

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 22-0892.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 22-192

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Simpson,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Esgar and Catlin,

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREDENTIAL**
102 **ATTAINMENT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
103 **APPROPRIATION.**

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>.)

Section 2 of the bill requires:

- The department of higher education (department), in consultation with the state institutions of higher education (institutions), to develop and implement a process that encourages institutions to identify incremental

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.

- achievements on the path to degree completion, organize stackable credentials, and identify how credentials may become stacked into stackable credential pathways;
- The department to facilitate the creation of stackable credential pathways for at least 3 growing industries by January 1, 2024, and at least 2 more growing industries by January 1, 2025; and
- The general assembly to appropriate one million dollars to the department from the workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Section 3 of the bill requires the department to allocate and disburse funds to community and technical colleges and local district colleges to fund student access to nondegree credential programs. The general assembly is required to appropriate \$1.8 million to the department for this purpose for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Section 4 of the bill requires the general assembly to appropriate \$800,000 to the department of education for the adult education and literacy grant program for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing gaps
5 between workers with postsecondary education and those with a high
6 school diploma or less;

7 (b) Colorado's unemployment rate is consistently higher for adults
8 without a high school diploma, industry credential, higher education
9 credential or degree, or apprenticeship;

10 (c) The support of Colorado adults and youth in attaining a
11 credential of value is a key strategy for people to earn a job that pays a
12 living wage, and may accelerate the economic recovery from the
13 COVID-19 pandemic;

14 (d) The expansion of nondegree credentials aligned to
15 postsecondary education programs may provide opportunities for workers

1 to upskill and reskill in high-wage, in-demand jobs;

2 (e) The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated workforce challenges
3 and institutions of higher education were required to pivot and accelerate
4 a response to workforce demands by creating short-term programs to
5 respond to immediate workforce needs. There is a continued need to
6 ensure that these short-term programs have value and transparency and
7 can be incorporated into degree pathways to best serve learner and earner
8 needs;

9 (f) Credentials are increasingly earned by individuals in various
10 stages and settings of their lives and careers, including high school;
11 postsecondary institutions; trade and occupational schools; on-the-job,
12 work-based learning; apprenticeships; and self-study; and

13 (g) Nondegree credentials may be combined with postsecondary
14 programs to create stackable credential pathways that facilitate career and
15 professional advancement when aligned with growing and high-demand
16 industries.

17 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the COVID-19
18 pandemic has generated broad workforce disruption and that programs
19 and services described in this act are necessary for providing better
20 opportunities for economic advancement, such as higher wages and more
21 opportunities for career and educational advancement.

22 (3) The general assembly further declares that the programs and
23 services described in this act are important government services.

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-145.6 as
25 follows:

26 **23-5-145.6. Opportunities for credential attainment - fund -**
27 **report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE

1 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

2 (a) "APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE" MEANS VERIFICATION OF
3 COMPLETION OF AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM. APPRENTICESHIP
4 CERTIFICATES ARE APPLICABLE TO INDUSTRY TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

5 (b) "COLORADO TALENT REPORT" MEANS THE REPORT PREPARED
6 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103.

7 (c) "COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "COMMISSION" HAS
8 THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-101.1 (1).

9 (d) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
10 EDUCATION CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

11 (e) "GUARANTEED-TRANSFER PATHWAYS" OR "GT PATHWAYS"
12 MEANS THE STATEWIDE ARTICULATION MATRIX SYSTEM OF COMMON
13 COURSE NUMBERING FOR GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES DESCRIBED IN
14 SECTION 23-1-108.5 (3)(c).

15 (f) "INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION" MEANS A CREDENTIAL AWARDED
16 BY AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED THIRD-PARTY OR INDUSTRY-GOVERNING
17 BOARD BASED ON AN INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATING BY ASSESSMENT THAT
18 THE INDIVIDUAL HAS ACQUIRED THE DESIGNATED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS,
19 AND ABILITIES TO PERFORM A SPECIFIC OCCUPATION OR SKILL. INDUSTRY
20 CERTIFICATIONS MAY BE TIME-LIMITED DEPENDENT UPON THE
21 OCCUPATION OR INDUSTRY.

22 (g) "NONDEGREE CREDENTIAL" MEANS A POSTSECONDARY
23 CERTIFICATE, APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE, PROFESSIONAL LICENSE, OR
24 INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION.

