SENATE BILL 21-232

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE COLORADO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE'S DISPLACED WORKERS GRANT.

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 appropriates money to the department of higher education for the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative's displaced workers grant.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds that:

(a) In 2020, the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative responded to needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by creating the displaced workers grant;

(b) The displaced workers grant supports Coloradans displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic who have completed a portion of their higher education but have not earned or completed a credential, or who have the need to reskill or upskill due to loss of employment; and

(c) Increased investment in the displaced workers grant 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; help sustain a resilient state economy; and help institutions of higher education scale high-demand and highly impacted programs.

(2) Therefore, the general assembly declares its commitment to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing its support of the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative and furthering its purpose to support students who are committed to academic achievement and successful placement in the workforce.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, $15,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education for use by the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board. This appropriation is from the general fund. The Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board may use this appropriation for the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative's displaced workers grant.
Any money appropriated in this section not expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated to the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board for the 2021-22 state fiscal year for the same purpose.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.