

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 16-0170.01 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 16-1196**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Pettersen and Rankin**, Duran, Hullinghorst

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Johnston**,

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE ASPIRE TO COLLEGE COLORADO**

102       **PILOT PROGRAM FOR COLLEGE SAVINGS FOR PRESCHOOL**

103       **CHILDREN, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**

104       **APPROPRIATION.**

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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/billsummaries>.)*

The bill creates the aspire to college Colorado pilot program (pilot program) in the department of human services (state department) to provide college savings accounts, as defined in the bill, to preschool-aged

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.*

children served in an early childhood program. The state department shall administer the pilot program and shall adopt necessary rules for implementation of the pilot program.

Within existing appropriations, the state department shall make an initial \$50 contribution to a college savings account administered by collegeinvest as part of the college savings program on behalf of an eligible child. The pilot program may serve up to 2,000 eligible children per year for up to 3 years. Through private donations, the pilot program may provide matching dollars for family savings, bonuses to encourage regular savings, family financial education, and an evaluation of the long-term impact of the pilot program.

The bill creates the aspire to college Colorado pilot program fund.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-1-111, **add** (2)(v)  
3       as follows:

4           **26-1-111. Activities of the state department under the**  
5       **supervision of the executive director - cash fund - report - rules -**  
6       **statewide adoption resource registry.** (2) The state department, under  
7       the supervision of the executive director, shall:

8           (v) DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER THE ASPIRE TO COLLEGE  
9       COLORADO PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 26-1-140.

10           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-1-140 as  
11       follows:

12           **26-1-140. Aspire to college Colorado pilot program -**  
13       **establishment - powers - duties - fund - rules - legislative declaration**  
14       **- definitions.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES  
15       THAT:

16           (I) APPROXIMATELY SEVENTEEN PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER  
17       EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE IN COLORADO LIVE IN POVERTY;

18           (II) APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF ALL COLORADO  
19       RESIDENTS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER HAVE A BACHELOR'S

1 DEGREE OR HIGHER; HOWEVER, ONLY ABOUT SEVENTEEN PERCENT OF  
2 COLORADANS IN POVERTY HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE;

3 (III) THE COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ESTABLISHED THROUGH  
4 THE ASPIRE TO COLLEGE COLORADO PILOT PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE AN  
5 INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR CREATING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP  
6 AND STATE-LEVEL PLAN AIMED AT TRANSFORMING THE COLLEGE  
7 ASPIRATIONS AND ATTENDANCE OF THOUSANDS OF COLORADO CHILDREN;

8 (IV) EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE GATHERED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL  
9 YEARS DOCUMENTS THE POSITIVE IMPACT AND POTENTIAL OF CHILDREN'S  
10 SAVINGS ACCOUNTS TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC  
11 OPPORTUNITY FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES;

12 (V) CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNTS IMPROVE EARLY CHILD  
13 DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE FINANCIAL CAPABILITY. CHILDREN PROVIDED  
14 A CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT AT BIRTH SCORE BETTER ON  
15 SOCIO-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS THAN THEIR  
16 COUNTERPARTS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE A CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNT.  
17 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE PROVIDED A SEDED, MATCHED  
18 SAVINGS ACCOUNT AT BIRTH SAVE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE FOR COLLEGE  
19 THAN FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THESE ACCOUNTS.  
20 COMPARED TO CHILDREN WITHOUT SAVINGS, CHILDREN WITH SAVINGS  
21 ACCUMULATED A SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER LEVEL OF SAVINGS AS ADULTS.

22 (VI) CHILDREN WITH COLLEGE SAVINGS HAVE GREATER COLLEGE  
23 EXPECTATIONS. CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNTS PROMOTE THE  
24 IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MAKE THE FUTURE FEEL MORE  
25 PROXIMATE FOR CHILDREN. CHILDREN AGED TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN YEARS  
26 OF AGE WITH A SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR COLLEGE WERE TWICE AS LIKELY  
27 TO EXPECT TO GO TO COLLEGE THAN THEIR COUNTERPARTS WITHOUT A

1 COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

2 (VII) CHILDREN WITH COLLEGE SAVINGS DO BETTER  
3 ACADEMICALLY. CHILDREN IN LOW-WEALTH FAMILIES WITH COLLEGE  
4 SAVINGS HAVE HIGHER MATH SCORES THAN THOSE WITHOUT COLLEGE  
5 SAVINGS. EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF COLLEGE SAVINGS CAN HAVE A BIG  
6 EFFECT ON COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION. LOW- AND  
7 MODERATE-INCOME CHILDREN WITH FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS OR LESS IN  
8 SAVINGS WERE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE THAN  
9 CHILDREN WITH NO SAVINGS AND FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO  
10 GRADUATE.

