTS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-18-304 (2)(a). ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 2019, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JULY 15 THEREAFTER, AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE MAY SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT. IF MORE THAN ONE GRANT APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED DURING ANY YEAR, ON OR BEFORE JULY 30, THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES SHALL JOINTLY SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A LIST OF THE GRANTS IN PRIORITIZED ORDER. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATION AND RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION WHETHER TO INCLUDE MONEY FOR THE GRANT IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-18-304 (2) FOR THE FOLLOWING STATE FISCAL YEAR. THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER TO INCLUDE MONEY FOR THE GRANT IN THE BUDGET REQUEST, AND, IF THE COMMISSION INCLUDES MORE THAN ONE GRANT IN ITS REQUEST, THE COMMISSION SHALL PRIORITIZE THE REQUESTS. IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES MONEY FOR THE GRANT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE GRANT TO THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A FORM FOR THE GRANT APPLICATION THAT MUST INCLUDE:

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF HOW THE GRANT MONEY WILL BE SPENT;

(b) SPECIFICATION OF HOW THE GRANT MONEY WILL BENEFIT STUDENTS AND ANY PROGRAM AT THE SCHOOL; AND

(c) ANY MATCHING MONEY TO BE ADDED TO THE GRANT MONEY AND THE SOURCE OF THE MATCHING MONEY.

(4) IF AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE RECEIVES GRANT MONEY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 OF THE BUDGET YEAR FOLLOWING ANY EXPENDITURE OF MONEY FROM A GRANT, THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT ON A FORM DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT MUST INCLUDE:

(a) THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT RECEIVED;

(b) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT EXPENDITURES MADE DURING THE PREVIOUS BUDGET YEAR;

(c) AN ITEMIZATION OF THE GRANT EXPENDITURES MADE DURING THE PREVIOUS BUDGET YEAR; AND

(d) THE IMPACT OF THE GRANT EXPENDITURES ON STUDENTS.

(5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-304, **amend** (2) as follows:

23-18-304. Funding for specialty education programs - area technical colleges - local district colleges. (2) (a) Except as provided in ~~paragraph (b) of this subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION, for the 2015-16 state fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the direct grants made to eligible area technical colleges pursuant to part 3 of article 71 of this title TITLE 23 for a state fiscal year must be equal to the amount of the grants made in the preceding state fiscal year, increased or decreased by a percentage equal to the percentage change in the total state appropriation for the applicable state fiscal year from the total state appropriation for the preceding state fiscal year.

(b) The commission may recommend as part of its budget request that:

(I) Direct grants to area technical colleges increase by a percentage that is greater than the percentage change in the total state appropriation for the preceding state fiscal year or decrease by a percentage that is less than the percentage change in the total state appropriation for the applicable fiscal year from the total state appropriation for the preceding state fiscal year; AND

(II) IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OR (2)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, ONE OR MORE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES RECEIVE ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR GRANTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-71-304.

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: April 16, 2019