

## CHAPTER 350

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**EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS**


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**SENATE BILL 22-165**

BY SENATOR(S) Bridges, Buckner, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Moreno, Pettersen, Winter, Zenzinger, Fenberg;  
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lindsay and Geitner, Barnett, Bird, Boesenecker, Esgar, Exum, Hooton, Jodeh, Lontine, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Ricks, Titone, Young.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE COLORADO CAREER ADVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

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

- (a) Career advising supports youth and adult learners by providing essential information to help them navigate careers and jobs;
- (b) Many students and adult learners in Colorado do not know what positions or credentials to pursue to secure high-paying jobs, and they have difficulty navigating Colorado's education, training, and employment landscape;
- (c) Career advisors exist in K-12, higher education, adult education, and workforce settings;
- (d) In 2019, as an education leadership council initiative, Colorado developed a first-in-the-nation model called the Colorado Career Conversations Training project to cross-train career advisors across systems. As a result of COVID-19, funding for this project was interrupted.
- (e) The past two years have underscored the need for high-quality professional development and training to help existing career advisors be dynamic and understand the shifting landscape of our state and regional job needs and skills; and
- (f) Program evaluations showed that the Colorado Career Conversations Training

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

project resulted in a statewide expansion of highly trained career advisors focused on high-need sectors of the economy and built increased capacity for a more consistent and sustainable approach to career advising in Colorado as a model for the nation.

(2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that providing access to quality career advisors can address Colorado's skill and credential attainment gap by helping students and adult learners explore career options and complete the necessary education and training to obtain quality living-wage jobs in high-need sectors of Colorado's economy.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-10-108** as follows:

**22-10-108. Colorado career advisor training program - creation - fund - definition.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "COLORADO CAREER ADVISOR" MEANS A SCHOOL COUNSELOR, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-91-102 (6); ADULT EDUCATION ADVISOR; NONPROFIT CAREER ADVISOR; WORKFORCE CENTER ADVISOR; OR HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISOR.

(2) THERE IS CREATED THE COLORADO CAREER ADVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE TO PROVIDE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND COURSES TO COLORADO CAREER ADVISORS IN AN EFFORT TO EQUIP COLORADO CAREER ADVISORS WITH THE SKILLS AND TRAINING NECESSARY TO HELP GUIDE INDIVIDUALS TOWARD MEANINGFUL CAREERS.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, COLORADO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND THE COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, SHALL ADMINISTER THE COLORADO CAREER ADVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT THOSE ENTITIES THAT WILL RECEIVE GRANTS THROUGH THE COLORADO CAREER ADVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS THAT RECEIVE FUNDS THROUGH THE COLORADO CAREER ADVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF CAREER ADVISOR TRAINING FOR COLORADO CAREER ADVISORS, AN ENTITY MUST APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIMELINES AND GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(4) FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE COLORADO CAREER ADVISOR TRAINING PROGRAM.

**SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the Colorado career advisor training program.

**SECTION 4. 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.

Approved: June 3, 2022