11 (VIII) CHILDREN'S SAVINGS ACCOUNTS HELP MAKE SAVING FOR  
12 COLLEGE PART OF THE COLLECTIVE CULTURE OF COLORADO BY OPENING  
13 THE DOOR FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AND  
14 THEIR FAMILIES. THESE ACCOUNTS HELP TO BETTER POSITION THE STATE  
15 AS A PIONEER IN BUILDING FAMILY FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND AID IN  
16 DEVELOPING A STRONGER, MORE QUALIFIED WORKFORCE IN COLORADO.

17 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLares THAT  
18 ESTABLISHING THE ASPIRE TO COLLEGE COLORADO PILOT PROGRAM,  
19 WHICH PROVIDES A SMALL AMOUNT OF SEED MONEY FOR CHILDREN IN  
20 PRIMARILY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, THAT MAY BE MATCHED BY PRIVATE  
21 DOLLARS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS, WILL ALLOW  
22 THE STATE TO DETERMINE THE EFFICACY OF PROVIDING SEEDED ACCOUNTS  
23 AS A MEANS OF INCREASING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SELF ESTEEM  
24 IN A CHILD'S EARLY YEARS AND COLLEGE ENROLLMENT AND DEGREE  
25 ATTAINMENT IN THE LONG TERM.

26 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
27 REQUIRES:

(a) "COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT OF THE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM.

(b) "COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PART 3 OF ARTICLE 3.1 OF TITLE 23, C.R.S.

(c) "EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM" MEANS A PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AS DEFINED IN RULES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

(d) "ELIGIBLE CHILD" MEANS A PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILD ENROLLED IN AN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM THAT IS A PARTICIPATING PILOT SITE.

(e) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE ASPIRE TO COLLEGE COLORADO PILOT PROGRAM CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION

12 (3) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNDER  
13 THE SUPERVISION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THE ASPIRE TO COLLEGE  
14 COLORADO PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS TO  
15 PRIMARILY LOW-INCOME, PRESCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN SERVED IN AN EARLY  
16 CHILDHOOD PROGRAM. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE  
17 COMPONENTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

18 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AN INITIAL  
19 FIFTY-DOLLAR DEPOSIT INTO A COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT FOR THE  
20 BENEFIT OF AN ELIGIBLE CHILD FOR UP TO TWO THOUSAND CHILDREN PER  
21 YEAR, FOR UP TO THREE YEARS.

22 (5) IF PROVIDED THROUGH PRIVATE DONATIONS OR RESOURCES, IN  
23 ADDITION TO ANY OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE PILOT  
24 PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE:

25 (a) MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MATCH FAMILY SAVINGS;  
26 (b) BONUSES TO ENCOURAGE REGULAR SAVINGS; AND  
27 (c) A PROGRAM FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION FOR ELIGIBLE

1 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

2 (6) THE PILOT PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO BE A PUBLIC-PRIVATE  
3 PARTNERSHIP, WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING THE INITIAL  
4 DEPOSITS INTO THE COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND PRIVATE  
5 MONETARY DONATIONS AND PRIVATE RESOURCES USED TO MATCH FAMILY  
6 CONTRIBUTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR REGULAR  
7 SAVING, DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION, AND  
8 CONDUCT AN EVALUATION TO COLLECT SUMMATIVE DATA TO  
9 DEMONSTRATE THE PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVENESS OVER TIME. THE STATE  
10 DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS  
11 OR OTHER ENTITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM.

12 (7)(a) THE ASPIRE TO COLLEGE COLORADO PILOT PROGRAM FUND,  
13 REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (7) AS THE "FUND", IS CREATED IN THE  
14 STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS  
15 CREDITED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER  
16 MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER  
17 TO THE FUND.

18 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND  
19 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE  
20 FUND TO THE FUND.

21 (c) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND  
23 FOR PURPOSES OF THE PILOT PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS SECTION. ANY  
24 MONEY NOT APPROPRIATED REMAINS IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE  
25 TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND AT THE END OF THE  
26 FISCAL YEAR.

27 (d) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK AND ACCEPT GIFTS,

1       GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE  
2       PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT  
3       ALL MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE  
4       STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE FUND.

5               (8) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-4-103, C.R.S., THE STATE  
6       DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION  
7       OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING RULES RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY,  
8       DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING PILOT SITES, ADDITIONAL MONETARY  
9       CONTRIBUTIONS AND INCENTIVES, AND DATA COLLECTION NECESSARY TO  
10      EVALUATE THE PILOT PROGRAM.

11               **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2016-17 state fiscal year,  
12       \$100,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by  
13       the executive director's office. This appropriation is from the general  
14       fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation  
15       for college savings for preschool children.

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