

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 18-0692.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 18-1343

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Lee and Carver**, Valdez, Danielson, Landgraf, Duran, Covarrubias, Kraft-Tharp, Liston, Lundeen, Melton, Pabon

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None), Garcia, Coram

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House Committees  
Education

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE "COLORADO VETERANS'  
102 SERVICE-TO-CAREER PROGRAM".

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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://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

Current law contains a pilot program to assist veterans, veterans' spouses, and other eligible participants in obtaining employment and provide support services to seek and obtain employment. The bill continues the program and includes funding for the current pilot program and the expanded program. The bill adds persons who may participate in the program and addresses veterans who have barriers to employment.

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.

The department is required to develop an evaluation methodology to measure program effectiveness.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 8-14.3-201  
3 as follows:

4 **8-14.3-201. Short title.** The short title of this part 2 is the  
5 "Colorado Veterans' Service-to-career ~~Pilot~~ Program".

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 8-14.3-201.5 as  
7 follows:

8 **8-14.3-201.5. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

10 (a) THE PILOT PROGRAM ENACTED IN HOUSE BILL 16-1267, WHICH  
11 CREATED THE COLORADO VETERANS' SERVICE-TO-CAREER PILOT PROGRAM  
12 THAT AUTHORIZED NONPROFIT AGENCIES TO PARTNER WITH WORK FORCE  
13 CENTERS SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE VETERANS AND  
14 OTHER ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WITH SKILLS TRAINING, INTERNSHIPS,  
15 WORK PLACEMENTS, MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CAREER AND  
16 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND SUPPORT SERVICES, HAS BEEN  
17 SUCCESSFUL IN INCREASING THE EMPLOYMENT RATES FOR VETERANS,  
18 VETERANS' SPOUSES, AND ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS; AND

19 (b) THE SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM WERE  
20 DESIGNED TO ENHANCE WORK FORCE CENTER SERVICES NOT AVAILABLE  
21 UNDER THE FEDERAL ACT.

22 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS, DETERMINES, AND  
23 DECLARES THAT THE COLORADO VETERANS' SERVICE-TO-CAREER PILOT  
24 PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE AS A PROGRAM WHOSE GOAL IS TO ASSIST  
25 VETERANS, SPOUSES, AND ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS IN SEEKING, OBTAINING,

1 AND RETAINING EMPLOYMENT.

2 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-14.3-202, **amend**  
3 (1), (4), (5), (6), and (9); and **add** (5.5) as follows:

4 **8-14.3-202. Definitions.** As used in this part 2, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (1) "Act" means the FEDERAL "Workforce Innovation and  
7 Opportunity Act", Pub.L. 113-128.

8 (4) "Eligible participant" means A:

9 (a) VETERAN;

10 (b) VETERAN'S SPOUSE;

11 ~~(a)~~ (c) ~~A~~ Veteran's dependent child who is twenty-six years of age  
12 or younger and lives in the home of the veteran; ~~and~~

13 ~~(b)~~ (d) ~~A~~ Veteran's caregiver who is eighteen years of age or older  
14 and has significant responsibility for managing the well-being of an  
15 injured veteran; AND

16 (e) PERSON WHO IS ACTIVELY SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES  
17 ARMED FORCES AND WHO IS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF BEING DISCHARGED  
18 UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE OR A MEMBER OF THE  
19 NATIONAL GUARD OR MILITARY RESERVES WHO HAS COMPLETED INITIAL  
20 ENTRY TRAINING.

21 (5) "Integrated service and support center" means a ~~nonprofit~~  
22 ~~center that is affiliated with a work force center and veterans service~~  
23 ~~offices or provides financial classes or houses a small business~~  
24 ~~development center~~ CENTRALIZED LOCATION WHERE NONPROFIT AND  
25 ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHER  
26 ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATE TO PROVIDE TO ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS  
27 SERVICES THAT INCLUDE FINANCIAL CLASSES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

1 COUNSELING, WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT SERVICES, SKILLS TRAINING,  
2 VETERANS' BENEFIT COUNSELING, PEER MENTORSHIP, COMMUNITY  
3 SERVICE, AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

4 (5.5) "INTERNSHIP" MEANS A TRAINING PROGRAM WITH A BUSINESS  
5 OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DURING WHICH THE ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT  
6 RECEIVES SKILLS TRAINING THAT COULD RESULT IN FUTURE EMPLOYMENT  
7 IN THAT SECTOR OR INDUSTRY.

8 (6) "Program" means the Colorado veterans' service-to-career  
9 ~~pilot program that is designed to enhance work force center services that~~  
10 ~~are not available under the act~~ CREATED IN THIS PART 2.

11 (9) (a) "Work force center" means a work force center created by  
12 a work force ~~investment~~ DEVELOPMENT board pursuant to the "Colorado  
13 ~~Work Force Investment~~ CAREER ADVANCEMENT Act", part 2 of article 83  
14 of this title 8.

