

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 15-0922.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 15-1294**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING ALIGNMENT OF STATE LAW REGARDING IN-STATE**  
102              **TUITION CLASSIFICATION WITH THE FEDERAL "VETERANS**  
103              **ACCESS, CHOICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014".**

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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://www.leg.state.co.us/bills summaries>.)*

The bill requires state institutions of higher education (institutions) to classify as in-state students for tuition purposes a "covered individual" as defined in federal law pursuant to the "Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014" (act). Under the act, qualifying veterans, spouses, and dependents must be granted in-state tuition, or the institution

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.*

may be disqualified from participating in the post-9/11 and Montgomery GI bill programs.

To be classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes, a covered individual must reside in Colorado while attending a state institution and must be enrolled in courses with federal educational assistance benefits.

Students classified pursuant to this section are eligible to receive the college opportunity fund stipend.

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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** 23-7-108.6 as  
3 follows:

4 **23-7-108.6. Tuition classification for veterans pursuant to**  
5 **federal law.** (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE TO  
6 THE CONTRARY, BEGINNING WITH ANY COURSES ENROLLED AS OF JULY 1,  
7 2015, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF EACH STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
8 EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT A POLICY GRANTING IN-STATE TUITION STATUS  
9 TO "COVERED INDIVIDUALS", AS DEFINED IN SECTION 702 OF THE  
10 "VETERANS ACCESS, CHOICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014", 38  
11 U.S.C. SEC. 3679, AS MAY BE AMENDED, AND AS DETERMINED BY THE  
12 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

13 (2) A COVERED INDIVIDUAL MUST BE CLASSIFIED AS AN IN-STATE  
14 STUDENT FOR TUITION PURPOSES IF:

15 (a) THE COVERED INDIVIDUAL RESIDES IN COLORADO WHILE  
16 ENROLLED IN THE INSTITUTION, REGARDLESS OF THE LENGTH OF TIME THE  
17 COVERED INDIVIDUAL RESIDED IN COLORADO PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN THE  
18 INSTITUTION; AND

19 (b) THE COVERED INDIVIDUAL ENROLLS IN COURSES WITH  
20 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 30 OR 33 OF  
21 U.S.C. TITLE 38.

1           (3) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (2) OF  
2 THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, A STUDENT WHO QUALIFIED AS A  
3 COVERED INDIVIDUAL AND WHO HAS EXHAUSTED HIS OR HER  
4 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 30 OR 33 OF  
5 U.S.C. TITLE 38 MUST CONTINUE TO BE CLASSIFIED AS AN IN-STATE  
6 STUDENT FOR TUITION PURPOSES SO LONG AS THE STUDENT CONTINUES TO  
7 RESIDE IN COLORADO AND REMAINS CONTINUOUSLY ENROLLED IN THE  
8 SAME INSTITUTION.

9           (4) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, UPON CLASSIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
10 THIS SECTION, THE COVERED INDIVIDUAL IS ALSO ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A  
11 STIPEND FROM THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND PURSUANT TO PART 2 OF  
12 ARTICLE 18 OF THIS TITLE.

13           (5) A COVERED INDIVIDUAL THAT IS CLASSIFIED AS AN IN-STATE  
14 STUDENT SOLELY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE COUNTED AS  
15 A RESIDENT STUDENT FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OTHER THAN TUITION  
16 CLASSIFICATION.

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