

**First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 15-0071.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 15-1037

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Priola, Humphrey, Landgraf, Neville P.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Neville T., Grantham, Hill, Lundberg, Woods

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR STUDENT GROUPS AT STATE**
102 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER 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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill prohibits a state institution of higher education (institution) from denying a religious student group a benefit that the institution provides to a nonreligious student group solely because the religious student group requires its leaders to adhere to the group's sincerely held religious beliefs or standards of conduct. These benefits include recognition, registration, use of institution facilities, use of

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.

institution channels of communication, and available institution funding sources.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 23-5-138.5 as
3 follows:

4 **23-5-138.5. Religious freedom - definitions.** (1) A STATE
5 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL NOT TAKE AN ACTION OR
6 ENFORCE A POLICY THAT DENIES A RELIGIOUS STUDENT GROUP A BENEFIT
7 OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO ANOTHER STUDENT GROUP BASED SOLELY ON
8 THE RELIGIOUS STUDENT GROUP'S REQUIREMENT THAT ITS LEADERS
9 ADHERE TO THE GROUP'S SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OR
10 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.

11 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
12 REQUIRES:

13 (a) "BENEFITS" MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, WITHOUT
14 LIMITATION:

15 (I) RECOGNITION;

16 (II) REGISTRATION;

17 (III) THE USE OF FACILITIES AT THE STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
18 EDUCATION FOR MEETINGS OR EVENTS;

19 (IV) THE USE OF CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AVAILABLE TO
20 THE STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

21 (V) FUNDING SOURCES THAT ARE OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO A
22 STUDENT GROUP THROUGH THE STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
23 EDUCATION.

24 (b) "STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" HAS THE SAME
25 MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 23-18-102.

1 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
4 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.