15 (b) FOR PURPOSES OF A GRANT APPLICATION UNDER SECTION  
16 8-14.3-203, "WORK FORCE CENTER" ALSO INCLUDES A NONPROFIT ENTITY  
17 THAT:

18 (I) HAS A PRIMARY FOCUS OF SERVING VETERANS;

19 (II) JOINS WITH THE WORK FORCE CENTER TO SUBMIT A JOINT  
20 APPLICATION; AND

21 (III) COLLABORATES WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND, IF FEASIBLE,  
22 DEVELOPS A GRANT APPLICATION FORM BY MARCH 1, 2019, SO THAT  
23 NONPROFIT AGENCIES THAT OPERATE MULTIPLE SERVICE CENTERS CAN  
24 SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION.

25 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-14.3-203, **amend**  
26 (1) introductory portion, (1)(b), (1)(d), (1)(e), (2), (3)(e), (4), (5), and (6);  
27 and **add** (1)(f) as follows:

1           **8-14.3-203. Colorado veterans' service-to-career program -**

2 **report.** (1) One or more work force centers selected by the department  
3 pursuant to the grant program developed by the department in subsection  
4 (4) of this section may contract with a nonprofit agency to administer the  
5 program. Work force centers selected by the department and the nonprofit  
6 agency shall develop and expand programs to provide work force  
7 development-related services specifically tailored to the unique needs and  
8 talents of ~~veterans, spouses, and~~ eligible participants. The services may  
9 include:

10           (b) Opportunities for apprenticeship OR INTERNSHIP placements,  
11 including an ~~apprenticeship~~ INTERNSHIP that allows for direct entry of  
12 ~~veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. sec. 4104A~~ ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS;

13           (d) Opportunities for work placements with businesses or other  
14 organizations; ~~and~~

15           (e) Support services, as needed; AND

16           (f) WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING HOUSING AND  
17 TRANSPORTATION, TO FACILITATE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.

18           (2) (a) If an internship, as allowable, ~~under the act~~, is not fully  
19 funded by the employer, the employer and the work force center ~~shall~~  
20 MAY share the cost of the hourly wage or stipend for the ~~veteran, spouse,~~  
21 ~~or~~ eligible participant, as determined by the work force center and as  
22 permitted under state and federal law.

23           (b) If a ~~veteran, spouse, or~~ AN eligible participant is eligible for  
24 funding, ~~through the act~~, this funding must be used first. If funding is not  
25 available or is limited, ~~under the act~~ OR IF THE USE OF FUNDS IS NOT  
26 ALLOWABLE, the ~~veteran, spouse, or~~ eligible participant may use program  
27 funding.

1 (3) The work force centers selected by the department and the  
2 nonprofit agency are encouraged to additionally provide services that  
3 include:

4 (e) Counseling on educational and skills training opportunities  
5 available to ~~veterans, spouses, and~~ eligible participants.

6 (4) The department shall develop a grant ~~program~~ PROCESS so that  
7 work force centers may apply for money to administer the program. Each  
8 work force center that wishes to administer the ~~grant~~ program must  
9 submit a grant application that:

10 (a) Describes the current services that the work force center offers  
11 AND DEMONSTRATES THAT THOSE SERVICES:

12 (I) DO NOT DUPLICATE SERVICES CURRENTLY PROVIDED UNDER  
13 THE FEDERAL ACT; AND

14 (II) WILL COMPLEMENT OTHER SERVICES OFFERED UNDER THE  
15 PROGRAM;

16 (b) States how the grant money would enable the work force  
17 center to expand its services for the purposes of the program;

18 (c) Describes businesses or other organizations it is partnering  
19 with to provide the necessary services; ~~and~~

20 (d) ~~Any other requirements deemed necessary by the department.~~

21 EXPLAINS HOW THE SERVICES WILL BE TAILORED OR SPECIFICALLY  
22 MARKETED TO ANY SUBGROUP OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING:

23 (I) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS WITH BARRIERS TO ACCESS, SUCH AS  
24 VETERANS WITH BAD CONDUCT DISCHARGES;

25 (II) VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS;

26 (III) VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS WHO SERVED FOR MORE THAN ONE  
27 HUNDRED DAYS BETWEEN 1965 AND 1975;

1 (IV) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCING ADDICTION;  
2 (V) NATIONAL GUARD AND MILITARY RESERVE VETERANS; AND  
3 (VI) VETERANS WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO ENROLL UNDER THE  
4 FEDERAL ACT OR WHO ARE ENROLLED UNDER THE FEDERAL ACT BUT  
5 COULD BENEFIT FROM GREATER SUPPORT; AND

6 (e) ADDRESSES ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS THE DEPARTMENT  
7 DEEMS NECESSARY.

