



Workforce and Skills Legislation at the Capitol

The following bills in the 2017 Colorado General Assembly focus on some issues related to skills training for Colorado workers.

SUPPORT

Senate Bill 17-118 Senator Fields (D) and Representative Weissman (D)

Information on Private Occupational Schools

The bill increases consumer information about private occupational schools at two points:

1. Disclosure prior to signing of the enrollment contract

A private occupational school is already required to provide some information to students regarding cost and length of programs. This bill adds

- Program completion rates
- Transfer rates, if known
- Employment rates
- Median salary
- Typical student loan debt information if school participates in federal student loan program

2. An online, free comparative tool to use when researching options

Ideally this information would be on the same website as other choices such as public institutions, apprenticeships, etc. The Colorado Department of Higher Education is currently building out such a website: <https://www.cotrainingproviders.org/#/>. This bill would add all private occupational schools, as compared to just those seeking Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or other federal funding. Available information would include:

- Costs
- Completion and program credential attainment rates
- Aggregate employment and earnings information of former students
- Student Loan debt information

Killed in Senate State Affairs

House Bill 17-1180 Representatives Winter (D) & Lawrence ® & Senators Tim Neville ® & Kerr (D)

Tuition Assistance for Certificate Programs.

The bill would amend the previously passed legislation to fund certificate programs ineligible for Pell because they are too short. The bill clarifies that “tuition” includes tuition fees and course materials.

Signed into law.

MONITOR

House Bill 17-1041 Representative Covarrubias (R) and Senator Priola (R) **Inform Students and Parents of Education Leading to Jobs** Requires local education provider that provides concurrent enrollment to provide notice to students twice a year that explains the number and types of credentials a student may earn through concurrent enrollment and the types of jobs available to person who hold those credentials.

Signed into law

House Bill 17-1004 Representative Michaelson Genet (D) **College Credit for Military Education and Training.** Requires the Commission on Higher Education to create a statewide metric for awarding college credit for military education and training This metric put into effect in 2018-19 academic year.
Senate Education

House Bill 17-1251 Representative Nordberg ® and Senator Moreno (D) **Report Requirements by Higher Education to General Assembly.** Discontinues certain previously required reports.
House Education

House Bill 17-1258 Representatives Hamner (D) and Willet ® and Senators Coram ® and Donovan (D) **Rename Delta Montrose Technical College**
House Education

House Bill 17-1272 Representative Hooton (D) and Senator Moreno (D) **Repeal Reports by Dept of Labor and Employment to General Assembly.** Discontinues reports on hospitality training grant program after 2019.
House Business

House Bill 17—1007 Representative Garnett (D) and Senator Gardner (R) **Tax Benefit Employer CollegeInvest Contribution.** Employers could get an income tax deduction for amounts contributed to employee’s college savings account.
Killed in House Education

House Bill 17-1164 Representative Everett ® and Senators Neville T ® & Marble (R) –**Higher Ed Review Degree Program Costs and Outcomes** – Would require the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to conduct a costs and benefits and outcomes analysis of all programs of Colorado State University and the University of Colorado. Purpose is to identify which have the best outcomes for the costs.
Killed in House Education.

Senate Bill 17-022 Senator Donovan (D)- **Rural Economic Advancement of Colorado Towns** Establishes \$500,000/yr fund to help financially and with technical assistance for rural communities experiencing a significant economic event such as plant closures and industry wide layoffs. Mentions the words “job training” on page 5 line 24.
Killed in Senate Finance

NEW BILLS-Are they in our scope?

Senate Bill 17-272 Senator Priola (R) and Representative Pettersen (D) and Lundeen (R) –**Measures of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness.** Relates to the State Board of Education adding an additional measure of postsecondary and workforce readiness related to not needing remediation. *House Education*

House Bill 17-1287 Representatives Hamner (D) and Rankin (R) and Senators Priola (R) and Kerr (D)- **Achieving a Vision for Education in Colorado.** Creates a strategic planning process to establish a vision and strategic plan for public education. *Senate State Affairs*

House Bill 17-1294 Representative Weissman (D) **Counting Ascent Program Students in Graduation Rate** .Relates to counting students as graduated when they have met their graduation requirements, even if they are concurrently enrolled in college, and hence not graduating. *Senate Education*

House Bill 17-1300 Representative Benavidez (D) **Apprentice Utilization in Public Projects** Requires larger state construction projects to utilize 25% apprentices in the contract workforce if the workforce includes trades that are apprenticeable *House Floor*

House Bill 17-1301 Representative Michaelson Jenet (D) and Senators Holbert (R) and Fields (D)

No withholding Student Transcripts for Library Fines . This bill prohibits schools and school districts from withholding transcripts for fines owed . *House Floor*

House Bill 17-1305 Representatives Foote (D) and Melton (D) and Senator Guzman (D) **Limits on Job Applicant's Criminal History Inquires.** Prohibits asking about criminal record on the job application unless position legally excludes someone from having a criminal record. Does not restrict employer asking about history later, or conducting a background check. *House Appropriations.*

Copies of the full bills are available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>

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