25 (h) "POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATE" MEANS A CREDENTIAL
26 AWARDED BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT AN
27 UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL BASED ON COMPLETION OF ALL REQUIREMENTS

1 FOR A PROGRAM OF STUDY, INCLUDING COURSE WORK AND EXAMS.
2 POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATES ARE NOT TIME-LIMITED AND DO NOT
3 REQUIRE RENEWAL. "POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATE" DOES NOT INCLUDE
4 A DEGREE AND DOES NOT INCLUDE A CREDENTIAL AWARDED BY AN
5 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER COMPLETION OF A BACHELOR'S
6 DEGREE IN THE SAME PATHWAY.

7 (i) "STACKABLE CREDENTIAL PATHWAY" MEANS A SEQUENCE OF
8 CREDENTIALS EARNED THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS, INCLUDING THROUGH
9 ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR LEARNING, THAT MAY BE ACCUMULATED OVER
10 TIME AND MOVE AN INDIVIDUAL ALONG A CAREER PATHWAY OR UP A
11 CAREER LADDER.

12 (j) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"
13 HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-135 (2).

14 (k) "STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT" MEANS A
15 STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER AGREEMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION
16 23-1-108 (7).

17 (2) BY JUNE 15, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH
18 INSTITUTIONS AND AT LEAST ONE BUSINESS ORGANIZATION OR
19 REPRESENTATIVE OF INDUSTRY, SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A
20 PROCESS THAT ENCOURAGES INSTITUTIONS TO IDENTIFY INCREMENTAL
21 ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE PATH TO DEGREE COMPLETION, AND ORGANIZE
22 STACKABLE CREDENTIALS THAT BUILD UPON EACH OTHER TOWARD
23 DEGREES AND MAY ARTICULATE TO PATHWAYS IN HIGH-DEMAND
24 INDUSTRIES. THE DEPARTMENT AND INSTITUTIONS SHALL COLLABORATE
25 TO IDENTIFY HOW CREDENTIALS MAY BE EVALUATED FOR THEIR
26 COMPONENT SKILLS, COMPETENCIES, AND LEARNING OUTCOMES, AND
27 THEN MAY BECOME STACKED INTO A STACKABLE CREDENTIAL PATHWAY

1 TO PROVIDE INCREASED ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND MAY RESULT IN A
2 DEGREE. AS A PART OF THE PROCESS, THE DEPARTMENT AND INSTITUTIONS
3 SHALL:

4 (a) EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF NONDEGREE CREDENTIALS THAT
5 ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE THAT LEAD TO IN-DEMAND LIVING WAGE JOBS
6 IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST RECENT COLORADO TALENT REPORT AND
7 RESPOND TO CRITICAL JOB SHORTAGES IN COLORADO. THE DEPARTMENT,
8 IN COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS, SHALL EVALUATE THE QUALITY
9 OF NONDEGREE CREDENTIALS USING THE FRAMEWORK AND PROCESS
10 CREATED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2) AND INFORMED BY ONE OR MORE
11 QUALITY STANDARDS FRAMEWORKS DEVELOPED BY NATIONAL
12 ORGANIZATIONS.

13 (b) (I) IDENTIFY WHERE ALIGNMENT CURRENTLY EXISTS ALONG A
14 DEGREE PATHWAY BETWEEN NONDEGREE AND DEGREE CREDENTIALS AND
15 WORK-BASED LEARNING AND APPRENTICESHIPS; AND

16 (II) IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP WHERE FURTHER
17 ALIGNMENT MAY BE CREATED BETWEEN NONDEGREE AND DEGREE
18 CREDENTIALS, AND WORK-BASED LEARNING AND APPRENTICESHIPS; AND

19 (c) ARTICULATE WHERE THE VARIOUS ALIGNMENTS IDENTIFIED IN
20 SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION MAY INCORPORATE INTO STACKABLE
21 CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS THAT MAY LEAD TO A DEGREE AND
22 OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREDITS TO BE TRANSFERRED IN ORDER FOR PERSONS
23 TO BE ABLE TO ATTAIN NONDEGREE OR DEGREE CREDENTIALS THAT LEAD
24 TO IN-DEMAND OR LIVING WAGE JOBS.

