

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0987.01 Megan McCall x4215

SENATE BILL 23-250

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Mullica and Kirkmeyer,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Catlin,

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Senate Committees  
Appropriations

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR TRANSFER FROM THE  
102 SEVERANCE TAX OPERATIONAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL  
103 CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR USE BY STATE-SUPPORTED  
104 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENERGY IMPACTED  
105 COUNTIES AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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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>.)*

On July 1, 2023, the state treasurer is required to transfer \$10 million from the severance tax operational fund to the capital construction

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.

fund. The money is to be used by state-supported institutions of higher education in energy impacted counties for energy-related programs or projects.

For fiscal year 2023-24, the bill appropriates \$6 million to Colorado Mesa university to expand the university's campus-wide geothermal exchange system. For fiscal year 2023-24, the bill appropriates \$4 million to Western Colorado university to provide additional teaching and laboratory space for the university's petroleum geology program and to generally allow for the expansion of the natural and environmental sciences department.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-29-109.3, **amend**  
3 (1) introductory portion; and **add** (9) as follows:

4 **39-29-109.3. Severance tax operational fund - core reserve -**  
5 **grant program reserve - definitions - repeal.** (1) The executive director  
6 of the department of natural resources shall submit with the department's  
7 budget request for each fiscal year a list and description of the programs  
8 the executive director recommends to be funded from the severance tax  
9 operational fund created in section 39-29-109 (2)(b), referred to in this  
10 section as the "operational fund". EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN  
11 SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION, the general assembly may appropriate  
12 money from the total money available in the operational fund to fund  
13 recommended programs as follows:

14 (9) (a) ON JULY 1, 2023, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER  
15 TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE OPERATIONAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL  
16 CONSTRUCTION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-302 (1)(a) FOR USE BY  
17 STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENERGY  
18 IMPACTED COUNTIES FOR ENERGY-RELATED PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS.

19 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-302, **amend**

1 (13) as follows:

2 **24-75-302. Capital construction fund - capital assessment fees**  
3 **- calculation - information technology capital account.** (13) The fund  
4 includes money transferred pursuant to ~~section~~ SECTIONS 24-33.5-706  
5 (4.7) AND 39-29-109.3 (9).

6 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal  
7 year, \$6,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education for  
8 use by Colorado Mesa university. This appropriation is from the capital  
9 construction fund created in section 24-75-302 (1)(a), C.R.S. To  
10 implement this act, Colorado Mesa university shall use this appropriation  
11 to expand the campus-wide geothermal-exchange system on Colorado  
12 Mesa university's main campus to provide sufficient drill and loop field  
13 capacity to allow one hundred percent of existing campus buildings to be  
14 connected with a geothermal-exchange system. The appropriation shall  
15 be expended in accordance with the provisions of sections 24-75-302 and  
16 24-75-303, C.R.S.

17 (2) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$4,000,000 is appropriated  
18 to the department of higher education for use by Western Colorado  
19 university. This appropriation is from the capital construction fund  
20 created in section 24-75-302 (1)(a), C.R.S. To implement this act,  
21 Western Colorado university shall use this appropriation to provide  
22 additional teaching and laboratory space for Western Colorado  
23 university's petroleum geology program, and to generally allow for the  
24 expansion of the natural and environmental sciences department. The  
25 appropriation shall be expended in accordance with the provisions of  
26 sections 24-75-302 and 24-75-303, C.R.S.

27 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.