

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 23-0712.02 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 23-149

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HIGHER**
102 **EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WHO**
103 **PERFORM YOUTH MENTORSHIP, AND, IN CONNECTION**
104 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 creates the youth mentorship stipend pilot program in the department of higher education. The program provides money for higher education tuition and fees to students who provide mentorship services to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

an approved youth mentorship organization.

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

2 **SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 23-3.3-1010 as**
3 **follows:**

4 **23-3.3-1010. Youth mentorship assistance grant pilot program**
5 **- creation - policies - reports - definitions - repeal. (1) THERE IS**
6 **CREATED IN THE INITIATIVE THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ASSISTANCE GRANT**
7 **PILOT PROGRAM. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL**
8 **ASSISTANCE TO A STUDENT WHO PROVIDES MENTORSHIP SERVICES TO**
9 **DEFRAY THE COST OF THE STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE AT A PUBLIC**
10 **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

11 **(2) THE BOARD SHALL:**

12 **(a) SELECT APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS TO**
13 **PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. THE BOARD SHALL SELECT ONE APPROVED**
14 **YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES**
15 **OF ORGANIZATIONS:**

16 **(I) A YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH WHO ARE**
17 **LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, OR QUEER;**

18 **(II) A YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE**
19 **A PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY;**

20 **(III) A YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH OF COLOR;**

21 **(IV) A YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH WHO ARE**
22 **JUSTICE INVOLVED;**

23 **(V) A YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH WHO RESIDE**
24 **IN A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE; AND**

25 **(VI) A YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH WHO**

1 RESIDE IN AN URBAN AREA OF THE STATE.

2 (b) ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM CAP, OR VARIOUS MAXIMUM CAPS, ON
3 THE AMOUNT THAT ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS MAY EARN THROUGH
4 PROVIDING MENTORSHIP SERVICES; AND

5 (c) ESTABLISH PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR ELIGIBLE
6 STUDENT-MENTORS WHO DEMONSTRATE THE GREATEST FINANCIAL
7 ASSISTANCE NEEDS.

8 (3) TO BE AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION, A
9 YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL:

10 (a) APPLY TO THE BOARD IN THE TIME AND MANNER REQUIRED BY
11 THE BOARD; AND

12 (b) (I) HAVE A POLICY AND PROCEDURE REQUIRING A STATE AND
13 NATIONAL FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK
14 UTILIZING THE RECORDS OF THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
15 AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OF ALL PROSPECTIVE
16 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES.

17 (II) THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT PERMIT
18 PROSPECTIVE ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS, VOLUNTEERS, OR EMPLOYEES
19 TO SERVE THE ORGANIZATION IF THEY HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF,
20 ENTERED A PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE TO, OR RECEIVED A
21 DEFERRED SENTENCE FOR:

22 (A) A FELONY;

23 (B) A MISDEMEANOR CRIME INVOLVING UNLAWFUL SEXUAL
24 BEHAVIOR OR UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR INVOLVING CHILDREN; OR

25 (C) A MISDEMEANOR CRIME, THE UNDERLYING FACTUAL BASIS OF
26 WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND BY THE COURT ON THE RECORD TO INVOLVE
27 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

1 (4) TO BE AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR, THE STUDENT SHALL:

2 (a) APPLY TO THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION
3 IN THE TIME AND MANNER SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD;

4 (b) SATISFY ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO BE A
5 STUDENT-MENTOR THROUGH THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
6 ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING COMPLETING THE FINGERPRINT-BASED
7 CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF
8 THIS SECTION; AND

9 (c) BE ENROLLED IN A QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
10 EDUCATION FOR THE DURATION OF THE MENTORSHIP.

11 (5)(a) THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES THAT ENSURE THAT
12 PROGRAM MONEY IS USED FOR APPROVED ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS'
13 HIGHER EDUCATION COST OF ATTENDANCE AND THAT ELIGIBLE
14 STUDENT-MENTORS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM PROVIDE
15 EVIDENCE OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE TO EARN THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
16 FOR COST OF ATTENDANCE. THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES FOR
17 THE REPAYMENT OF ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLIED TOWARD THE
18 COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR THAT THE
19 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR DID NOT EARN.

20 (b) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH POLICIES NECESSARY FOR THE
21 ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE DATES FOR
22 DISBURSEMENTS TO APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS AND
23 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS' PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
24 EDUCATION.

