

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0004.01 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 24-015

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Young,

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
102 COUNSELORS IN COMMUNITIES.

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://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill creates the dual licensure stipend program (stipend program) in the division of professions and occupations (division). The purpose of the stipend program is to increase the number of licensed professional counselors in communities by:

- Reimbursing licensed professional counselor supervisors (supervisors) who provide clinical supervision to school

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

- counselors who are seeking licensure as licensed professional counselors (dual licensure candidate); and
- Reimbursing dual licensure candidates for the cost of examination fees and application fees.

A dual licensure candidate is eligible for the stipend program if the dual licensure candidate is a licensed special services provider and has completed a master's or doctoral degree in professional counseling from an accredited school or college or an equivalent program.

The bill requires the division to contract with a Colorado nonprofit organization or membership organization (Colorado organization) to manage and administer the stipend program. The Colorado organization must have experience administrating grant programs and working with school counselors or mental health professionals.

The bill requires the division to provide the Colorado organization publicly available information on supervisors who can provide clinical supervision to dual licensure candidates. The Colorado organization shall maintain the list of supervisors by confirming whether a supervisor opts in to the stipend program and provides clinical supervision to dual licensure candidates. The Colorado organization shall determine a set rate for supervisors who provide clinical supervision to dual licensure candidates.

The bill requires the Colorado organization to annually collect data on:

- The number of dual licensure candidates participating in the stipend program;
- The number of supervisors participating in the stipend program; and
- The geographic locations of the dual licensure candidates and supervisors participating in the stipend program.

The Colorado organization shall draft a report summarizing the data collected. The bill requires the division to submit the report to the education committee and the public and behavioral health and human services committee of the house of representatives, the education committee and the health and human services committee of the senate, or their successor committees.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
 3 finds and declares that:

- 4 (a) Suicide is a leading cause of death among Colorado youth;
- 5 (b) Schools play an increasingly critical role in supporting

1 students and their mental health;

2 (c) School counselors receive extensive mental health training and
3 hold a master's degree in school counseling;

4 (d) School counselors typically refer students to licensed
5 professional counselors, but it can often take weeks or months before
6 students meet with the licensed professional counselors;

7 (e) There is limited access to licensed professional counselors
8 across the state, specifically in rural areas; and

9 (f) School counselors have the ability to seek dual licensure as a
10 school counselor and a licensed professional counselor, but the pathway
11 to dual licensure can be costly.

12 (2) The general assembly, therefore, finds that barriers must be
13 reduced for school counselors who are seeking dual licensure as licensed
14 professional counselors. Providing financial assistance to support school
15 counselors who seek dual licensure as licensed professional counselors
16 will help alleviate the mental health workforce shortage and provide
17 mental health supports for students.

18 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-245-608 as
19 follows:

20 **12-245-608. Dual licensure stipend program - creation -**
21 **licensed professional counselor supervisors - report - rules -**
22 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
23 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

24 (a) "COLORADO ORGANIZATION" MEANS:

25 (I) A STATEWIDE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT IS EXEMPT
26 FROM TAXATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 501 (c)(3) OF THE FEDERAL
27 "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986", 26 U.S.C. SEC. 501, AS AMENDED,

1 AND IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE; OR

2 (II) A STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATES AS
3 A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION PURSUANT
4 TO SECTION 501 (c) OF THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF
5 1986", 26 U.S.C. SEC. 501, AS AMENDED; HAS MEMBERS WHO PAY
6 REGULAR MEMBERSHIP DUES; AND IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE
7 COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE; AND

8 (III) ENTERS INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE DIVISION TO MANAGE
9 AND ADMINISTER THE DUAL LICENSURE STIPEND PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
10 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (b) "DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE" MEANS A COLORADO SCHOOL
12 COUNSELOR WHO HAS A SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER LICENSE WITH A
13 SCHOOL COUNSELOR ENDORSEMENT ISSUED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5
14 OF TITLE 22 AND WHO IS SEEKING DUAL LICENSURE AS A LICENSED
15 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR.

16 (c) "DUAL LICENSURE STIPEND PROGRAM" OR "STIPEND PROGRAM"
17 MEANS THE DUAL LICENSURE STIPEND PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION
18 (2) OF THIS SECTION.

19 (d) "HARDSHIP" MEANS A FINANCIAL, MEDICAL, OR OTHER
20 HARDSHIP DEMONSTRATED BY THE DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE.

21 (e) "SCHOOL-BASED THERAPIST" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS A
22 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS PART
23 6 AND IS EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
24 23-3.9-101.

25 (2) THE DUAL LICENSURE STIPEND PROGRAM IS CREATED IN THE
26 DIVISION. THE PURPOSE OF THE DUAL LICENSURE STIPEND PROGRAM IS TO
27 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS WHO

1 WORK IN COMMUNITIES BY:

2 (a) REIMBURSING LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
3 SUPERVISORS WHO PROVIDE CLINICAL SUPERVISION TO DUAL LICENSURE
4 CANDIDATES; AND

5 (b) REIMBURSING DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATES FOR THE COST OF
6 EXAMINATION FEES AND APPLICATION FEES PURSUANT TO SECTION
7 12-245-205.

8 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2025, THE DIVISION SHALL
9 CONTRACT WITH A COLORADO ORGANIZATION TO MANAGE AND
10 ADMINISTER THE DUAL LICENSURE STIPEND PROGRAM. THE COLORADO
11 ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE ADMINISTERING GRANT
12 PROGRAMS AND WORKING WITH SCHOOL COUNSELORS OR MENTAL HEALTH
13 PROFESSIONALS. THE DIVISION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE "PROCUREMENT
14 CODE", ARTICLES 101 TO 112 OF TITLE 24, IN SELECTING AND
15 CONTRACTING WITH A COLORADO ORGANIZATION TO SERVE AS THE
16 STIPEND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.

