A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CRITERIA APPLIED IN DETERMINING PERFORMANCE
102 RATINGS FOR ENTITIES IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
103 PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

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.)

For purposes of determining annual accreditation categories for school districts and the state charter school institute (institute), and for determining a public school's performance plan, the bill requires the state board of education (state board) to establish weighted values that assign greater value to high school graduation rates that are based on more
rigorous course work requirements for achievement of a high school diploma.

The bill requires the state board to compare school district performance based on school district size to ensure that accreditation categories are fairly and equitably assigned across school districts of similar size.

The state board shall also assign greater value to public schools, school districts, and the institute for graduation requirements that meet or exceed the Colorado commission on higher education's suggested college admission course requirements.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-207, amend (2)(g); and add (2)(i), (2)(j), and (2)(k) as follows:

22-11-207. Accreditation categories - criteria - rules. (2) The state board shall promulgate rules establishing objective, measurable criteria that the department shall apply in determining the appropriate accreditation category for each school district and the institute, placing the greatest emphasis on attainment of the performance indicators. At a minimum, the rules shall MUST take into consideration:

(g) The performance of students enrolled in the school district's or institute's alternative education campuses, taking into account the unique purposes of the campuses and the unique circumstances of and challenges posed by students enrolled in the campuses; and

(i) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR THE INSTITUTE'S GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, GIVING WEIGHTED CREDIT FOR MORE RIGOROUS COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA;

(j) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SIZE, COMPARING DISTRICTS WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF STUDENTS, WITHIN TWENTY PERCENT, TO ENSURE THAT ACCREDITATION CATEGORIES ARE ASSIGNED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY ACROSS SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF SIMILAR SIZE; AND
(k) The school district's or the institute's adoption of graduation requirements in English, mathematics, natural and physical sciences, and social sciences that meet or exceed the minimum suggested higher education admission requirements adopted by the Colorado commission on higher education for admission to Colorado's public four-year institutions of higher education, granting weighted credit therefor.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-210, add (1)(a.5) as follows:

22-11-210. Public schools - annual review - plans - supports and interventions - rules. (1)(a.5) In determining a public school's level of attainment of the performance indicators, the state board's rules must assign greater value to:

(I) High school graduation rates that are based on more rigorous course work requirements for achievement of a high school diploma; and

(II) High school graduation requirements in English, mathematics, natural and physical sciences, and social sciences that meet or exceed the minimum suggested higher education admission requirements adopted by the Colorado commission on higher education for admission to Colorado's public four-year institutions of 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.