25 (6) FOR THE 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
26 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM
27 THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE BY THE BOARD FOR

1 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. NOTHING IN THIS
2 SECTION AUTHORIZES THE DEPARTMENT OR BOARD TO USE THE
3 APPROPRIATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
4 IMPLEMENTING OR ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM, OR THE APPROVED
5 YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION TO USE THE MONEY RECEIVED
6 THROUGH THE PROGRAM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
7 IMPLEMENTING OR ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM. ANY MONEY
8 APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION NOT EXPENDED PRIOR TO JULY
9 1, 2024, IS FURTHER APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE BY THE
10 BOARD FOR THE 2024-25 AND 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEARS FOR THE SAME
11 PURPOSE.

12 (7) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, THE BOARD SHALL MAKE
13 ITS FIRST DISBURSEMENT TO APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
14 ORGANIZATIONS.

15 (b) AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL
16 DISBURSE THE MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM TO THE
17 QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WHICH AN
18 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR WHO PROVIDES SERVICE TO THE YOUTH
19 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION IS ENROLLED, TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE
20 COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR IN EXCHANGE
21 FOR THE MENTORSHIP SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ELIGIBLE
22 STUDENT-MENTOR. THE AMOUNT DISBURSED PURSUANT TO THIS
23 SUBSECTION (7)(b) MUST NOT EXCEED THE APPLICABLE CAP ESTABLISHED
24 BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

25 (c) AT THE END OF THE GRANT TERM, THE APPROVED YOUTH
26 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS SHALL RETURN ANY UNUSED MONEY
27 RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

1 (8) (a) AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL
2 SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT INCLUDES:

3 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
4 ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING ITS LOCATION, THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES,
5 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE MENTEES IT SERVES, AND SUMMARIES
6 OF THE PROGRAM'S IMPACT ON THE MENTEES SERVED; EXCEPT THAT ANY
7 SUMMARY MUST NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF A MENTEE OR INCLUDE
8 PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF A
9 MENTEE;

10 (II) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS WHO PROVIDED
11 MENTORSHIP SERVICES TO THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
12 ORGANIZATION DURING THE PRECEDING STATE FISCAL YEAR, IN TOTAL
13 AND DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER IDENTITY, AND THE
14 QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WHICH THE
15 ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS ARE ENROLLED; AND

16 (III) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY RECEIVED BY THE APPROVED YOUTH
17 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FROM THE PROGRAM, IN TOTAL AND
18 DISAGGREGATED BY PAYMENTS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
19 EDUCATION.

20 (b) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE
21 DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT
22 A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, CONCERNING THE
24 PROGRAM IN THE PRECEDING STATE FISCAL YEAR. AT A MINIMUM, THE
25 REPORT MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING:

26 (I) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE APPROVED YOUTH
27 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (8)(a) OF THIS

1 SECTION;

2 (II) IF AVAILABLE, THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS
3 WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM WHO CONTINUED ENROLLMENT IN
4 THE QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN A
5 SUBSEQUENT ACADEMIC TERM, REPORTED FOR THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE
6 AND FOR EACH INSTITUTION, IN TOTAL AND DISAGGREGATED BY RACE,
7 ETHNICITY, AND GENDER IDENTITY; AND

8 (III) IF AVAILABLE, THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS
9 WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM WHO GRADUATED FROM THE
10 QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, REPORTED FOR
11 THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE AND FOR EACH INSTITUTION, IN TOTAL AND
12 DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER IDENTITY.

13 (9) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
14 REQUIRES:

15 (a) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ASSISTANCE
16 GRANT PILOT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

17 (b) "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS A STATE
18 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 23-18-102
19 (10)(a), A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

20 (c) "YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION" MEANS A
21 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES MENTORSHIP
22 SERVICES TO YOUTH WHO RESIDE IN COMMUNITIES THAT WERE
23 HISTORICALLY AND ARE CURRENTLY NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY
24 STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC DESIGN, AND CONSEQUENTLY HAVE NO OR
25 LIMITED ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTORSHIP SERVICES.

26 (10) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

27 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2023-24 state fiscal year,

1 \$100,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education for use by
2 the Colorado opportunity scholarship board. This appropriation is from
3 the general fund. To implement this act, the board may use this
4 appropriation for the youth mentorship stipend pilot program.

5 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
8 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
9 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
10 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
11 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
12 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.