A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING AN IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM THROUGH THE COLLABORATION OF MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

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/.)

Making Higher Education Attainable Interim Study Committee. The bill creates the improve student success innovation pilot
program (pilot program) in the department of higher education (department) to implement a program designed to incentivize collaboration among multiple institutions of higher education to improve student success and increase the number of students who complete postsecondary education.

When selecting a program or programs for the pilot program, the department and commission on higher education (commission) shall prioritize program proposals that address common barriers to student success and the completion of postsecondary education, as well as other factors.

The department and commission shall submit an annual report to the joint budget committee of the general assembly and the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate regarding the efficacy of the program.

The general assembly shall appropriate $20 million each year for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 fiscal years, from the general fund to the department to distribute to the state institutions of higher education selected to implement their projects.

The pilot program repeals on July 1, 2024.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add article 79 to title 23 as follows:

ARTICLE 79

Improve Student Success

Innovation Pilot Program

23-79-101. Definitions. As used in this article 79, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Commission on Higher Education" or "Commission" means the Colorado Commission on Higher Education established pursuant to section 23-1-102.

(2) "Department of Higher Education" or "Department" means the Department of Higher Education created pursuant to section 24-1-114.
"INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-1-135.

"PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-79-102.

23-79-102. Improve student success innovation pilot program - creation - selection of project - report - appropriation. (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS INNOVATION PILOT PROGRAM. THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS FOR MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS TO COLLABORATE TO STUDY STUDENT SUCCESS MEASURES TO IDENTIFY COMMON BARRIERS TO STUDENT SUCCESS AND THE COMPLETION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TO THEREBY CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

(2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AND ADMINISTER A PROCESS FOR COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS TO SUBMIT A PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSION MAY CREATE A RUBRIC FOR SCORING PROGRAM PROPOSALS BASED ON THE FACTORS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (2)(c)(II) AND (2)(c)(III) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) THE PROGRAM PROPOSAL MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, A DESCRIPTION OF:

(I) A RESEARCH PHASE, FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR, WHERE THE COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS WILL RESEARCH A COMMON BARRIER OR BARRIERS TO STUDENT SUCCESS AND THE COMPLETION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND
(II) AN IMPLEMENTATION PHASE, FOR NOT LESS THAN TWO YEARS,
WHERE THE COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS WILL IMPLEMENT THE
PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS AND EXAMINE THE RESULTS.

(c) (I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT
SHALL REVIEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS AND RECOMMEND A PROGRAM OR
PROGRAMS TO BE SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(II) THE DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSION SHALL PRIORITIZE A
PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS A COMMON BARRIER OR BARRIERS
to student success and the completion of postsecondary
education, including but not limited to:

(A) COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING
but not limited to admission applications and financial aid
applications;

(B) CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION, INCLUDING BUT
NOT LIMITED TO ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND ADEQUATE FOOD, HOUSING,
MEDICAL SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, COUNSELING
SERVICES, AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES; AND

(C) EFFICIENT AND COMPREHENSIVE COMPLETION OF APPLICABLE
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
ACQUISITION OF A CREDENTIAL, CERTIFICATE, OR DEGREE, GRADUATION
RATES, ACCEPTANCE INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL, AND FULL-TIME
EMPLOYMENT RELATING TO FIELD OF STUDY.

(III) FOR PURPOSES OF SELECTING A PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS FOR
THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSION SHALL
CONSIDER, AT A MINIMUM:

(A) THE PROBABILITY OF THE PROGRAM PROPOSAL TO INCREASE
THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THEIR
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION;

(B) THE ABILITY OF THE PROGRAM PROPOSAL TO BE ADOPTED AND
IMPLEMENTED AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS; AND

(C) THE DEGREE THAT THE PROGRAM PROPOSAL ADVANCES OTHER
OBJECTIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE
MASTER PLAN CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-1-108 (1.5).

(3) (a) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE
DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE
COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
COMMITTEES.

(b) THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, OUTCOMES,
COSTS, STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND SATISFACTION, AND ANY OTHER
DATA AND INFORMATION NECESSARY TO EVALUATE THE PROGRAM'S
EFFICACY.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS SHALL PROVIDE DATA AND
INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMISSION REGARDING
OUTCOMES, COSTS, STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND SATISFACTION, AND ANY
OTHER DATA AND INFORMATION NECESSARY TO EVALUATE THE
PROGRAM'S EFFICACY.

(4) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TWENTY
MILLION DOLLARS EACH YEAR FOR THE 2020-21, 2021-22, AND 2022-23
STATE FISCAL YEARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE
DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE APPROPRIATION TO THE
INSTITUTIONS SELECTED TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS
UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM.
23-79-103. Repeal of article. This article 79 is repealed, effective July 1, 2024.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.