

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 21-0890.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 21-232

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, Bridges, Buckner, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Ginal, Gonzales, Jaquez Lewis, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp and Bird,

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER**
102 **EDUCATION FOR THE COLORADO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP**
103 **INITIATIVE'S DISPLACED WORKERS GRANT.**

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 appropriates money to the department of higher education for the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative's displaced workers grant.

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

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
June 4, 2021

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
May 3, 2021

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 30, 2021

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

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

4 (a) Pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021",
5 Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, Colorado will
6 receive \$3,828,761,790 to be used for certain eligible uses. Federal
7 regulations providing guidance regarding eligible uses of money allocated
8 pursuant to the act include:

9 (I) Assistance to unemployed workers, including job training for
10 individuals who want and are available for work;

11 (II) Aid to impacted industries to respond to the negative
12 economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

13 (III) Programs, services, or other assistance for populations
14 disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency,
15 such as programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the
16 public health emergency on education;

17 (b) In 2020, the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative
18 responded to needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by creating the
19 displaced workers grant. The displaced workers grant supports
20 Coloradans displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those who
21 were laid off or furloughed, experienced decreased earnings, had job
22 offers rescinded, or were unable to enter the workforce because of
23 negative economic conditions. These workers have an incentive to reskill,
24 upskill, or complete industry-recognized credentials in order to improve
25 economic prospects for themselves and their communities.

26 (c) Appropriating a portion of the money received pursuant to the
27 federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act

1 may be subsequently amended, to the Colorado opportunity scholarship
2 initiative is estimated to serve at least three thousand displaced Colorado
3 workers and will provide these workers with the skills, supports, and
4 credentials necessary to secure good jobs, sustain a resilient state
5 economy, and help institutions of higher education scale high-demand
6 and highly impacted programs; and

7 (d) These funds will be distributed to public institutions of higher
8 education, community partners, and workforce centers across the state to
9 provide scholarships, wraparound supports, and recruitment and retention
10 efforts for Coloradans with some college education but no degree who
11 have the need to reskill, upskill, or complete industry-recognized
12 credentials due to lost or reduced employment.

13 (2) The general assembly declares that appropriating a portion of
14 the money received pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act
15 of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, to the
16 Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative for such purposes described
17 in this section are appropriate and lawful.

18 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2020-21 state fiscal
19 year, \$15,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education
20 for use by the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board.
21 This appropriation is from the workers, employers, and workforce centers
22 cash fund created in section 24-75-231 (2)(a), C.R.S., and from money
23 the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund.
24 The Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board may use
25 this appropriation for the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative's
26 displaced workers grant. Any money appropriated in this section not
27 expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated to the Colorado

1 opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board for the 2021-22 state
2 fiscal year for the same purpose.

3 (2) For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, \$15,000,000 is appropriated
4 to the workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund created in
5 section 24-75-231 (2)(a), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the general
6 fund. The department of personnel and administration is responsible for
7 the accounting related to this appropriation.

8 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect only if section
9 4 of House Bill 21-1264 becomes law, and, in which case, this act takes
10 effect upon the effective date of this act or one day after the effective date
11 of section 4 of House Bill 21-1264, whichever is later.

12 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.