

First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0712.02 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 23-149

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HIGHER**
102 **EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WHO**
103 **PERFORM YOUTH MENTORSHIP.**

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 youth mentorship stipend pilot program in the department of higher education. The program provides money for higher education tuition and fees to students who provide mentorship services to an approved youth mentorship organization.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 15 to article
3 3.3 of title 23 as follows:

PART 15

YOUTH MENTORSHIP STIPEND PILOT PROGRAM

6 **23-3.3-1501. Youth mentorship stipend pilot program -**
7 **creation - policies - report.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT
8 THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP STIPEND PILOT PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS
9 SECTION AS THE "PROGRAM". THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO AWARD
10 MONEY TO AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION TO REDUCE
11 FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR STUDENTS WHO PROVIDE MENTORSHIP SERVICES
12 TO THE ORGANIZATION BY PAYING MONEY TOWARD STUDENTS' HIGHER
13 EDUCATION TUITION AND FEES.

21 (b) (I) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS,
22 APPOINTED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023:

23 (A) ONE PERSON REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
24 EDUCATION, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

25 (B) ONE PERSON REPRESENTING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
26 TRANSGENDER, OR QUEER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION, APPOINTED BY A

1 STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE LESBIAN,
2 GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, OR QUEER YOUTH;

3 (C) ONE PERSON REPRESENTING AN ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING
4 FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
5 APPOINTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS
6 OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES;

7 (D) ONE PERSON REPRESENTING AN ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING
8 FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR, APPOINTED BY A STATEWIDE
9 ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR; AND

10 (E) ONE PERSON REPRESENTING AN ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING
11 FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES,
12 APPOINTED BY A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS
13 OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES.

14 (II) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL CHOOSE THE ADVOCACY
15 ORGANIZATIONS WITH AUTHORITY TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
16 COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (2)(b)(I)(B) TO (2)(b)(I)(E) OF
17 THIS SECTION.

18 (c) COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION OR
19 REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.

20 (3) TO BE AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION, A
21 YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL:

22 (a) PROVIDE MENTORSHIP SERVICES TO YOUTH WHO RESIDE IN
23 COMMUNITIES THAT WERE HISTORICALLY AND ARE CURRENTLY
24 NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC DESIGN, AND
25 CONSEQUENTLY HAVE NO OR LIMITED ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTORSHIP
26 SERVICES;

27 (b) APPLY TO THE COMMITTEE IN THE TIME AND MANNER

1 REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE;

2 (c) (I) REQUIRE A FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY
3 BACKGROUND RECORD CHECK OF ALL PROSPECTIVE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS,
4 VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES. THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
5 ORGANIZATION SHALL REQUIRE THE PROSPECTIVE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS,
6 VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE SET OF
7 FINGERPRINTS TO THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION. THE YOUTH
8 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL SUBMIT THE FINGERPRINTS TO THE
9 COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING
10 FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS. THE COLORADO
11 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SHALL FORWARD THE FINGERPRINTS TO THE
12 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING
13 FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS. WHEN THE
14 RESULTS OF A FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK
15 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(c) REVEAL A RECORD OF ARREST
16 WITHOUT A DISPOSITION, THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL
17 REQUIRE THAT PERSON TO SUBMIT TO A NAME-BASED JUDICIAL RECORD
18 CHECK, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-2-119.3 (6)(d).

19 (II) THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT PERMIT
20 PROSPECTIVE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS, OR EMPLOYEES TO SERVE
21 THE ORGANIZATION WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF, PLED NOLO
22 CONTENDERE TO, OR RECEIVED A DEFERRED SENTENCE FOR:

23 (A) A FELONY;

24 (B) A MISDEMEANOR CRIME INVOLVING UNLAWFUL SEXUAL
25 BEHAVIOR OR UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR INVOLVING CHILDREN; OR

26 (C) A MISDEMEANOR CRIME, THE UNDERLYING FACTUAL BASIS OF
27 WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND BY THE COURT ON THE RECORD TO INVOLVE

1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;

2 (d) DISTRIBUTE THE MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM TO
3 THE QUALIFIED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT THE STUDENTS
4 WHO PROVIDE MENTORSHIP SERVICES ATTEND TO PAY MONEY TOWARD
5 TUITION AND FEES OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE STUDENTS IN
6 EXCHANGE FOR THE MENTORSHIP SERVICES;

7 (e) RETURN ANY UNUSED MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE
8 PROGRAM TO THE PROGRAM; AND

9 (f) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE
10 NOVEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
11 DEPARTMENT CONCERNING:

12 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
13 ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING ITS LOCATION, THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES,
14 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE MENTEES IT SERVES, AND SUMMARIES
15 OF THE PROGRAM'S IMPACT ON THE MENTEES SERVED; EXCEPT THAT ANY
16 SUMMARY MUST NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF A MENTEE OR INCLUDE
17 PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF A
18 MENTEE;

19 (II) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO PROVIDED MENTORSHIP
20 SERVICES TO THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION DURING THE
21 PRECEDING STATE FISCAL YEAR, IN TOTAL AND DISAGGREGATED BY RACE,
22 ETHNICITY, GENDER IDENTITY, AND QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
23 EDUCATION IN WHICH THE STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED; AND

24 (III) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY RECEIVED BY THE APPROVED YOUTH
25 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FROM THE PROGRAM, IN TOTAL AND
26 DISAGGREGATED BY PAYMENTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
27 AND ANY UNUSED AMOUNT PAID BACK TO THE PROGRAM.

