

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

	May 5, 2025
Chair of Committee	Date

Committee on Education.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB25-1192 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend reengrossed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2 substitute:

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

5 (a) In collaboration with educators, administrators, policymakers,
6 and community leaders, the Colorado department of education has
7 developed rigorous state personal financial literacy standards and has
8 made robust resources available to advance high-quality instruction in this
9 vital subject area;

10 (b) Research confirms that a course that incorporates all of the
11 state's existing financial literacy standards taught in the eleventh or
12 twelfth grade will deliver the greatest impact by empowering students
13 with comprehensive financial management skills at a time when they are
14 most ready to apply the skills. Local education providers have broad
15 discretion to determine the method of implementing a financial literacy
16 course, the curriculum and materials used for teaching a financial literacy
17 course, including practicing filling out the federal or state financial aid
18 forms, the licensing and certification requirements for teaching a financial
19 literacy course, and existing local graduation requirements a financial
20 literacy course may fulfill.

21 (c) Research shows that education and training culminating in
22 credentials such as industry certificates, apprenticeships, associate
23 degrees, and bachelor degrees, among other business and industry-based
24 experiences, are necessary to earn a living;

25 (d) Information needed for, and practice filling out, the federal or
26 state financial aid applications is a key component to understanding how
27 additional training beyond high school can be financially supported.

1 Additionally, practicing completing the federal or state financial aid
2 applications, especially while students are still in high school, supports
3 access to different career pathway options because financial aid is often
4 the vehicle students use to pay for tuition, fees, equipment, and other
5 expenses associated with additional training beyond high school.

6 (e) Understanding how to access career-aligned resources and
7 supports is integral to the way students and families navigate training and
8 educational resources, which is why the free application for federal
9 student aid is a critical component of the state's financial literacy quality
10 standards. Financial literacy education and Colorado's individual career
11 and academic plan can help families understand how to obtain federal or
12 state financial aid to support students in pursuing additional education
13 and career training.

14 (f) In 2023, through the federal "FAFSA Simplification Act", the
15 free application for federal student aid was simplified, reducing the
16 number of questions from 100 to 30 and reducing the financial
17 information needed on the application;

18 (g) In 2024, the Colorado general assembly passed the Colorado
19 promise tax credit, which makes students who attend public institutions
20 and have a family income of \$90,000 or less eligible for a complete
21 reimbursement of any out-of-pocket tuition and fees paid for the student's
22 education; however, students must fill out a federal or state financial aid
23 application in order to qualify for the tax credit; and

24 (h) Colorado students can magnify the impact of state investments
25 in higher education by accessing federal money to pursue postsecondary
26 education and by earning credentials to enhance the student's
27 income-earning potential.

28 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares it is essential to
29 ensure that prior to graduation, Colorado high school students:

30 (a) Complete a course that incorporates all of the financial literacy
31 standards developed by the Colorado department of education; and

32 (b) Understand the information needed to practice using federal
33 and state financial aid applications if students intend to seek
34 postsecondary education credentials.

35 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-136, **amend**
36 (2)(b) and (2)(c); and **add** (2)(d) as follows:

37 **22-2-136. Additional duty - state board - individual career and**
38 **academic plans - standards - rules.** (2) In establishing the standards for
39 individual career and academic plans, the state board shall ensure, at a
40 minimum, that:

41 (b) Each individual career and academic plan is accessible to
42 educators, students, and parents; ~~and~~

43 (c) Each public school, in assisting students and parents in

1 creating and maintaining the individual career and academic plans, is in
2 compliance with the requirements of the federal "Family Educational
3 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974", 20 U.S.C. sec. 1232g; AND
4 (d) (I) BEGINNING WITH THE 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH
5 INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN INCLUDES A REQUIREMENT
6 THAT, DURING THE STUDENT'S GRADUATION YEAR, THE STUDENT HAS
7 EXPOSURE TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY TOOLS AND NET PRICE
8 CALCULATORS AND PRACTICES FILLING OUT A FREE APPLICATION FOR
9 FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
10 FINANCIAL AID.
11 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (2)(d)(I) OF THIS SECTION, A
12 STUDENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO PRACTICE FILLING OUT A FREE APPLICATION
13 FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE
14 FINANCIAL AID IF:
15 (A) THE STUDENT OR THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
16 AFFIRMATIVELY DECLINES TO PRACTICE FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION; OR
17 (B) AUTHORIZED SCHOOL PERSONNEL DETERMINES IT IS NOT
18 FEASIBLE FOR THE STUDENT TO PRACTICE FILLING OUT AN APPLICATION.
19 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-135, **amend**
20 (4) as follows:
21 **22-32-135. Financial literacy curriculum - definition - repeal.**
22 (4) (a) Each school district board of education ~~is further encouraged to~~
23 ~~adopt successful completion of a course in financial literacy as a~~
24 ~~graduation requirement~~ SHALL INCORPORATE ALL THE FINANCIAL
25 LITERACY STANDARDS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-7-1005 (2.8) INTO A
26 COURSE THAT IS REQUIRED FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.
27 (b) (I) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
28 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE
29 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
30 SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF:
31 (A) A COURSE REQUIRED TO BE TAUGHT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
32 (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION; AND
33 (B) THE INDIVIDUAL CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLAN REQUIREMENTS
34 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-2-136 (2)(d).
35 (II) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE MONEY
36 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO SCHOOL
37 DISTRICTS THAT DO NOT CURRENTLY OFFER A COURSE BASED ON A
38 FORMULA DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE
39 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING
40 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b)(II) BASED ON ATTESTATIONS FROM
41 SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
42 (III) ANY UNEXPENDED MONEY REMAINING AT THE END OF THE
43 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR FROM THIS APPROPRIATION:

1 (A) DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
2 FUND;
3 (B) MAY BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE
4 2026-27 OR 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER
5 APPROPRIATION; AND
6 (C) MUST NOT BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE
7 PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (4).
8 (IV) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND
9 EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES
10 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING EDUCATORS IN IMPLEMENTING A COURSE
11 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION.
12 (V) THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.
13 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-106, **add** (5.5)
14 as follows:
15 **23-3.3-106. Technology to support FAFSA and CASFA -**
16 **definitions.** (5.5) ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR
17 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BE USED FOR MAINTENANCE
18 OF THE WEB-BASED FINANCIAL AID COMPLETION TOOL.
19 **SECTION 5. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2025-26 state fiscal
20 year, \$9,611 is appropriated to the department of higher education for use
21 by the Colorado commission on higher education and higher education
22 special purpose programs. This appropriation is from the general fund and
23 is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 0.1
24 FTE. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for
25 administration.
26 (2) For the 2025-26 state fiscal year, \$210,389 is appropriated to
27 the department of education for use by student pathways. This
28 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the division
29 may use this appropriation for support to local education providers for
30 student financial literacy initiatives.
31 **SECTION 6. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
32 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
33 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
34 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
35 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
36 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
37 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
38 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
39 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

** *** ** *** **

