

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

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 13-0625.01 Brita Darling x2241

SENATE BILL 13-165

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd, Jahn, Marble

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Wilson,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

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.**

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.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 19, 2013

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.

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. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION
26 SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO ALLOW FOR THE APPROVAL OF BACHELOR OF
27 ARTS DEGREE PROGRAMS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A BACHELOR OF FINE

1 ARTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 SUCCESSFULLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANOTHER FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION
2 OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

3 (2) IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO APPROVE A BACCALAUREATE
4 DEGREE PROGRAM, THE COMMISSION MAY CONSULT WITH ANY PUBLIC
5 FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT SHARES THE SAME
6 GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA AS THE STATE BOARD'S PROPOSED DEGREE
7 PROGRAM TO INFORM THE COMMISSION OF ANY ANTICIPATED SYSTEMWIDE
8 EFFECTS OF THE NEW DEGREE PROGRAM.

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