1 2

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

	March 13, 2025
Chair of Committee	Date
Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.	
After consideration on the merits, the C following:	Committee recommends the
SB25-120 be amended as follows, and as the Committee on Approximation:	· ·
Amend printed bill, strike everything belo substitute:	ow the enacting clause and
"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration	on. (1) The general assembly
finds and declares that: (a) Nuclear energy is a critical comenergy strategy and economic development, and noncarbon power generation to support reduction goals; (b) A highly skilled workforce is esset	offering consistent, reliable grid stability and emissions ential for the deployment and
operation of advanced nuclear technologies, commercial fusion systems. Workforce readi safety, fusion energy operations, and reacto support Colorado's energy transition.	ness in engineering, radiation or technology is necessary to
(c) The Colorado nuclear workforce council will harness private investment, fer partnerships to make the state a leader in development. Through grants to eligible instand related technical assistance, the council pathways to careers in the nuclear energy see	deral funding, and strategic n nuclear energy workforce titutions of higher education cil will expand educational
(d) The Colorado school of mines' of management, workforce development, and	_
uniquely positions it to house the Co	_
development and education council; and (e) By developing and expanding ex	isting state higher education
infrastructure, including degree and certific	cate programs and technical
training, and by leveraging public and priv	ate sector collaboration, the

council will help Colorado expand workforce readiness in the nuclear

energy sector without new state appropriations, supporting long-term economic growth and clean energy innovation.

1 2

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 3 to article 41 of title 23 as follows:

PART 3

COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL

- **23-41-301. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 3, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
- (1) "Cash fund" means the Colorado Nuclear Workforce development and education cash fund created in Section 23-41-306.
- (2) "COAL TRANSITION COMMUNITY" MEANS A COAL TRANSITION COMMUNITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 8-83-502.
- (3) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 23-41-302.
- (4) "ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a); A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-71-102; OR AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-60-103.
- (5) "Grant program" means the Colorado nuclear workforce development and education grant program created in section 23-41-304.
- (6) "THIRD-PARTY ENTITY" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT HAS ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE STAFFING OR OPERATIONAL SERVICES TO THE COUNCIL OR TO HELP IMPLEMENT THIS PART 3, INCLUDING THE GRANT PROGRAM.
- **23-41-302.** Colorado nuclear workforce development and education council created. (1) The Colorado Nuclear Workforce development and education council is created in the Colorado school of mines. The purpose of the council is to meet growing Workforce demand in the Nuclear energy sector by:
- (a) Providing grants to eligible institutions for the development or expansion of degree programs, certificate programs, individual courses, or modular training focused on nuclear energy, including fusion and fission, through the Colorado nuclear workforce development and education grant program created in section 23-41-304; and
- (b) PROVIDING ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
- 41 (2) THE COUNCIL IS ONLY REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT SECTIONS 42 23-41-303, 23-41-304, AND 23-41-305 IF, PURSUANT TO SECTION 43 23-41-307, SECTIONS 23-41-303, 23-41-304, AND 23-41-305 BECOME

EFFECTIVE.

- (3) THE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ANY CONTRACTED WORK PERFORMED BY A THIRD-PARTY ENTITY, THE GRANT PROGRAM, AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, MUST BE FUNDED ENTIRELY BY GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS MUST FUND THE COUNCIL'S WORK THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK, AND GENERAL FUND MONEY SHALL NOT BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART 3.
- (4) The work of the council or any other entity pursuant to this part 3 is contingent on money being available to implement this part 3. If money is not available for the council or any other entity to carry out the duties required by this part 3, the council or entity is not required to carry out the duties. A contract with a third-party entity or eligible institution must provide that the contract is contingent on funds being available for the specified purpose and the funds being available for the duration of the contract.
- (5) (a) THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF ELEVEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE DESIGNATED APPOINTING OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS:
- (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:
- (A) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRIVATE COMPANY IN THE NUCLEAR OR CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR;
- (B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A COAL TRANSITION COMMUNITY OR RURAL AREA OF THE STATE; AND
- (C) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST OR ENGINEER FROM A FEDERAL LABORATORY; AND
- (II) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL EACH APPOINT:
- (A) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A PRIVATE COMPANY IN THE NUCLEAR OR CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR; AND
- (B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A LABOR ORGANIZATION, A REPRESENTATIVE OF A SMALL OR MID-SIZED NUCLEAR SUPPLY CHAIN BUSINESS, AN ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY EXPERT, OR A WORKFORCE TRAINING PROFESSIONAL.
- (b) A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL MUST NOT HAVE A FINANCIAL OR OTHER CONFLICT OF INTEREST THAT WOULD PREVENT THE MEMBER FROM IMPARTIALLY REVIEWING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM OR THAT WOULD OTHERWISE GIVE RISE TO AN APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY. A MEMBER MUST NOT HAVE A PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION WITH AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

