

CHAPTER 457

EDUCATION - POSTSECONDARY

SENATE BILL 24-221

BY SENATOR(S) Roberts and Kirkmeyer, Pelton R., Rich, Bridges, Buckner, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Ginal, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Liston, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton B., Priola, Simpson, Will, Zenzinger, Fenberg; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Catlin and Lukens, Lynch, McLachlan, Amabile, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, English, Hamrick, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Martinez, Mauro, McCormick, Ricks, Rutinel, Snyder, Soper, Story, Titone, Velasco, Vigil, Weissman, Winter T., Young, McCluskie.

AN ACT

CONCERNING FUNDING FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76.5-104, **amend** (1) as follows:

23-76.5-104. Initiative reporting. (1) On or before November 1, 2023, and on or before November 1 each year thereafter, the rural program office shall submit a report to the house of representatives education committee and the senate education committee, or their successor committees, concerning the initiative. The report must include:

(a) Information about each institution's health-care professionals rural tracks, the number of students enrolled in each rural track, the number of students who have completed each rural track and are practicing in a rural or frontier county, and any other relevant data and information about the initiative; ~~and~~

(b) The rural program office's analysis of the effectiveness of the initiative and rural tracks; AND

(c) THE ALLOCATION FORMULA DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-76.5-105 (2)(c).

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-76.5-105, **amend** (1), (2)(a) introductory portion, and (2)(a)(VI)(A); and **add** (2)(c) and (3) as follows:

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.

23-76.5-105. Initiative funding - fee-for-service contracts. (1) Subject to available appropriations, the department of higher education shall enter into a limited purpose fee-for-service contract with the university of Colorado health sciences center pursuant to section 23-18-308 to provide funding for the rural program office ~~IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE~~ to carry out ~~its~~ ~~THE OFFICE'S~~ duties described in section 23-76.5-103. The funding for the rural program office may be included in a single fee-for-service contract with the university of Colorado health sciences center ~~described in~~ PURSUANT TO subsection (2) of this section.

(2) (a) Subject to available appropriations, the department of higher education shall enter into a limited purpose fee-for-service contract with the governing boards of each of the following institutions, except for Colorado mountain college, for allocation to each program or ~~school~~ INSTITUTION listed in this subsection (2) to establish or expand an existing rural track pursuant to this article 76.5:

(VI) The university of Colorado, in the following programs or schools:

(A) At the health sciences center campus, in its school of dental medicine and in THE RURAL PROGRAM OF its doctor of medicine program in the school of medicine;

(c) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY ENTER INTO A LIMITED PURPOSE FEE-FOR-SERVICE CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO FOR ALLOCATION TO EACH PROGRAM OR INSTITUTION LISTED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO EXPAND AN EXISTING RURAL TRACK PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 76.5. THE RURAL PROGRAM OFFICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INSTITUTIONS, SHALL DEVELOP A FORMULA BASED ON DATA THAT DOCUMENTS THE PROGRAM'S OR INSTITUTION'S FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 23-76.5-102 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO USE TO MAKE ALLOCATIONS TO A PROGRAM OR INSTITUTION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(c). WHEN DEVELOPING THE ALLOCATION FORMULA, THE RURAL PROGRAM OFFICE SHALL CONSIDER:

(I) THE PERCENTAGE OF MONEY DEDICATED TO DIRECT STUDENT SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE DURING RURAL PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE;

(II) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN EACH RURAL TRACK PROGRAM;

(III) THE LENGTH OF STUDY FOR THE RURAL TRACK PROGRAM;

(IV) THE TUITION EXPENSES FOR THE RURAL TRACK PROGRAM;

(V) THE AMOUNT OF RURAL CURRICULUM PROVIDED TO STUDENTS;

(VI) THE RURAL PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS;

(VII) THE TEACHING DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED TO VOLUNTEER RURAL PRECEPTORS; AND

(VIII) THE NUMBER OF GRADUATES WHO ENTER RURAL PRACTICE.

(3) ANY MONEY NOT EXPENDED OR ENCUMBERED FROM ANY APPROPRIATION AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25.5-4-433** as follows:

25.5-4-433. Rural hospital cash fund - creation - definition. (1) THE RURAL HOSPITAL CASH FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY AND IS REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND". THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY CREDITED TO THE FUND AND ANY OTHER MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND.

(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE FUND.

(3) MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISTRIBUTING MONEY IN EQUAL AMOUNTS TO RURAL HOSPITALS.

(4) ON JULY 1, 2024, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-NINE DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND.

(5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "RURAL HOSPITAL" MEANS A HOSPITAL LICENSED OR CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-103 (1)(a) OR AN AFFILIATE OWNED OR CONTROLLED, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25.5-4-402.8 (1)(c), BY A HOSPITAL, AND THAT IS LOCATED IN A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN FIFTY THOUSAND RESIDENTS OR IN A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND RESIDENTS IF THE MUNICIPALITY IS NOT CONTIGUOUS TO A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND OR MORE RESIDENTS.

SECTION 4. Appropriation. (1) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$866,667 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the college opportunity fund program to be used for limited purpose fee-for-service contracts with state institutions.

(2) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$866,667 is appropriated to the department of higher education. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the limited purpose fee-for-service contracts with state institutions under subsection (1) of this section. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for the regents of the university of Colorado for allocation to institutions of higher education pursuant to section 23-76.5-105 (2)(c), C.R.S.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: June 6, 2024