



### SB21-179 Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative Advisory Board

sponsored by Senators Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer & Representatives Kipp and Lynch

This bill proposal makes statutory changes to the composition of the COSI Advisory Board to include members of the [Colorado Commission of Higher Education](#) (CCHE) and students.

#### Background

Per Section 23-3.3-1001 et seq. C.R.S., the advisory board members currently consist of the executive committee of the [Colorado Workforce Development Council](#) (CWDC), and three governor-appointed members with an education focus. The Department of Higher Education (CDHE) believes that boards and commissions should reflect the composition of grantees. To achieve this, CDHE recommends the General Assembly add representation from higher education, including students to the board. This change in structure will create more alignment between COSI and the CCHE master plan strategic goals outlined in [Colorado Rises](#). CDHE recommends offsetting additions to the board with a reduction in membership from CWDC.

#### What is COSI?

COSI is a scholarship program for eligible post-secondary students administered by CDHE. The program grows community efforts and engages private donors to increase available scholarships well beyond the investment from the state. By reaching students from a range of socio-economic classes (0-250% Pell-eligible), COSI students can not only afford a degree but also access the support they need to persist and graduate through the wraparound support services included in the program. Annually, CDHE administers approximately \$10 million from the General Fund.

#### Key Statutory Provisions

Amend CRS Section 23-3.3-1001 to include the following new composition of the board:

- Four members appointed by the executive director of the CDLE from the CWDC
- Four members appointed by the executive director of the CDHE from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, commissioners, or advisors
- Seven appointed in partnership between the Executive Directors of CDLE and CDHE
  - One person representing workforce centers
  - One person representing economic development corporations
  - One COSI alumni or student currently enrolled in a two-year public institution of higher education in Colorado
  - One COSI alumni or student currently enrolled in a four-year public institution of higher education in Colorado
  - One person representing the four-year research institutions of higher education\*
  - One person representing the system of four-year postsecondary institutions in the state\*
  - One person representing the community colleges and area vocational districts of the state\*

\* existing statutory language



COSI is a proven strategy to help CCHE meet the attainment goal of *Colorado Rises*, but CCHE is not involved with COSI under the current structure of the advisory board.



Change the membership of the COSI board to include CCHE, as appointed by the executive director of CDHE, and include student voice.



With Commission involvement, the Department believes COSI will expand its impact on postsecondary completion, address affordability, and connect job seekers with opportunities to keep Colorado working.

Meets all strategic goals of *Colorado Rises* to

**Reach 66% credential attainment by 2025**

For More Information

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Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://highered.colorado.gov/>

Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/>

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