



**Legislative Council Staff**  
*Research Note*

Version: Final

Date: 9/16/2016

**Bill Number**

**Senate Bill 16-196**

**Sponsors**

***Senators Cooke and Cadman,  
Representatives Landgraf and  
Young***

**Short Title**

***Inclusive Higher Education Pilot  
Program***

**Research Analyst**

**Rachel Kurtz-Phelan (x3028)**

**Status**

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which became effective on June 6, 2016.

**Summary**

This bill creates inclusive higher education pilot programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The pilot programs will operate at three institutions: the University of Northern Colorado, the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, and Arapahoe Community College, and will be repealed on July 1, 2021. Participating institutions must develop pilot programs, which may include:

- conducting an assessment to determine needs related to inclusive higher education;
- identifying state and institution regulations, policies, and practices that encourage or impede inclusive higher education;
- offering programming and support for students with disabilities to take at least two on-campus undergraduate courses each semester in their area of interest and one course per semester designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities;
- integrating students socially and academically into the institution;
- offering peer mentoring;
- coordinating with vocational rehabilitation programs offered by the Department of Labor and Employment;

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- preparing students for gainful employment;
- offering admissions standards that do not require a nationwide college entrance exam;
- becoming a certified transition program to allow students to access federal financial aid, if the institution deems the pilot program sustainable; and
- developing a five-year plan that includes enrollment projections for an inclusive higher education program.

The bill specifies that the three participating institutions are not required to operate a pilot program if sufficient money is not appropriated by the General Assembly. Should an institution cease to operate the pilot program, the Department of Higher Education (DHE) may request that the General Assembly reallocate funds among the participating institutions.

In years in which the selected sites offer a pilot program and sufficient money is appropriated by the General Assembly, JFK Partners, which is part of the University of Colorado medical school, must annually evaluate the program from the perspective of multiple stakeholders listed in the bill, and provide a written report to the DHE. As part of their annual presentation, DHE must report on the pilot program to the education committees of the House and Senate and the Joint Budget Committee and include the report from JFK Partners in years in which a pilot program is operating.

The bill adds the pilot program as a purpose for which DHE can enter into fee-for-service contracts with participating institutions of higher education, and exempts the funding from provisions requiring that increases in higher education funding be matched by increases in funding to the College Opportunity Fund, or for financial aid.

## Background

In 2008, Congress passed the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) which makes post-secondary education more accessible and affordable for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities. It established a national coordinating center for qualifying programs, as well as the criteria for becoming a designated comprehensive transition and post-secondary program for students with intellectual disabilities. Students who attend a qualifying program and meet certain criteria are eligible for certain federal financial aid opportunities for the first time under HEOA.

## Senate Action

**Senate Education Committee (May 4, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from the Arc of Colorado, the Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Aims Community College, and a high school student testified in support of the bill. The committee adopted amendment L.001, which clarified certain requirements pertaining to the development, evaluation of, and funding for the pilot programs at participating institutions of higher education, and made several other technical changes. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Senate Appropriations Committee (May 5, 2016).** The committee adopted amendments L.002 and J.001, which made several small technical changes, and referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

**Senate second reading (May 5, 2016).** The Senate Committee of the Whole adopted the Education and Appropriations Committee reports and passed the bill with no amendments.

**Senate third reading (May 6, 2016).** The Senate passed the bill with no amendments.

## House Action

**House Appropriations Committee (May 9, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from the Arc of Colorado, the Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education, and a high school student testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole, unamended.

**House second reading (May 9, 2016).** The House Committee of the Whole passed with bill with no amendments.

**House third reading (May 10, 2016).** The House passed the bill with no amendments.