(c) The appointing officials shall make the initial appointments to the council as soon as possible after the effective date of this section but no later than January 1, 2026.

1 2

- (d) THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS FOUR YEARS; EXCEPT THAT THE TERM OF EACH MEMBER INITIALLY APPOINTED IS TWO YEARS.
- 23-41-303. Colorado nuclear workforce development and education council meetings duties authority to contract. (1) (a) THE COUNCIL SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERS TO SERVE FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS, AS DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL.
- (b) THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL SHALL CONVENE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL NO LATER THAN FORTY-TWO DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION. THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY. THE CHAIR MAY CALL ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE COUNCIL TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.
- (2) MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION BUT ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MEMBERS' DUTIES ON THE COUNCIL.
- (3) WITH STAFFING AND OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM A THIRD-PARTY ENTITY, THE COUNCIL SHALL:
- (a) CONVENE, AT A FREQUENCY TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL, ADVISORY SESSIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE NUCLEAR, EDUCATIONAL, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTORS TO ASSESS AND ADOPT STRATEGIES TO RESPOND TO EVOLVING WORKFORCE DEMANDS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR; AND
 - (b) IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING:
- (I) REVIEWING AND APPROVING GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE GRANTS ARE AWARDED THROUGH AN OPEN, COMPETITIVE PROCESS USING NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES;
 - (II) REVIEWING APPLICATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS;
- (III) SELECTING GRANT RECIPIENTS AND DETERMINING GRANT AWARD AMOUNTS;
- (IV) PROVIDING ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; AND
 - (V) EVALUATING THE GRANT PROGRAM.
- (4) THE COUNCIL MAY PROMOTE NUCLEAR ENERGY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AMONG ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS TO ENHANCE THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS' ABILITY TO ATTRACT FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RELATED RESEARCH.
- (5) THE COUNCIL SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS PART 3.

(6) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE THIRD-PARTY ENTITIES TO PROVIDE STAFFING AND OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNCIL OR TO HELP IMPLEMENT OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS PART 3.

- (7) THE COUNCIL MUST USE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS TO DESIGNATE AND CONTRACT WITH A THIRD-PARTY ENTITY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 3. A DESIGNATED THIRD-PARTY ENTITY MAY PROVIDE IN-KIND STAFF SUPPORT OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL IN PERFORMING THE COUNCIL'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THIRD-PARTY ENTITY PERSONNEL ARE NOT EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNCIL OR THE STATE.
- (8) THE COUNCIL MAY USE UP TO TEN PERCENT OF THE MONEY IN THE CASH FUND TO PAY DIRECT AND INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

23-41-304. Colorado nuclear workforce development and education grant program - created - application - criteria - awards.