8 (5) In selecting work force centers to administer the program, the  
9 department shall give preference to a work force center that:

10 (a) Partners with ~~a nonprofit~~ AN agency that is an integrated  
11 service and support center for veterans and their families;

12 (b) Is located in the state of Colorado, in order to serve the highest  
13 number of ~~veterans~~ ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS;

14 (c) Has existing programs or partnerships with businesses or  
15 organizations in the community to provide services appropriate to the  
16 program; and

17 (d) Has the capacity to provide a wide range of work force  
18 development-related services tailored to the unique needs of ~~veterans,~~  
19 ~~spouses, and eligible participants.~~

20 (6) (a) Each work force center chosen to receive a grant shall use  
21 the money for direct services to ~~veterans, spouses, and eligible~~  
22 ~~participants.~~ Each work force center chosen to receive a grant shall report  
23 on the services offered; ~~veteran, spouse, and eligible participant~~  
24 ~~participation~~ BY EACH SUBGROUP OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS; the  
25 program's success measured through gainful employment and  
26 participation in skills training or educational programs of ~~veterans,~~  
27 ~~spouses, and eligible participants;~~ and any other requirements that the

1 department deems necessary. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136  
2 (11)(a)(I), the ~~reports~~ WORK FORCE CENTER shall ~~be made~~ SUBMIT THE  
3 REPORT to the department, which shall relay all information from the  
4 reports annually to the state, veterans, and military affairs committees of  
5 the house of representatives and the senate or to their successor  
6 committees.

7 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AN EVALUATION  
8 METHODOLOGY TO MEASURE PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND EFFECTIVENESS  
9 PRIOR TO INITIATING THE BID PROCESS FOR AWARDING GRANTS. TO THE  
10 EXTENT FEASIBLE, THE EVALUATION PROCESS MUST ENABLE A  
11 COMPARISON BETWEEN PROGRAMS SERVING SIMILAR POPULATIONS. IT IS  
12 THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT AWARD  
13 THE GRANTS NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2018. THE GRANT AWARD  
14 MUST INCLUDE DATA TRACKING REQUIREMENTS THAT WILL BE USED TO  
15 MEASURE OUTCOMES AND EFFECTIVENESS.

16 (c) ANY UNSPENT MONEY REMAINING IN THE DEPARTMENT'S  
17 FISCAL YEAR 2017-18 APPROPRIATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS MAY  
18 BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNING AN EVALUATION METHODOLOGY  
19 OR CONTRACTING OUT THE DESIGN. ANY UNSPENT MONEY FOR DIRECT  
20 PROGRAM SERVICES REMAINING AS OF JUNE 30, 2018, MAY BE USED BY  
21 THE PROGRAMS IN EFFECT AS OF JUNE 30, 2018, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
22 STARTING JULY 1, 2018. UNSPENT MONEY AVAILABLE AT THE END OF  
23 EACH FISCAL YEAR ROLLS OVER TO THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO BE SPENT IN  
24 THAT YEAR.

25 (d) IN ANALYZING AND REPORTING ON THE PERFORMANCE DATA  
26 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (6)(a) AND (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
27 DEPARTMENT SHALL SEPARATELY ACCOUNT FOR DATA PERTAINING TO

1 SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.

2 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 8-14.3-204  
3 as follows:

4 **8-14.3-204. Appropriation.** (1) ~~For the fiscal year beginning on~~  
5 ~~July 1, 2016,~~ The general assembly may annually appropriate money from  
6 the marijuana tax cash fund created in section 39-28.8-501 ~~C.R.S.~~, to the  
7 department to be used for the program. The department may use up to  
8 five percent of any money appropriated by the general assembly for  
9 development and administrative costs incurred by the department  
10 pursuant to this section. Up to ~~seven~~ EIGHT percent of the money may also  
11 be used by the work force center for administrative costs incurred by the  
12 work force center and the nonprofit agency to implement and operate the  
13 program.

14 (2) FROM THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE PROGRAM, THE  
15 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE \_\_\_\_\_ IN ORDER TO CONTINUE  
16 THE PROGRAM THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2018. ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED  
17 TO THE PROGRAM MUST BE APPLIED TO GRANTS AWARDED TO THE  
18 PROGRAM IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-19.

19 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 8-14.3-205 as  
20 follows:

21 **8-14.3-205. Repeal of part.** ~~This part 2 is repealed, effective~~  
22 ~~January 1, 2019.~~

23 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-28.8-501, **amend**  
24 (2)(b)(IV)(L) as follows:

25 **39-28.8-501. Marijuana tax cash fund - creation - distribution**  
26 **- legislative declaration.** (2) (b) (IV) Subject to the limitation in  
27 subsection (5) of this section, the general assembly may annually

1 appropriate any money in the fund for any fiscal year following the fiscal  
2 year in which it was received by the state for the following purposes:

3 (L) For the Colorado veterans' service-to-career ~~pilot~~ program  
4 created in part 2 of article 14.3 of title 8;

5 **SECTION 8. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

6 **SECTION 9. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
8 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.