

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 14-0146.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

SENATE BILL 14-006

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Newell,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Peniston, Schafer

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Senate Committees  
Education

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR  
102 DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

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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>.)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.** The early childhood educator development scholarship program (scholarship program) exists in current law to provide stipends to offset the costs of obtaining associate degrees for persons who are employed in early childhood education. The scholarship program is

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.*

funded solely through federal grants and other gifts, grants, and donations.

The bill expands the scholarship program to provide stipends to offset the costs of obtaining any postsecondary degree or certificate in early childhood education for a person employed in early childhood education. The criteria for awarding stipends are expanded to include consideration of the diversity of applicants and to allow the state board of education to choose to award stipends only to applicants who serve high-needs children.

The bill authorizes the appropriation of state moneys, including state education fund moneys, to fund the scholarship program. The bill repeals the provision that repeals the scholarship program if the department of education does not receive grants or donations for the scholarship program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-9.7-101  
3 as follows:

4 **22-9.7-101. Early childhood educator development scholarship**  
5 **program - creation - eligibility.** ~~Subject to the receipt of sufficient~~  
6 ~~moneys pursuant to section 22-9.7-103,~~ There is hereby created in the  
7 department of education, referred to in this article as the "department",  
8 the early childhood educator development scholarship program, referred  
9 to in this article as the "scholarship program", to ~~award~~ PROVIDE stipends  
10 to assist persons employed in early childhood education in offsetting the  
11 costs incurred in obtaining ~~an associate of arts~~ A POSTSECONDARY degree  
12 OR CERTIFICATE in early childhood education ~~The department shall award~~  
13 ~~stipends on a need basis, based on the criteria specified in section~~  
14 ~~22-9.7-102. The stipends shall be awarded on a yearly basis, and~~ OR IN A  
15 RELATED AREA. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE STATE  
16 BOARD OF EDUCATION, REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE AS THE "STATE  
17 BOARD", SHALL ANNUALLY AWARD STIPENDS BASED ON THE CRITERIA

1 SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-9.7-102. Recipients ~~shall~~ MUST reapply each year  
2 that they are enrolled in the ~~associate of arts degree~~ OR CERTIFICATE  
3 program. The scholarships ~~shall be paid~~ ARE PAYABLE from ~~any~~ moneys  
4 available in the early childhood educator development scholarship fund  
5 created in section 22-9.7-103.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-9.7-102  
7 as follows:

8 **22-9.7-102. Scholarship program - rules - criteria for awards.**

9 (1) The ~~department, by rule,~~ STATE BOARD shall collaborate with the  
10 department of human services, the Colorado community college system,  
11 and the office of information technology to establish, BY RULE, the  
12 procedures by which a person may apply for a stipend through the  
13 scholarship program. At a minimum, the rules ~~shall~~ MUST specify the  
14 information a person ~~shall~~ MUST submit and the deadlines for submitting  
15 the application.

16 (2) The STATE BOARD, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RECOMMENDATIONS  
17 OF THE department, shall ~~award stipends to an applicant based~~ BASE THE  
18 STIPEND AWARDS on the following criteria:

19 (a) The applicant's demonstrated degree of financial need, based  
20 on the resources of the applying person and the cost of the ~~associate of~~  
21 ~~arts degree~~ OR CERTIFICATE program for which the applicant requests a  
22 stipend;

23 (b) The applicant's demonstrated degree of professional need;

24 (c) The quality of the ~~associate of arts degree~~ OR CERTIFICATE  
25 program for which the applicant requests a stipend;

26 (d) The applicant's commitment to teach in early childhood  
27 education for at least two years after receiving the ~~associate of arts degree~~

1 OR CERTIFICATE;

2 (e) The applicant's current employment in an early childhood  
3 capacity; and

4 (f) THE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE GROUP  
5 OF PERSONS SELECTED TO RECEIVE STIPENDS TO ENSURE, TO THE EXTENT  
6 PRACTICABLE, THAT THE DIVERSITY OF PERSONS WHO RECEIVE STIPENDS  
7 REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
8 EDUCATION; AND

9 ~~(f)~~ (g) Any other criteria adopted by rule of the ~~department~~ STATE  
10 BOARD to identify applicants in the greatest need of assistance in  
11 obtaining a regionally accredited ~~associate of arts~~ degree OR CERTIFICATE  
12 to improve their performance as early childhood educators.