- (1) THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM IS CREATED IN THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES TO MEET GROWING WORKFORCE DEMAND IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SECTOR BY PROVIDING GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OR EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY DEGREE PROGRAMS, CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, INDIVIDUAL COURSES, OR MODULAR TRAINING.
- (2) PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-41-307, THE COUNCIL SHALL BEGIN AWARDING GRANTS ONLY AFTER THE BALANCE OF THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION CASH FUND REACHES OR EXCEEDS FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE COUNCIL SHALL EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEVERAGE FEDERAL FUNDING, INCLUDING FEDERAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MATCHING GRANTS.
- (3) Grant recipients may use the money received through the grant program for the design of courses or degree programs, certificate programs, or training programs focused on nuclear energy, including fusion and fission; for personnel; or for administrative or facility expenses necessary to develop or expand nuclear energy degree, certificate, training, or course offerings.
- (4) The council, with assistance from and in coordination with a third-party entity, subject to the availability of funds pursuant to section 23-41-307, shall administer the grant program and shall award grants as provided in this part 3. Grants must be paid out of the cash fund.
- (5) TO RECEIVE A GRANT, AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-41-303 (5).
 - (6) (a) THE COUNCIL SHALL REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. IN SELECTING GRANT RECIPIENTS, THE COUNCIL SHALL PRIORITIZE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS THAT CAN PROVIDE A TRAINED WORKFORCE EXPEDITIOUSLY. IN ADDITION TO OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WHEN AWARDING GRANTS:

- (I) THE DISTRIBUTION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY DEGREE PROGRAMS, CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, INDIVIDUAL COURSES, AND MODULAR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING PROGRAMS, COURSES, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO NUCLEAR FUSION AND FISSION;
- (II) THE NEED FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY WORKFORCE IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY OR REGION OF THE STATE; AND
- (III) THE PROJECTED STUDENT INTEREST IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY DEGREE PROGRAMS, CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, INDIVIDUAL COURSES, AND MODULAR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT COMPETING INSTITUTIONS.
- (b) TO AWARD A GRANT, AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE THE GRANT.
- 23-41-305. Reporting requirements. (1) On or before the first November 1 after the effective date of this section, and on or before November 1 each year thereafter until the repeal of this part 3, the council shall submit a report to the house of representatives energy and environment committee, the house of representatives education committee, the senate transportation and energy committee, and the senate education committee, or their successor committees. At a minimum, the report must include:
- (a) A SUMMARY OF THE GRANT PROGRAM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND ANY RELATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO GRANT RECIPIENTS; AND
- (b) An accounting of the source and amount of money credited to the cash fund and how cash fund money was used pursuant to this part 3, including grant program awards to expand or support nuclear energy degree programs, certificate programs, individual courses, and modular training opportunities in order to meet growing workforce demand in the nuclear energy sector.
- **23-41-306.** Colorado nuclear workforce development and education cash fund created. (1) The Colorado nuclear workforce development and education cash fund is created in the state treasury. The cash fund consists of gifts, grants, and donations credited to the cash fund pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.
 - (2) THE COUNCIL MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS,

OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 3. THE COUNCIL SHALL TRANSMIT ALL MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE CASH FUND.

- (3) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE CASH FUND TO THE CASH FUND.
- (4) MONEY IN THE CASH FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES FOR THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL TO CARRY OUT THIS PART 3.
- (5) THE COUNCIL MAY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF IN-KIND SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 3, INCLUDING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
- (6) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT APPROPRIATE GENERAL FUND DOLLARS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 3.
- 23-41-307. Effective date repeal of part review of functions. (1) Sections 23-41-303, 23-41-304, and 23-41-305 take effect if the council receives at least five hundred thousand dollars of gifts, grants, or donations for the purposes of this part 3. The president of the Colorado school of mines shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing of the date on which the condition specified in this subsection (1) has occurred by emailing the notice to revisorofstatutes.ga@coleg.gov. Sections 23-41-303, 23-41-304, and 23-41-305 take effect upon the date identified in the notice that the council has received at least five hundred thousand dollars of gifts, grants, or donations for the purposes of this part 3 or, if the notice does not specify that date, upon the date of the notice to the revisor of statutes.
- (2) This part 3 is repealed, effective September 1, 2032. Before the Repeal, this part 3 is scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.
- **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **add** (33)(a)(X) as follows:
- 24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment legislative declaration repeal. (33) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2032:
- (X) THE COLORADO NUCLEAR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COUNCIL CREATED IN PART 3 OF ARTICLE 41 OF TITLE 23.
- **SECTION 4. 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

- 1 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
- 2 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
- 3 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
- 4 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
- 5 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 6 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.".

** *** ** ***