



Support SB17-118

Information on Private Occupational Schools

Senator Rhonda Fields and Representative Mike Weisman

The Issue

Many Coloradans seek additional education and training, expecting that additional skills and credentials will help them get a better job and increase their earnings. The marketplace for education works best when critical and comparative information is readily available. To exercise personal responsibility in choosing a program field of study, students need to know not only how much time and money they will need to invest. They need information on what students who attended that school, program and campus tended to earn and whether they got jobs. Only then can they judge potential return on investment.

What the Bill Does

The bill increases consumer information 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

As is already required of schools receiving WIOA or other federal funding, the schools would provide student level records which will allow the state and federal agencies to obtain the information listed. The Private Occupational School Board has the power to establish necessary rules and procedures, and has the authority to make exceptions if the information is currently unavailable or is unreasonably burdensome.

For additional information, contact

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