

## CHAPTER 61

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**EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY**

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**HOUSE BILL 24-1082**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Taggart and Mabrey, Amabile, Bacon, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Brown, Clifford, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hernandez, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Marshall, Marvin, Ortiz, Parenti, Pugliese, Ricks, Rutinel, Soper, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weissman, Willford, Woodrow, Young; also SENATOR(S) Rich and Coleman, Buckner, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Fields, Gonzales, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Liston, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Priola, Roberts, Winter F.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS FIRST-GENERATION-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

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

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

**23-1-143. Commission directive - first-generation-serving institution designation - legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

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

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

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

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

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*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.*

SENSE OF BELONGING WITH OTHERS OF SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS AND THAT THE INSTITUTIONS ARE COMMITTED TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS;

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

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

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

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

(I) WHOSE AVERAGE RESIDENT FIRST-GENERATION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POPULATION SHARE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-302, FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR THAT THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AND THE TWO PREVIOUS YEARS EQUALS OR EXCEEDS THE STATEWIDE AVERAGE RESIDENT FIRST-GENERATION UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POPULATION SHARE AS REPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FALL 2022 TERM; OR

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

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

(3) WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE ANNUAL PUBLIC RELEASE OF ENROLLMENT, RETENTION, AND GRADUATION DATA FROM EACH STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2024 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

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

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

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

**SECTION 2. 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; 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 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 11, 2024