

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 07-0826.01 Jane Ritter

**SENATE BILL 07-209**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Schwartz,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Gallegos,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Education

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING CREATION OF A COUNCIL TO FACILITATE**  
102             **COLLABORATION IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN**  
103             **COLORADO, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE**  
104             **SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH**  
105             **CAREERS EDUCATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Creates the southern Colorado council for excellence in health careers education ("council") to facilitate collaboration between public and private health education providers and health care providers for

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.*

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
March 21, 2007

improving health careers education and, ultimately, to improve health care in southern Colorado. Specifies the membership of the council and the council's purposes. Authorizes the council to establish task forces to assist it in accomplishing its purposes. Requires the council to report annually to the education committees of the general assembly and to the Colorado commission on higher education. Authorizes Adams state college and Trinidad state junior college to accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations on behalf of the council, and requires an annual accounting of the moneys received. Repeals the council, effective July 1, 2012. Specifies that the act can be implemented without general fund appropriations.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** Title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY  
3 THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:

4   **ARTICLE 74**

5   **Southern Colorado Council for Excellence in**  
6   **Health Careers Education**

7           **23-74-101. Short title.** THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY  
8 BE CITED AS THE "SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN  
9 HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION ACT".

10           **23-74-102. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT:

12           (a) RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN COLORADO IS  
13 CURRENTLY A PRODUCT OF SEVERAL DISTINCT ENTITIES, INCLUDING  
14 ADAMS STATE COLLEGE, TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE, AND SEVERAL  
15 PRIVATE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; AND

16           (b) ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL THAT INCLUDES REPRESENTATION  
17 FROM HEALTH EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO  
18 EXERCISE COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE EDUCATION AND  
19 HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WILL BENEFIT SOUTHERN

1 COLORADO THROUGH INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF ENHANCED AND  
2 EXPANDED HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, IMPROVED FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF  
3 EXISTING HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, AND INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
4 PERSONS WHO RESIDE IN THE REGION AND ARE INTERESTED IN ENTERING  
5 HEALTH CARE CAREERS.

6 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE DECLARES THAT IT IS IN  
7 THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO TO  
8 CREATE A COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION IN  
9 SOUTHERN COLORADO TO COLLABORATE IN CREATING EXCELLENCE IN  
10 HEALTH-RELATED EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND IN THE  
11 PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF STUDENTS, RESIDENTS,  
12 AND PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

13 **23-74-103. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
14 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

15 (1) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR  
16 EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION  
17 23-74-104.

18 (2) "HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM" MEANS A VOCATIONAL OR  
19 POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON AN ASPECT OF PROVIDING  
20 HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NURSING, HEALTH CARE  
21 ADMINISTRATION, DENTAL PROFESSIONALS, AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

22 (3) "SOUTHERN COLORADO" MEANS THE AREA COMPRISED OF  
23 ALAMOSA, CONEJOS, COSTILLA, MINERAL, RIO GRANDE, AND SAGUACHE  
24 COUNTIES.

25 **23-74-104. Council for excellence in health careers education**  
26 **- creation - membership.** (1) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE  
27 SOUTHERN COLORADO COUNCIL FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CAREERS

1 EDUCATION TO BRING TOGETHER PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND  
2 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO COLLABORATE AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN  
3 BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE FOR SOUTHERN COLORADO.

4 (2) THE COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF NO MORE THAN FIFTEEN  
5 MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

6 (a) THE STATE SENATOR REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT FIVE;

7 (b) THE STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTING HOUSE DISTRICT  
8 SIXTY-TWO;

9 (c) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM ADAMS STATE COLLEGE, WHO  
10 SHALL BE APPOINTED INITIALLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE;

11 (d) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR  
12 COLLEGE, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED INITIALLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
13 COLLEGE;

14 (e) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS INITIALLY APPOINTED JOINTLY BY  
15 THE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE SERVING ON THE COUNCIL:

16 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SAN LUIS VALLEY AREA  
17 HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER LOCATED IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

18 (II) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOCATED IN  
19 SOUTHERN COLORADO; AND

20 (III) NO MORE THAN SIX REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT  
21 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO.

22 (3) COUNCIL MEMBERS SHALL SERVE FOR THE DURATION OF THE  
23 COUNCIL; HOWEVER, IF A VACANCY IN A COUNCIL POSITION OCCURS, IT  
24 SHALL BE FILLED BY A VOTE OF THE COUNCIL, SO LONG AS THE INITIAL  
25 REPRESENTATION IS MAINTAINED.

26 (4) ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2007, BUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1,  
27 2007, THE COUNCIL SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE. THE COUNCIL SHALL

1 MEET QUARTERLY THEREAFTER, OR AS FREQUENTLY AS THE COUNCIL  
2 DEEMS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSES. ON OR BEFORE  
3 AUGUST 1, 2007, AND ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,  
4 THE COUNCIL SHALL SELECT A CHAIRPERSON AND A VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
5 FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

6 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 2-2-307, C.R.S., THE COUNCIL  
7 MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND WITHOUT  
8 REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. THE COUNCIL MAY REQUEST STAFF  
9 ASSISTANCE FROM ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND FROM TRINIDAD STATE  
10 JUNIOR COLLEGE IN MEETING ITS PURPOSES.