13 (3) IN ADDITION TO THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF  
14 THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD MAY CONSIDER THE POPULATION OF  
15 CHILDREN SERVED BY AN APPLICANT AND MAY CHOOSE TO AWARD  
16 STIPENDS ONLY TO APPLICANTS WHO SERVE HIGH-NEEDS CHILDREN, AS  
17 DEFINED BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD.

18 ~~(3)~~ (4) The STATE BOARD, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT  
19 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE department, shall set the amount of each  
20 stipend awarded based on the applicant's degree of need, the cost of the  
21 ~~associate of arts~~ degree OR CERTIFICATE program for which the applicant  
22 requests a stipend, the amount available in the early childhood educator  
23 development scholarship fund for the applicable budget year, and the  
24 anticipated number of persons who will apply to the scholarship program  
25 in the course of the applicable budget year.

26 ~~(4) Repealed.~~

27 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-9.7-103

1 as follows:

2 **22-9.7-103. Early childhood educator development scholarship**  
3 **fund - created - legislative declaration.** (1) ~~It is the intent of the general~~  
4 ~~assembly that any costs associated with implementing this article shall be~~  
5 ~~paid for by the receipt of any available federal moneys or other gifts,~~  
6 ~~grants, or donations and that no additional general fund moneys be~~  
7 ~~appropriated for the implementation of the grant program.~~

8 (2) The department is authorized to seek, accept, and expend any  
9 federal moneys or other gifts, grants, or donations for the purposes of this  
10 article. ~~If necessary, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT any gifts, grants,~~  
11 ~~or donations shall be transmitted~~ RECEIVED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS  
12 ARTICLE to the state treasurer who shall credit them to the early childhood  
13 educator development scholarship fund, which fund is ~~hereby~~ created and  
14 referred to in this section as the "fund". THE FUND ALSO CONSISTS OF ANY  
15 MONEYS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE TO THE FUND,  
16 INCLUDING ANY MONEYS FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN  
17 SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

18 (3) The moneys in the fund ~~shall be continuously appropriated~~  
19 ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION to the department for the direct  
20 and indirect costs associated with implementing this article. Any moneys  
21 in the fund not expended for the purpose of this article may be invested  
22 by the state treasurer as provided by law. All interest and income derived  
23 from the investment and deposit of moneys in the fund shall be credited  
24 to the fund. Any unexpended and unencumbered moneys remaining in the  
25 fund at the end of a fiscal year ~~shall~~ MUST remain in the fund and shall not  
26 be credited or transferred to the general fund or another fund.

27 (4) The department ~~shall~~ MAY retain only the actual amount of

1 direct and indirect costs necessary to implement this article.

2 (5) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY DECLARES THAT, FOR  
3 PURPOSES OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, THE  
4 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN IMPLEMENTING  
5 ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION REFORM AND EXPANDING THE AVAILABILITY  
6 OF PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AND MAY THEREFORE  
7 RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
8 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

9 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 22-9.7-104 as  
10 follows:

11 **22-9.7-104. Repeal of article.** ~~(1)(a) On or before July 1, 2011,~~  
12 ~~or July 1 of any year thereafter, the executive director of the department~~  
13 ~~shall notify the revisor of statutes in writing if federal moneys are not~~  
14 ~~received and allocated to the department or if gifts, grants, and donations~~  
15 ~~are not received by the department to provide for the award of grants~~  
16 ~~pursuant to this article.~~

17 ~~(b) If the revisor of statutes does not receive notice pursuant to~~  
18 ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), on July 1, 2011, or on July 1 of any~~  
19 ~~year thereafter, the executive director of the department shall notify the~~  
20 ~~revisor of statutes in writing if federal moneys or gifts, grants, or~~  
21 ~~donations are not available to continue to provide for the award of grants~~  
22 ~~pursuant to this article.~~

23 ~~(2) This article is repealed, effective the July 1 following the~~  
24 ~~receipt of the notice by the revisor of statutes pursuant to paragraph (a)~~  
25 ~~or (b) of subsection (1) of this section.~~

26 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.