25 (3) BY JANUARY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION
26 WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-5-145.5(5), SHALL
27 FACILITATE THE CREATION OF STACKABLE CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS FOR AT

1 LEAST THREE GROWING INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED BY THE MOST RECENT
2 COLORADO TALENT REPORT. BY JANUARY 1, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT, IN
3 CONSULTATION WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES DESCRIBED IN SECTION
4 23-5-145.5 (5), SHALL FACILITATE THE CREATION OF STACKABLE
5 CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS FOR AT LEAST TWO ADDITIONAL GROWING
6 INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED BY THE MOST RECENT COLORADO TALENT REPORT.
7 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FACILITATE THE CREATION OF AT LEAST TWO
8 STACKABLE CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS FOR EACH INDUSTRY. THE
9 STACKABLE CREDENTIAL PATHWAYS MUST INCLUDE:

10 (a) A COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK THAT ARTICULATES THE
11 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, LEARNING OUTCOMES, NONDEGREE CREDENTIALS,
12 AND DEGREES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PATHWAY, AND IDENTIFIES THE
13 CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ASSOCIATED
14 WITH THE PATHWAY;

15 (b) AN INVENTORY OF CREDENTIALS THAT ARE A PART OF THE
16 PATHWAY, OFFERED BY ACCREDITED AND NON-ACCREDITED PROVIDERS,
17 INCLUDING TRAINING AND INDUSTRY CREDENTIAL PROVIDERS, HIGH
18 SCHOOLS, PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED BY THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT
19 SUCCESS PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-54-138, POSTSECONDARY
20 INSTITUTIONS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

21 (c) CREDENTIALS THAT ARE A PART OF THE PATHWAY EVALUATED
22 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-5-145.5 (3), INCLUDING CREDIT AWARDED FOR
23 COURSES IN GT PATHWAYS OR A STATEWIDE DEGREE TRANSFER
24 AGREEMENT; AND

25 (d) CREDITS THAT ARE AWARDED FOR OTHER COURSES WITH A
26 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOCUS IN A POSTSECONDARY
27 DEGREE, NON-CREDIT PROGRAM, OR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

4 (5) (a) THE CREDENTIALS TO SUPPORT COLORADO JOBS CASH
5 FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND", IS CREATED IN THE
6 STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY CREDITED TO THE FUND
7 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER
8 MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATES OR TRANSFERS TO
9 THE FUND.

10 (b) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE
12 DEPARTMENT FROM THE WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AND WORKFORCE
13 CENTERS CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-231. THE DEPARTMENT
14 SHALL USE THIS APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THIS
15 SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SPEND OR OBLIGATE ANY MONEY BY
16 DECEMBER 31, 2024. ANY MONEY OBLIGATED BY DECEMBER 31, 2024,
17 MUST BE EXPENDED BY DECEMBER 31, 2026.

18 (c) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
19 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
20 FUND TO THE FUND.

21 (d) MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE
22 FUND FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

23 (6) THE DEPARTMENT AND ANY PERSON WHO RECEIVES MONEY
24 FROM THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE COMPLIANCE,
25 REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
26 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND
27 BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION

1 24-75-226 (5).

2 (7) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 29, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE
3 DECEMBER 31, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL
4 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND
5 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,
6 REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION. THE REPORT MUST
7 INCLUDE DATA COLLECTED BY INSTITUTIONS TO MEASURE THE TOTAL
8 NUMBER OF CREDITS, CREDENTIALS, CERTIFICATES, AND PROFESSIONAL
9 LICENSES EARNED IN EACH PATHWAY AT EACH INSTITUTION, AS
10 PRACTICABLE. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE DATA FOR THE STATE AS
11 A WHOLE AND FOR EACH INSTITUTION, IN TOTAL AND DISAGGREGATED BY
12 RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER.

13 (8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 23-5-145.7 as**
15 follows:

16 **23-5-145.7. Funding for nondegree credential programs - duty**
17 **- policy - appropriation - report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN
18 THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

19 (a) "APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE" MEANS VERIFICATION OF
20 COMPLETION OF AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM. APPRENTICESHIP
21 CERTIFICATES ARE APPLICABLE TO INDUSTRY TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

22 (b) "COLORADO TALENT REPORT" MEANS THE REPORT PREPARED
23 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46.3-103.

24 (c) "COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "COMMISSION" HAS
25 THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-101.1 (1).

26 (d) "COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE" MEANS THE
27 COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-60-205

1 OR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER CAREER AND
2 TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR ASSOCIATE DEGREES.

