

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0174.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 26-1029

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman,

House Committees

Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ENHANCING REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY**
102 **ALTERING THE MEMBERSHIP OF CERTAIN ENTITIES INVOLVED IN**
103 **HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE.**

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 enhances student representation in higher education by expanding the Colorado commission on higher education (commission) from 11 to 13 voting members by adding 2 student members who are enrolled at a state-supported institution of higher education (student members). The bill adds:

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

- One student member from a graduate research university or a 4-year institution of higher education; and
- One student member from a community college, local district college, or area technical college.

The bill shrinks the advisory committee to the commission from 13 to 12 members by removing the advisory committee member designated to represent the students of the state.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-102, **amend** (3)
3 and (4); and **add** (3.5) and (9) as follows:

4 **23-1-102. Commission established - terms of office - definition.**

5 (3) (a) The commission consists of the following members,
6 appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate:

7 (I) One member from each congressional district in the state; **and**
8 (II) Three members from the state at large;
9 (III) ONE STUDENT MEMBER WHO, AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT,
10 IS ENROLLED AS A STUDENT AT A STATE-SUPPORTED GRADUATE RESEARCH
11 UNIVERSITY OR A STATE-SUPPORTED FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
12 EDUCATION; AND

13 (IV) ONE STUDENT MEMBER WHO, AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT,
14 IS ENROLLED AS A STUDENT AT A STATE-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY
15 COLLEGE, LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

16 (b) The governor shall select the members of the commission on
17 the basis of their knowledge of and interest in higher education. At least
18 one member of the commission WHO IS NOT A STUDENT MEMBER must
19 reside west of the continental divide. No more than a minimum majority
20 of the members of the commission, EXCLUDING THE STUDENT MEMBERS,
21 may be affiliated with the same political party at any time. TO THE
22 EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP MUST INCLUDE

1 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND REFLECT THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC
2 DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

3 (c) The term of each NON-STUDENT member is four years, AND
4 THE TERM OF A STUDENT MEMBER IS TWO YEARS; except that the terms
5 shall be staggered so that no more than a minimum majority of
6 members' terms expire in the same year. No member of the commission
7 may serve more than two consecutive full four-year terms. A STUDENT
8 MEMBER WHO GRADUATES FROM THE STUDENT'S STATE-SUPPORTED
9 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING THE STUDENT'S TERM MAY
10 CONTINUE TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION THROUGH THE NATURAL
11 EXPIRATION DATE OF THE STUDENT MEMBER'S TERM.

12 (3.5)(a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAKE
13 THE INITIAL APPOINTMENTS OF STUDENT MEMBERS.

14 (b) IF A STUDENT MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
15 (3)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION WITHDRAWS FROM EITHER A STATE-SUPPORTED
16 GRADUATE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY OR A STATE-SUPPORTED FOUR-YEAR
17 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY
18 RE-ENROLL AS A STUDENT AT A DIFFERENT STATE-SUPPORTED GRADUATE
19 RESEARCH UNIVERSITY OR STATE-SUPPORTED FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF
20 HIGHER EDUCATION, THEN A VACANCY IS CREATED. IF A STUDENT MEMBER
21 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a)(IV) OF THIS SECTION
22 WITHDRAWS FROM A STATE-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LOCAL
23 DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND DOES NOT
24 IMMEDIATELY RE-ENROLL AS A STUDENT AT A DIFFERENT
25 STATE-SUPPORTED COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR
26 AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, THEN A VACANCY IS CREATED. THE GOVERNOR
27 SHALL FILL A VACANCY CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3.5)(b)

1 BY APPOINTING A NEW STUDENT MEMBER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE
2 UNEXPIRED TERM.

3 (4) (a) At the time of appointment, ~~no~~ A member of the
4 commission ~~shall~~ MUST NOT have been an officer, employee, or member
5 of a governing board or an officer or employee of ~~any~~ A state-supported
6 institution of higher education in the state for a period of one year prior
7 to ~~his or her~~ THE MEMBER'S appointment. During ~~his or her~~ A MEMBER OF
8 THE COMMISSION'S term of office, ~~no~~ THE member ~~of the commission~~
9 ~~shall~~ MUST NOT be a member of the general assembly or an officer,
10 employee, or member of a governing board or an officer or employee of
11 a state-supported institution of higher education.

12 (b) THE REQUIREMENTS IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION
13 REGARDING CONNECTIONS WITH A GOVERNING BOARD OR
14 STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DO NOT APPLY TO
15 A STUDENT MEMBER.

16 (9) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
17 REQUIRES, "STUDENT MEMBER" MEANS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION
18 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a)(III), (3)(a)(IV), OR (3.5) OF
19 THIS SECTION.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-103, **amend** (1)
21 introductory portion and (1)(b) as follows:

22 **23-1-103. Advisory committee to the Colorado commission on**
23 **higher education.**

24 (1) There is ~~hereby~~ established an advisory committee to the
25 commission for the purpose of suggesting solutions for the problems and
26 needs of higher education and maintaining liaison with the general
27 assembly and the governing boards for state-supported institutions of

1 higher education. The advisory committee ~~shall consist~~ CONSISTS of not
2 less than ~~thirteen~~ TWELVE members, to be designated as follows:

3 (b) ~~One member shall be selected and designated by the~~
4 ~~commission to represent the faculty in the state and one member shall be~~
5 ~~selected and designated by the commission to represent the students in the~~
6 ~~state. On and after August 5, 2009, THE COMMISSION SHALL SELECT AND~~
7 ~~DESIGNATE ONE MEMBER TO REPRESENT THE FACULTY IN THE STATE. The~~
8 ~~commission shall select and designate one member who, at the time of~~
9 ~~designation, is a parent of a student who is enrolled in a state-supported~~
10 ~~institution of higher education in Colorado to represent the parents of~~
11 ~~students.~~

12 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-105.5, **amend**
13 (1)(a) as follows:

14 **23-1-105.5. Duties and powers of the commission with respect**
15 **to student fees - report on tuition and fees.**

16 (1) (a) The commission shall adopt policies concerning the
17 collection and use of student fees by the governing boards of the state
18 institutions of higher education, as defined in section 23-5-119.5. The
19 policies may address, but need not be limited to, the purposes for student
20 fees; categories of student fees; the distinctions between tuition revenue
21 and student fee revenue; accounting for student fee revenue; student fee
22 fund balances; the minimum level of student involvement in the processes
23 for establishing, reviewing, changing the amount of, and discontinuing
24 student fees; and student fees that apply to a student concurrently enrolled
25 pursuant to article 35 of title 22. In preparing the policies, the commission
26 shall seek input from the governing boards, the state institutions of higher
27 education, ~~and the student representative to the advisory committee~~

1 created pursuant to section 23-1-103 and representatives of the student
2 governments at the state institutions of higher education.

3 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
6 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
7 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
8 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
9 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
10 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
11 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.