IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1324

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY COLLEGES; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; PROVIDING
A SHORT TITLE; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 21, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE
ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-2145, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS
RELATING TO A PLAN REGARDING ATTENDANCE AT IDAHO PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

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8 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. Understanding that education is the cornerstone of a successful economy, it is the intent of the Legislature that 9 every Idaho student who wishes to attend an Idaho public community college 10 is able to do so, either in person or remotely via technology. The Legisla-11 ture urges the state's community colleges, the State Board of Education and 12 13 all other interested stakeholders to develop and implement a plan to ensure that every Idaho student is able to attend a state community college. The 14 Legislature acknowledges that by ensuring every student has the opportunity 15 to attend an Idaho community college, Idaho's students will be able to fully 16 participate in our state's future, either by being ready upon graduation to 17 successfully enter the workforce or by being ready to continue their post-18 secondary education through Idaho's four-year colleges and universities. 19

20 SECTION 2. This act shall be known as the "Community College Opportu-21 nity Act of 2014."

SECTION 3. That Chapter 21, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a <u>NEW SECTION</u>, to be known and des ignated as Section 33-2145, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

25 33-2145. STATE BOARD AND STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION TO ENSURE AVAIL-ABILITY OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION. (1) The state board of education is 26 hereby directed to collaborate with all appropriate stakeholders, including 27 the state department of education, representatives from colleges of educa-28 tion in the state, policymakers, the division of professional-technical ed-29 30 ucation and others to develop and submit to the legislature by no later than December 1, 2014, a plan to ensure that every Idaho student who wishes to at-31 tend an Idaho public community college is able to do so, either in person or 32 remotely via technology. 33

(2) The plan provided for in subsection (1) of this section shall establish provisions guiding the state's community colleges in how best to ensure
that the curriculum offered by the colleges is readily available to students
domiciled throughout the state. The goal of the plan shall be that every student who wants to attend a community college, either at the community college
or remotely via technology, will have a reasonable and affordable opportunity to do so.

(3) The plan should take into account and be based upon the existing
 community college system and available technology to ensure that easily
 affordable courses are available to prospective students throughout the
 state.