11 **23-74-105. Council for excellence in health careers education**  
12 **- duties - task forces.** (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING  
13 PURPOSES:

14 (a) TO IDENTIFY, RECOMMEND, AND ASSIST IN DEVELOPING NEW  
15 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO BE OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC  
16 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

17 (b) TO COLLABORATE ON STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE  
18 NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO ENROLL IN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN  
19 THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

20 (c) TO INCREASE THE COLLABORATION AMONG THE PUBLIC  
21 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTH CARE EMPLOYERS IN SOUTHERN  
22 COLORADO IN ORDER TO ENRICH THE COURSE WORK AVAILABLE IN  
23 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY DEVELOPING INTERNSHIP  
24 OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPING OTHER COURSE WORK THAT INCLUDES  
25 HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

26 (d) TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING SHARED  
27 FACILITIES, INCLUDING CLASSROOMS, CLINICAL LABORATORIES, LECTURE

1 HALLS, COMPUTER TRAINING ROOMS, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL  
2 FACILITIES;

3 (e) TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE  
4 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE CREATION OF NEW FUNDING SOURCES AND  
5 OPPORTUNITIES AND TO MAKE THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF SCARCE  
6 RESOURCES TO CREATE OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES FOR  
7 STUDENTS IN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

8 (f) TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS THAT FACILITATE STUDENTS'  
9 TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK IN HEALTH CARE CAREERS AND  
10 ENABLE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS  
11 TO FIND REWARDING EMPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

12 (g) TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THE HEALTH  
13 EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL  
14 INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO TO BETTER PREPARE STUDENTS TO  
15 MEET THE CHALLENGING NEEDS OF THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY AND  
16 THEREBY ENHANCE THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR  
17 PERSONS LIVING IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

18 (h) TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONCERNING  
19 HEALTH CARE ISSUES FOR PERSONS LIVING IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

20 (i) TO RECOMMEND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION  
21 THAT WILL PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR  
22 STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, AND PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

23 AND

24 (j) TO PROVIDE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE COLORADO  
25 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION CONCERNING RURAL  
26 HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

27 (2) THE COUNCIL MAY FORM TASK FORCES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE

1 PERSONS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, FOR ASSISTANCE AS  
2 NEEDED IN MEETING ITS PURPOSES. THE TASK FORCES SHALL WORK UNDER  
3 THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNCIL AND MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE  
4 LIMITED TO, TASK FORCES TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

5 (a) NURSING EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION WITH THE HEALTH  
6 CARE PROVIDER COMMUNITY TO ASSIST IN TRANSITIONS TO EMPLOYMENT  
7 FOLLOWING GRADUATION;

8 (b) NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS;

9 (c) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR HEALTH CARE  
10 PROFESSIONALS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;

11 (d) COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONCERNING HEALTH  
12 CARE ISSUES; AND

13 (e) STRATEGIES FOR SHARING FACILITIES FOR HEALTH EDUCATION  
14 PROGRAMS.

15 **23-74-106. Council for excellence in health careers education**  
16 **- reporting requirements.** ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2008, AND ON OR  
17 BEFORE MARCH 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT  
18 TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
19 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AND TO THE COLORADO  
20 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION A REPORT EXPLAINING THE  
21 ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS PROGRESS IN MEETING THE PURPOSES  
22 AND ADDRESSING THE ISSUES SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE. THE COUNCIL  
23 SHALL ALSO MAKE THE REPORTS AVAILABLE PUBLICLY THROUGH THE  
24 WEBSITES FOR ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR  
25 COLLEGE.

26 **23-74-107. Council for excellence in health careers education**  
27 **- funding.** ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR

1 COLLEGE ARE AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF THE  
2 COUNCIL GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC  
3 SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, INCLUDING GIFTS, GRANTS,  
4 OR DONATIONS THAT INCLUDE STATED CONDITIONS OF USE; EXCEPT THAT  
5 A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF THE CONDITIONS  
6 ATTACHED TO THE GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION REQUIRE ITS EXPENDITURE  
7 IN A MANNER CONTRARY TO LAW. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE  
8 COUNCIL, ADAMS STATE COLLEGE AND TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE  
9 ARE FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR  
10 DONATIONS ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE COUNCIL SHALL  
11 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED IN SECTION 23-74-106 AN  
12 ACCOUNTING OF ANY MONEYS RECEIVED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND  
13 HOW THEY WERE USED.

14 **23-74-108. Repeal of article.** THIS ARTICLE IS REPEALED,  
15 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012.

16 **SECTION 2. No appropriation.** The general assembly has  
17 determined that this act can be implemented within existing  
18 appropriations, and therefore no separate appropriation of state moneys  
19 is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

20 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act shall take effect upon  
21 passage.

22 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.