

## SB25-120: Nuclear Workforce Development & Education Program

### Overview:

The proposed strike-below amendment to SB25-120 makes critical changes to the bill that will strengthen Colorado's nuclear workforce development efforts while significantly reducing the bill's fiscal impact. This amendment ensures the bill's goals are met in a cost-effective manner without compromising its mission to position Colorado as a leader in nuclear workforce development.

### Key Changes in the Strike-Below Amendment:

- **Relocation of the Council:** The amendment moves the Colorado Nuclear Workforce Development and Education Council from the Department of Higher Education to the Legislative Department.
- **Third-Party Administration of Grant Program:** The amendment allows the Council to contract with a third-party organization to administer the grant program. This approach streamlines operations and reduces the burden on state agencies, ultimately lowering the bill's overall cost.
- **Expanded Grant Eligibility:** The amendment broadens the pool of eligible grant recipients to include not only institutions of higher education but also other institutions that align with the bill's mission.
- **Council Expansion:** The amendment increases the number of Council members to ensure broader representation from industry experts, education leaders, and workforce development advocates.

### Why This Bill Matters:

As nuclear energy gains renewed attention nationwide, Colorado has an opportunity to become a national leader in nuclear workforce development. Investing in education and workforce development strengthens Colorado's economy, supports higher education institutions, and provides new career pathways for Coloradans. This bill is about preparing Colorado's workforce for the future—not about reshaping the state's energy policy.

### Fiscal Responsibility:

The strike-below amendment significantly reduces the bill's fiscal impact by shifting administrative responsibilities away from state agencies and allowing for third-party administration. These changes prioritize efficiency while ensuring the program's objectives are met. This approach reduces the fiscal impact without sacrificing Colorado's leadership in workforce development.

### Conclusion:

SB25-120 positions Colorado at the forefront of nuclear workforce development. In light of current budgetary restraints, reducing costs is paramount. The amended bill is a win for Colorado's economy, higher education institutions, and future workforce. Supporting this bill is not about supporting or opposing nuclear energy—it's about investing in Colorado's talent and securing the state's place as a hub of innovation and education.