Committee on Appropriations.

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

SB21-232 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

Amend reengrossed bill, page 2, strike lines 4 through 21 and substitute:

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

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

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

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

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the COVID-19 pandemic, including those who were laid off or furloughed, experienced decreased earnings, had job offers rescinded, or were unable to enter the workforce because of negative economic conditions.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

(c) Appropriating a portion of the money received pursuant to the
federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, to the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative is estimated to serve at least three thousand displaced Colorado workers and will provide these workers with the skills, supports, and credentials necessary to secure good jobs, sustain a resilient state economy, and help institutions of higher education scale high-demand and highly impacted programs; and

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

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

Page 2, line 22, strike "For" and substitute "(1) For".

Page 2, line 25, strike "general fund." and substitute "workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund created in section 24-75-231 (2)(a), C.R.S., and from money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund.".

Page 3, after line 4 insert:

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

Page 3, before line 5 insert:

"SECTION 3. Effective date. This act takes effect upon passage only if House Bill 21-1264 becomes law, in which case this act takes effect on the effective date of this act or House Bill 21-1264, whichever is later.".

Renumber succeeding section accordingly.

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