1 (4) TO BE AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT, THE STUDENT SHALL:

2 (a) APPLY TO THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION,

3 IN THE TIME AND MANNER SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSION;

4 (b) SATISFY ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO BE A
5 MENTOR THROUGH THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION,
6 INCLUDING COMPLETING A BACKGROUND CHECK AS REQUIRED BY
7 SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS SECTION; AND

8 (c) BE ENROLLED IN A QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
9 EDUCATION FOR THE DURATION OF THE MENTORSHIP, AND MUST BE
10 CONSIDERED A SECOND YEAR STUDENT OR HIGHER AT THE QUALIFIED
11 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE DURATION OF THE
12 MENTORSHIP.

13 (5) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES THAT ENSURE
14 THAT PROGRAM MONEY IS USED FOR STIPENDS FOR APPROVED ELIGIBLE
15 STUDENTS' HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION AND FEES AND THAT ENSURE THAT
16 ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM PROVIDE
17 EVIDENCE OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE TO EARN THE STIPEND; AND

18 (b) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH POLICIES NECESSARY FOR
19 THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

20 (6) FOR THE 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM
22 THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COMMISSION FOR USE BY THE COMMISSION FOR
23 THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION. ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THIS
24 SECTION NOT EXPENDED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2024, IS FURTHER
25 APPROPRIATED TO THE COMMISSION FOR USE BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE
26 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

27 (7)(a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, AND BEFORE EACH SPRING

1 AND FALL ACADEMIC TERM THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
2 DISBURSE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO EACH APPROVED YOUTH
3 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION.

4 (b) AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL
5 DISBURSE THE MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM TO THE
6 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT A QUALIFIED ELIGIBLE STUDENT
7 WHO PROVIDES SERVICE TO THE MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION IS ENROLLED
8 IN TO PAY MONEY TOWARD TUITION AND FEES OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR
9 THE STUDENT IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE STUDENT.
10 THE AMOUNT DISBURSED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7)(b) MUST NOT
11 EXCEED THE CAP ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO
12 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

13 (c) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JUNE
14 30 THEREAFTER, THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS
15 SHALL RETURN ANY UNUSED MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM
16 DURING THE STATE FISCAL YEAR TO THE DEPARTMENT.

17 **23-3.3-1502. Report.** (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2024,
18 AND ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
19 COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF
20 THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
21 COMMITTEES, CONCERNING THE PROGRAM FROM THE PRECEDING STATE
22 FISCAL YEAR. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION
23 CONCERNING:

24 (a) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE APPROVED YOUTH
25 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-3.3-1501 (3)(f);
26 (b) IF AVAILABLE, THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO
27 PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM WHO CONTINUED ENROLLMENT IN THE

1 QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN A SUBSEQUENT
2 ACADEMIC TERM, REPORTED FOR THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE AND FOR
3 EACH INSTITUTION, IN TOTAL AND DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY,
4 AND GENDER IDENTITY; AND

5 (c) IF AVAILABLE, THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO
6 PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM WHO GRADUATED FROM THE QUALIFIED
7 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, REPORTED FOR THE PROGRAM AS A
8 WHOLE AND FOR EACH INSTITUTION, IN TOTAL AND DISAGGREGATED BY
9 RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER IDENTITY.

10 **23-3.3-1503. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 15, UNLESS THE
11 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

12 (1) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON
13 HIGHER EDUCATION.

14 (2) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
15 THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

16 (3) (a) "QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS
17 A PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION THAT IS GOVERNED BY:

18 (I) THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE COLORADO STATE
19 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM;

20 (II) THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO;

21 (III) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF
22 MINES;

23 (IV) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN
24 COLORADO;

25 (V) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY;

26 (VI) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN COLORADO
27 UNIVERSITY;

- 1 (VII) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY;
- 2 (VIII) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR FORT LEWIS COLLEGE;
- 3 (IX) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR METROPOLITAN STATE
- 4 UNIVERSITY OF DENVER; OR
- 5 (X) THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND
- 6 OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION.

7 (b) "QUALIFIED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" INCLUDES A
8 LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE THAT IS PART OF A LOCAL COLLEGE DISTRICT
9 ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THIS TITLE 23.

10 (4) "YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION" MEANS A
11 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES MENTORSHIP
12 SERVICES TO YOUTH WHO RESIDE IN COMMUNITIES THAT WERE
13 HISTORICALLY AND ARE CURRENTLY NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY
14 STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC DESIGN, AND CONSEQUENTLY HAVE NO OR
15 LIMITED ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTORSHIP SERVICES.

16 **23-3.3-1504. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 15 IS REPEALED,
17 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.