3 (e) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
4 EDUCATION CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

5 (f) "INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION" MEANS A CREDENTIAL AWARDED
6 BY AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED THIRD-PARTY OR INDUSTRY-GOVERNING
7 BOARD BASED ON AN INDIVIDUAL DEMONSTRATING BY ASSESSMENT THAT
8 THE INDIVIDUAL HAS ACQUIRED THE DESIGNATED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS,
9 AND ABILITIES TO PERFORM A SPECIFIC OCCUPATION OR SKILL. INDUSTRY
10 CERTIFICATIONS MAY BE TIME-LIMITED DEPENDENT UPON THE
11 OCCUPATION OR INDUSTRY.

12 (g) "LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS
13 DEFINED IN SECTION 23-71-102 (1).

14 (h) "NONDEGREE CREDENTIAL" MEANS A POSTSECONDARY
15 CERTIFICATE, APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE, PROFESSIONAL LICENSE, OR
16 INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION.

17 (i) "POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATE" MEANS A CREDENTIAL
18 AWARDED BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT AN
19 UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL BASED ON COMPLETION OF ALL REQUIREMENTS
20 FOR A PROGRAM OF STUDY, INCLUDING COURSE WORK AND EXAMS.
21 POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATES ARE NOT TIME-LIMITED AND DO NOT
22 REQUIRE RENEWAL. "POSTSECONDARY CERTIFICATE" DOES NOT INCLUDE
23 A DEGREE AND DOES NOT INCLUDE A CREDENTIAL AWARDED BY AN
24 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER COMPLETION OF A BACHELOR'S
25 DEGREE IN THE SAME PATHWAY.

26 (2) SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATION IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS
27 SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ALLOCATE AND DISBURSE FUNDS TO

1 COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES AND LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES
2 TO FUND STUDENT ACCESS TO NONDEGREE CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS.

3 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL CREATE A POLICY CONCERNING THE
4 ALLOCATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS. THE POLICY MUST PRIORITIZE
5 FUNDING NONDEGREE CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS THAT:

6 (a) ARE PART OF AN INDUSTRY-ALIGNED PATHWAY;
7 (b) ARE ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIES IDENTIFIED IN THE MOST
8 RECENT COLORADO TALENT REPORT;
9 (c) ARE STACKABLE IN ALIGNMENT WITH SECTION 23-5-145.6; AND
10 (d) ADDRESS CRITICAL JOB SHORTAGES IN COLORADO.

11 (4) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, EACH COMMUNITY AND
12 TECHNICAL COLLEGE OR LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE THAT RECEIVES
13 FUNDING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
14 DEPARTMENT. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE DATA TO
15 MEASURE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CREDENTIALS EARNED AND SUBSEQUENT
16 PLACEMENTS IN JOBS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO WORKFORCE DEMANDS
17 PURSUANT TO THE NONDEGREE CREDENTIAL PROGRAM. THE REPORT MUST
18 INCLUDE THE DATA FOR THE STATE AS A WHOLE AND FOR EACH RECIPIENT,
19 IN TOTAL AND DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER.

20 (5) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 5, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
21 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND
22 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,
23 REGARDING THE FUNDING ALLOCATED AND DISTRIBUTED PURSUANT TO
24 THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST SUMMARIZE THE
25 INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
26 (4) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (6) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND
2 DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE
3 DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT USE MORE THAN THREE PERCENT OF THE
4 APPROPRIATION TO ADMINISTER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

5 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

6 **SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-1006, amend**
7 (1)(a)(I) as follows:

8 **23-3.3-1006. Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative -**
9 **federal money - institutional allocations - purposes - reporting - rules**
10 **- definitions - repeal.** (1) As used in this section, unless the context
11 otherwise requires:

12 (a) "Eligible student" means an undergraduate, in-state student
13 who:

14 (I) Earned some postsecondary credits from a public or private
15 higher education institution but did not complete a credential REQUIRING
16 THIRTY CREDITS OR MORE before deciding not to enroll for two or more
17 consecutive semesters; or

18 **SECTION 5. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal
19 year, \$800,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This
20 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the
21 department may use this appropriation for the adult education and literacy
22 grant program.

23 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,800,000 is appropriated
24 to the department of higher education for use by the Colorado
25 commission on higher education. This appropriation is from the general
26 fund. To implement this act, the commission may use this appropriation
27 for allocations to community and technical colleges and local district

1 colleges to fund student access to nondegree credential programs.

2 (3) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated
3 to the credentials to support Colorado jobs cash fund created in section
4 23-5-145.6 (5)(a), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the workers,
5 employers, and workforce centers cash fund created in section
6 24-75-231(2)(a), C.R.S. The department of higher education is
7 responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.

8 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
9 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
10 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.