

1

**TOPIC: PROPOSED LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING METROPOLITAN
STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER TO OFFER GRADUATE
PROGRAMS**

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I. OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) seeks to amend the authorizing statute for Metropolitan State College of Denver, CRS 23-54-101, to allow the offering of master's level programs.

The proposed change to the original charter for MSCD would not be inconsistent with the current role and mission of the College, but rather an enhancement of its current mission, which states:

Metropolitan State College of Denver is a comprehensive, baccalaureate degree-granting, urban college that offers arts and science, professional and business courses and programs to a diverse student population. Excellence in teaching and learning is Metropolitan State College of Denver's primary objective.

The mission of MSCD is to provide a high-quality, accessible, enriching education that prepares students for successful careers, postgraduate education and lifelong learning in a multicultural, global and technological society. The College fulfills its mission by working in partnership with the community at large and by fostering an atmosphere of scholarly inquiry, creative activity and mutual respect within a diverse campus community.

MSCD's mission particularly emphasizes the institution's importance in providing access. The development of master's degrees would provide the students Metropolitan State College of Denver already serves with additional access to affordable education.²

The proposed change to the original charter for MSCD to offer master's level programs presents important public policy questions for the General Assembly, the Governor, the Commission, and public and private institutions of higher education in Colorado. These include budgetary implications, accreditation and quality assurances, questions pertaining to differentiated role and mission, competitive implications with other institutions, and the impact of any duplication of programs.

The hearing before the Commission is an initial step in examining the merits and providing an opportunity for interested persons and organizations to express their views on the proposed

¹ The attachments with this agenda item were provided by MSCD

² Taken from institutional documents provided by MSCD

legislation. The Commission may decide later that it should take a formal position on the proposal, but no formal action is required at this time.