

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0478.02 Lindy Schaible x4215

**HOUSE BILL 26-1093**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Martinez,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

Education

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE**  
102       **HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND FOR**  
103       **PERSONS WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN COLORADO.**

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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://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill creates a working group to make findings and recommendations concerning how to implement the college opportunity fund for persons who are incarcerated in Colorado, including whether fee-for-service contracts for participating institutions of higher education need to be modified. The bill requires the working group to report its

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

findings and recommendations to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate on or before December 1, 2026.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-151 as  
3 follows:

4           **23-5-151. Implementing the college opportunity fund for**  
5 **persons incarcerated in Colorado working group - creation -**  
6 **members - duties - report - repeal.**

7           (1) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
8 EDUCATION, OR THEIR DESIGNEE, SHALL CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO  
9 STUDY HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND, CREATED  
10 IN SECTION 23-18-202, FOR PERSONS INCARCERATED IN COLORADO.

11           (2) (a) THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING  
12 MEMBERS:

13           (I) THE PRESIDENT OF ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY OR THEIR  
14 DESIGNEE;

15           (II) THE PRESIDENT OF TRINIDAD STATE COLLEGE OR THEIR  
16 DESIGNEE;

17           (III) TWO ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES,  
18 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY OR THE  
19 PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;

20           (IV) THE PRESIDENT OF PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR THEIR  
21 DESIGNEE;

22           (V) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT  
23 DENVER OR THEIR DESIGNEE;

24           (VI) TWO EXPERTS FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UNIT OF THE  
25 COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE

1 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OR THEIR DESIGNEE;

2 (VII) ONE FINANCIAL AID REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERTISE IN  
3 SECOND CHANCE PELL GRANTS, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF ADAMS  
4 STATE UNIVERSITY OR THEIR DESIGNEE; AND

5 (VIII) ONE COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM  
6 REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SYSTEM OFFICE, APPOINTED BY THE  
7 CHANCELLOR OF THE COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OR THEIR  
8 DESIGNEE.

9 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE THEIR  
10 APPOINTMENTS TO THE WORKING GROUP NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2026.

11 (c) WORKING GROUP MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THEIR  
12 RESPECTIVE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES. IF A WORKING GROUP VACANCY  
13 OCCURS, THE APPROPRIATE APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL, WITHIN  
14 FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER THE VACANCY, APPOINT A NEW MEMBER WHO  
15 SATISFIES THE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT OF THE VACATED SEAT.

16 (d) WORKING GROUP MEMBERS DO NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION  
17 OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.

18 (3) (a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
19 EDUCATION, OR THEIR DESIGNEE, SHALL FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE  
20 WORKING GROUP. THE WORKING GROUP SHALL ALLOW FOR REMOTE  
21 PARTICIPATION AT EACH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP.

22 (b) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
23 EDUCATION, OR THEIR DESIGNEE, SHALL CONVENE THE FIRST MEETING OF  
24 THE WORKING GROUP NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2026. THE WORKING  
25 GROUP SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES AND SHALL COMPLETE ITS  
26 DUTIES NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2026.

27 (4) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL MAKE FINDINGS AND

1 RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE COLLEGE  
2 OPPORTUNITY FUND FOR PERSONS WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN COLORADO,  
3 INCLUDING WHETHER FEE-FOR-SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR PARTICIPATING  
4 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION NEED TO BE MODIFIED.

5 (5) THE WORKING GROUP MAY COLLABORATE WITH ANY PERSON  
6 OR ENTITY THAT THE WORKING GROUP DEEMS APPROPRIATE TO ASSIST THE  
7 WORKING GROUP IN PERFORMING ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.  
8 A STATE ENTITY THAT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE  
9 WORKING GROUP SHALL ASSIST THE WORKING GROUP, TO THE EXTENT THE  
10 ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE STATE ENTITY IS CONSISTENT WITH THE  
11 STATE ENTITY'S DUTIES AND THE LAW.

12 (6) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, THE WORKING GROUP  
13 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT THAT INCLUDES ITS FINDINGS AND  
14 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

16 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

17 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
20 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
21 institutions.