

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 18-0679.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 18-1226**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE REVIEW OF DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY STATE**  
102         **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103         **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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 Colorado commission on higher education (commission) to conduct a review of and report on an analysis of program costs and student outcomes for undergraduate degree programs offered by the university of Colorado and Colorado state university.

The bill sets forth the components of the degree program review

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

and analysis, including information concerning the cost of the degree program to the student and to the institution of higher education (institution), the average time to complete the degree program, and employment and earnings outcomes for graduates.

As part of its review, the commission shall identify the highest-cost degree programs to students and to the institution and the lowest-performing degree programs with respect to graduate employment and earnings, and shall analyze the return on investment for those degree programs to graduates and to the institution.

Two years after the date of the first report, the commission shall complete the review and analysis required in the bill for all 4-year state institutions that were not included in the first report. Every 2 years thereafter, the commission shall update the review and analysis of undergraduate degree programs for all state institutions.

The commission's report shall be submitted to certain committees of the general assembly.

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

2             **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-1-135 as**  
3     **follows:**

4             **23-1-135. Department directive - undergraduate degree and**  
5     **certificate programs - annual return on investment report - definition**

6     **- repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7             (I) COLORADO'S ECONOMIC GROWTH DEPENDS UPON A STRONG  
8     WORKFORCE WITH THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING NECESSARY TO  
9     SUCCEED IN TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CAREERS;

10            (II) COLORADO'S STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS THE  
11     PRIMARY SOURCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR COLORADANS  
12     PURSUING THESE CAREERS;

13            (III) FURTHER, COLORADO'S SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION MUST  
14     MEET THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NEEDS OF ALL OF ITS RESIDENTS,  
15     INCLUDING PROVIDING REASONABLE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION  
16     STATEWIDE, IN ORDER FOR COLORADO TO SUCCEED IN MEETING ITS GOALS

1 FOR AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE;

2 (IV) WITH FUTURE STATE FUNDING LEVELS FOR HIGHER  
3 EDUCATION UNCERTAIN DUE TO COMPETING DEMANDS ON THE STATE'S  
4 BUDGET, THE STATE HAS AN OBLIGATION TO TAXPAYERS AND TO  
5 CONSUMERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO TO MAKE THE BEST  
6 POSSIBLE USE OF STATE RESOURCES; AND

7 (V) ENSURING THAT STATE POLICYMAKERS AND CONSUMERS OF  
8 HIGHER EDUCATION HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION CONCERNING  
9 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING  
10 STUDENT COSTS AND AVERAGE DEBT, AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT AND  
11 EARNINGS OUTCOMES, IS CRITICAL TO EVALUATING HIGHER EDUCATION  
12 PROGRAM CHOICES AS WELL AS COLORADO'S ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE  
13 GOALS.

14 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS  
15 APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PREPARE  
16 AN ANNUAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT THAT INCLUDES AN  
17 ANALYSIS OF STUDENT COSTS AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES OF  
18 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT  
19 COLORADO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

20 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
21 REQUIRES, "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION" MEANS  
22 THE STATE INSTITUTIONS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a), THE  
23 LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES, AND THE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGES.

24 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2019, AND ON OR BEFORE JULY 31  
25 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL  
26 PREPARE A RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE  
27 AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNING  
2 BOARDS OF THE INSTITUTIONS, SHALL DETERMINE THE DESIGNATION OF  
3 DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF THE RETURN ON  
4 INVESTMENT REPORT.

5 (b) THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT MUST INCLUDE  
6 INFORMATION CONCERNING THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND  
7 CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT EACH INSTITUTION INCLUDING, AT A  
8 MINIMUM:

9 (I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE UNDERGRADUATE  
10 DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AND THE NUMBER OF DEGREES AND  
11 CERTIFICATES AWARDED ANNUALLY FOR THE PROGRAM;

12 (II) THE AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETION FOR STUDENTS  
13 COMPLETING THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM  
14 AND THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED BY STUDENTS  
15 COMPLETING THE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM;

16 (III) THE AVERAGE COST FOR COMPLETION OF THE  
17 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM, INCLUDING  
18 MANDATORY PROGRAM AND INSTITUTIONAL FEES, FOR A STUDENT WITH  
19 IN-STATE TUITION CLASSIFICATION;

20 (IV) THE AVERAGE STUDENT LOAN DEBT FOR STUDENTS IN THE  
21 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM;

22 (V) THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR  
23 CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES. FOR PURPOSES OF THE REPORT,  
24 INFORMATION RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT RATE INCLUDES THE  
25 NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL GRADUATES, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL  
26 GRADUATES MATCHED THROUGH AVAILABLE DATA SOURCES, AND THE  
27 NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL GRADUATES THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE

1 EMPLOYMENT RATE, WITH AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE GRADUATES ARE  
2 EXCLUDED FROM THE EMPLOYMENT RATE.

3 (VI) THE AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF UNDERGRADUATE  
4 DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATES ONE, FIVE, AND TEN YEARS  
5 AFTER GRADUATION OR COMPLETION; AND

6 (VII) ANY OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE  
7 RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT.

8 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE  
9 DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY SUBMIT THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT  
10 REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES AND OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,  
12 AND SHALL POST THE REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC  
13 ACCESS.

14 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

15 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2018-19 state fiscal year,  
16 \$74,153 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This  
17 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the  
18 department may use this appropriation for administration related to the  
19 Colorado commission on higher education.

20 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
23 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a  
24 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
25 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
26 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
27 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

1      November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
2      official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.