17 (b) THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT RETAIN MORE THAN
18 TEN PERCENT OF CONTRACT FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

19 (4) (a) A DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE
20 STIPEND PROGRAM IF THE DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE IS A LICENSED
21 SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-60.5-102, AND
22 HAS COMPLETED A MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL DEGREE IN PROFESSIONAL
23 COUNSELING FROM AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL OR COLLEGE OR AN
24 EQUIVALENT PROGRAM AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD. THE DEGREE OR
25 PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE A PRACTICUM OR INTERNSHIP IN THE PRINCIPLES
26 AND PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING.

27 (b) A DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE MUST SELECT A LICENSED

1 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR WHO HAS OPTED IN TO
2 PARTICIPATE IN THE STIPEND PROGRAM TO FULFILL THE DUAL LICENSURE
3 CANDIDATE'S CLINICAL SUPERVISION HOURS.

4 (c) A DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE SHALL ENTER INTO A
5 CONTRACT WITH THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION THAT REQUIRES THE
6 DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE TO REMAIN EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL,
7 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-3.9-101, AS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR
8 SCHOOL-BASED THERAPIST FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE THE
9 DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE IS LICENSED AS A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
10 COUNSELOR OR REPAY THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION FOR THE DUAL
11 LICENSURE CANDIDATE'S CLINICAL SUPERVISION HOURS, EXAMINATION
12 FEES, AND APPLICATION FEES, UNLESS THE DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE
13 CAN PROVE A HARDSHIP.

14 (d) IF A DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE VIOLATES THE CONTRACT
15 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(c) OF THIS SECTION, THE DUAL LICENSURE
16 CANDIDATE MUST REPAY THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION FOR THE DUAL
17 LICENSURE CANDIDATE'S CLINICAL SUPERVISION HOURS, EXAMINATION
18 FEES, AND APPLICATION FEES, UNLESS THE DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE
19 CAN PROVE A HARDSHIP.

20 (5) (a) THE DIVISION SHALL PROVIDE THE COLORADO
21 ORGANIZATION WITH PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON LICENSED
22 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISORS WHO CAN OFFER CLINICAL
23 SUPERVISION TO DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATES.

24 (b) THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL MAINTAIN THE LIST OF
25 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISORS DESCRIBED IN
26 SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION BY CONFIRMING WHETHER A LICENSED
27 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR OPTS IN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

1 STIPEND PROGRAM AND TO PROVIDE CLINICAL SUPERVISION TO DUAL
2 LICENSURE CANDIDATES.

3 (c) THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL ESTABLISH:

4 (I) AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATES
5 TO APPLY TO THE STIPEND PROGRAM;

6 (II) A PROCESS FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
7 SUPERVISORS TO ANNUALLY OPT IN TO THE STIPEND PROGRAM; AND

8 (III) A REPAYMENT PROCESS FOR DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATES
9 WHO VIOLATE THE CONTRACT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(c) OF THIS
10 SECTION.

11 (d) THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL DETERMINE A SET RATE
12 FOR LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISORS WHO PROVIDE
13 CLINICAL SUPERVISION TO DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATES. LICENSED
14 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISORS SHALL NOT CHARGE DUAL
15 LICENSURE CANDIDATES ADDITIONAL FEES FOR CLINICAL SUPERVISION.

16 (e) A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR SHALL
17 TRACK CLINICAL SUPERVISION HOURS FOR EACH DUAL LICENSURE
18 CANDIDATE THE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR
19 CLINICALLY SUPERVISES. THE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
20 SUPERVISOR SHALL SUBMIT AN INVOICE EACH MONTH TO THE COLORADO
21 ORGANIZATION. THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL REIMBURSE THE
22 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISOR ONCE THE COLORADO
23 ORGANIZATION RECEIVES THE INVOICE.

24 (6) THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION MUST REIMBURSE A DUAL
25 LICENSURE CANDIDATE FOR EXAMINATION FEES AND APPLICATION FEES IF
26 THE DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATE HAS DEMONSTRATED PROFESSIONAL
27 COMPETENCIES BY PASSING THE EXAMINATIONS DESCRIBED IN SECTION

1 12-245-604 (1)(e) AND PROVIDES THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION WITH
2 PROOF OF PAYMENT FOR THE EXAMINATION FEES AND FOR THE
3 APPLICATION FEES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 12-245-205.

4 (7)(a) THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL ANNUALLY COLLECT
5 THE FOLLOWING DATA:

6 (I) THE NUMBER OF DUAL LICENSURE CANDIDATES PARTICIPATING
7 IN THE STIPEND PROGRAM;

8 (II) THE NUMBER OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
9 SUPERVISORS PARTICIPATING IN THE STIPEND PROGRAM; AND

10 (III) THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF THE DUAL LICENSURE
11 CANDIDATES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (7)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION AND
12 LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR SUPERVISORS DESCRIBED IN
13 SUBSECTION (7)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

14 (b) THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL DRAFT A REPORT
15 SUMMARIZING THE DATA COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF
16 THIS SECTION. ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2026, AND EACH JANUARY 15
17 THEREAFTER, THE COLORADO ORGANIZATION SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT
18 TO THE DIVISION.

19 (c) ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, 2026, AND EACH FEBRUARY 15
20 THEREAFTER, THE DIVISION SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT TO THE EDUCATION
21 COMMITTEE AND THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN
22 SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
23 EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
24 COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

25 (d) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136
26 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS
27 SUBSECTION (7) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

1 (8) THE DIVISION MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY TO
2 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

3 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
6 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
7 institutions.