

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 13-0625.01 Brita Darling x2241

**SENATE BILL 13-165**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Todd,** Jahn, Marble

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Wilson,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Education

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING AUTHORIZING A LIMITED NUMBER OF BACCALAUREATE**  
102             **DEGREES THAT MAY BE OFFERED IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
103             **SYSTEM.**

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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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill allows the state board for community colleges and occupational education (state board) to seek approval from the Colorado commission on higher education (CCHE) for up to 10 technical, career and work force development baccalaureate degree programs that may be

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

offered at community colleges within the state system.

The CCHE may approve baccalaureate degree programs that meet criteria established in the bill. Among other factors, the CCHE shall consider whether the baccalaureate degree program proposed by the state board is sufficiently distinguishable from a degree program at a public 4-year institution of higher education in the community college geographic service area, or whether the degree program is one that has previously been offered successfully in conjunction with another 4-year institution of higher education.

The state board may authorize the establishment of an approved baccalaureate degree program at a community college within the state system.

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

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

4           (a) It is a priority in Colorado to afford the citizens in rural and  
5 urban areas of the state greater access to higher education; and

6           (b) Four-year baccalaureate degrees are of increasing importance  
7 in enabling individuals to qualify for and obtain jobs.

8           (2) It is therefore in the best interests of the state of Colorado to  
9 allow community colleges within the state system to offer a limited  
10 number of four-year baccalaureate degrees.

11           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-60-201 as  
12 follows:

13           **23-60-201. State system of community and technical colleges**  
14 **established - local district colleges - role and mission.** There is hereby  
15 established a state system of community and technical colleges which  
16 shall be under the management and jurisdiction of the state board for  
17 community colleges and occupational education. The mission of the  
18 community colleges shall be to serve Colorado residents who reside in  
19 their service areas by offering a broad range of general, personal,

1 vocational, and technical education programs. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN  
2 SECTION 23-60-211, each college shall be a two-year college. Each  
3 community college may offer two-year degree programs with or without  
4 academic designation, AND, UPON APPROVAL OF THE BOARD PURSUANT TO  
5 SECTION 23-60-211, MAY OFFER A LIMITED NUMBER OF TECHNICAL,  
6 CAREER AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT BACCALAUREATE DEGREE  
7 PROGRAMS. No college shall impose admission requirements upon any  
8 student. The objects of the community and technical colleges shall be to  
9 provide educational programs to fill the occupational needs of youth and  
10 adults in technical and vocational fields, two-year transfer educational  
11 programs to qualify students for admission to the junior year at other  
12 colleges and universities, basic skills, workforce development, and a  
13 broad range of personal and vocational education for adults, AND  
14 TECHNICAL, CAREER AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT BACCALAUREATE  
15 DEGREE PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-60-211, THAT  
16 ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY WITHIN EACH COMMUNITY  
17 COLLEGE SERVICE AREA.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-60-211, **add** (3)  
19 as follows:

20 **23-60-211. Degrees.** (3) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH AT  
21 COMMUNITY COLLEGES WITHIN THE STATE SYSTEM TECHNICAL, CAREER  
22 AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS  
23 APPROVED BY THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION,  
24 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-132, NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF  
25 SECTION 23-5-129 (6) (b) TO THE CONTRARY.

26 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-1-132 as  
27 follows:

1           **23-1-132. Commission directive - baccalaureate degree**  
2 **programs - community colleges - approval.** (1) THE STATE BOARD FOR  
3 COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION, REFERRED TO IN  
4 THIS SECTION AS THE "STATE BOARD", MAY SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION  
5 FOR ITS APPROVAL TECHNICAL, CAREER AND WORK FORCE  
6 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS TO BE OFFERED AT ONE OR MORE  
7 COMMUNITY COLLEGES WITHIN THE STATE SYSTEM. THE COMMISSION MAY  
8 APPROVE UP TO TEN DEGREE PROGRAMS. THE COMMISSION SHALL  
9 CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO  
10 APPROVE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM:

11           (a) WHETHER THE STATE BOARD PROVIDES DATA DEMONSTRATING  
12 WORKFORCE AND STUDENT DEMAND FOR THE DEGREE PROGRAM;

13           (b) THE REGIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION  
14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE PROGRAM, IF APPLICABLE, AND  
15 COMPLIANCE WITH THOSE REQUIREMENTS, AS APPROPRIATE, AT BOTH THE  
16 INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAM LEVELS;

17           (c) WHETHER THE STATE BOARD CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT  
18 PROVISION OF THE DEGREE PROGRAM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
19 SYSTEM IS COST-EFFECTIVE; AND

20           (d) WHETHER THE STATE BOARD CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT THE  
21 DEGREE PROGRAM IS SUFFICIENTLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM A DEGREE  
22 PROGRAM AT A PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN  
23 THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA, OR THAT THE  
24 DEGREE PROGRAM IS ONE THAT HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN OFFERED  
25 SUCCESSFULLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANOTHER FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION  
26 OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

27           (2) IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO APPROVE A BACCALAUREATE

1 DEGREE PROGRAM, THE COMMISSION MAY CONSULT WITH ANY PUBLIC  
2 FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT SHARES THE SAME  
3 GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA AS THE STATE BOARD'S PROPOSED DEGREE  
4 PROGRAM TO INFORM THE COMMISSION OF ANY ANTICIPATED SYSTEMWIDE  
5 EFFECTS OF THE NEW DEGREE PROGRAM.

6 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
7 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
8 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
9 7, 2013, if adjournment sine die is on May 8, 2013); except that, if a  
10 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
11 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
12 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
13 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
14 November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
15 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.