

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0681.01 Jerry Barry x4341

HOUSE BILL 24-1082

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Taggart and Mabrey,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rich and Coleman,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
102 EDUCATION AS FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

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 department of higher education (department) to:

- Identify and designate state institutions of higher education (state institutions) as first-generation-serving institutions if:
 - The resident first-generation undergraduate population represents 45% or more of the

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

- institution's overall resident student population; or
- The institution secured a First Scholars Network of Institutions designation from the Center for First-generation Student Success or a similarly rigorous independent third-party designation;
- Post on the department's website the names of the state institutions that are so designated; and
- Notify the state institutions and the Colorado general assembly of the designations.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-143 as
3 follows:

4 **23-1-143. Commission directive - first-generation-serving**
5 **institution designation - legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) THE

6 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7 (a) IN 2017, THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION,
8 IN ITS MASTER PLAN, COLORADO RISES: ADVANCING EDUCATION AND
9 TALENT DEVELOPMENT, SET A STATEWIDE ATTAINMENT GOAL FOR
10 SIXTY-SIX PERCENT OF COLORADO'S ADULT POPULATION TO HOLD A
11 POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL;

12 (b) COLORADO HAS MADE PROGRESS, BUT AS OF 2023, THE STATE
13 HAS STILL NOT MET THIS GOAL;

14 (c) ONE OF THE WAYS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
15 HOLDING A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF
16 FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS ATTENDING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
17 EDUCATION;

18 (d) BY RECOGNIZING AND DESIGNATING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
19 EDUCATION THAT SERVE A LARGE NUMBER OF FIRST-GENERATION
20 STUDENTS, THE STATE SHOWS INCOMING STUDENTS AT THOSE

1 INSTITUTIONS THAT THE STUDENTS MAY SHARE A SENSE OF BELONGING
2 WITH OTHERS OF SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS AND THAT THE INSTITUTIONS
3 ARE COMMITTED TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF FIRST-GENERATION
4 STUDENTS;

5 (e) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SERVING
6 FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS INCUR INCREASED COSTS; AND

7 (f) IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A DESIGNATION TO
8 RECOGNIZE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SERVING
9 FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS.

10 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
11 REQUIRES:

12 (a) "FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE
13 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

14 (I) WHOSE RESIDENT FIRST-GENERATION UNDERGRADUATE
15 STUDENT POPULATION SHARE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-302, FOR
16 THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS, INCLUDING THE CURRENT YEAR, IS EQUAL TO
17 OR HIGHER THAN FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE INSTITUTION'S OVERALL
18 RESIDENT STUDENT POPULATION; OR

19 (II) THAT HAS SECURED A FIRST SCHOLARS NETWORK OF
20 INSTITUTIONS DESIGNATION FROM THE CENTER FOR FIRST-GENERATION
21 STUDENT SUCCESS OR A SIMILARLY RIGOROUS INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY
22 DESIGNATION.

23 (b) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" HAS THE SAME
24 MEANING AS "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" AS DEFINED IN
25 SECTION 23-4.5-102.

26 (3) WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE ANNUAL PUBLIC RELEASE OF
27 ENROLLMENT, RETENTION, AND GRADUATION DATA FROM EACH STATE

1 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2024 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,
2 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

3 (a) IDENTIFY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT MEET THE
4 DEFINITION OF FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTIONS FOR THAT
5 SCHOOL YEAR;

6 (b) POST ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE THE NAMES OF THE
7 FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTIONS FOR THAT SCHOOL YEAR; AND

8 (c) NOTIFY EACH FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTION AND
9 THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE DESIGNATIONS.

10 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
13 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
14 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
15 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
16 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
17 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.