CHAPTER 313

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SENATE BILL 17-296

BY SENATOR(S) Hill, Court, Crowder, Fenberg, Gardner, Holbert, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pettersen, Benavidez, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Exum, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Rosenthal, Singer, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Wilson, Winter, Young, Duran.

AN ACT

CONCERNING FINANCING PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 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, 22-54-104, **amend** (5)(g)(I) introductory portion; and **add** (5)(a)(XXIV) and (5)(g)(I)(H) as follows:

- **22-54-104. District total program definitions.** (5) For purposes of the formulas used in this section:
- (a) (XXIV) For the 2017-18 budget year, the statewide base per pupil funding is \$6,546.20, which is an amount equal to \$6,367.90, supplemented by \$178.30 to account for inflation.
- (g) (I) For the 2010-11 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the general assembly determines that stabilization of the state budget requires a reduction in the amount of the annual appropriation to fund the state's share of total program funding for all districts and the funding for institute charter schools. The department of education shall implement the reduction in total program funding through the application of a negative factor as provided in this paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I). For the 2010-11 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall determine, based on budget projections, the amount of such reduction to ensure the following:
 - (H) That, for the 2017-18 budget year, the sum of the total program

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

Funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, after application of the budget stabilization factor, is not less than six billion six hundred thirty-four million six hundred thousand one hundred eighty-two dollars (\$6,634,600,182); except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures, including but not limited to actual pupil enrollment, assessed valuations, and specific ownership tax revenue from the prior year, to determine any necessary changes in the amount of the reduction to maintain a total program funding amount for the applicable budget year that is consistent with this subsection (5)(g)(I)(H). For the 2018-19 budget year, the difference between calculated statewide total program funding must not exceed the difference between calculated statewide total program funding and actual statewide total program funding for the 2017-18 budget year.

- **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-45-103, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1)(k) as follows:
- **22-45-103.** Funds. (1) The following funds are created for each school district for purposes specified in this article ARTICLE 45:
- (k) **Total program reserve fund.** A school district shall deposit the property tax revenues that it collects from a tax levy imposed pursuant to section 22-54-107 (5) in the total program reserve fund of the district. The district may expend money from the total program reserve fund only to offset the amount of a reduction in the district's state share caused by application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR pursuant to section 22-54-104 (5)(g); except that, in a budget year in which the school district levies for its total program the number of mills calculated pursuant to section 22-54-106 (2)(a)(II), if the balance of the total program reserve fund exceeds an amount equal to the district's total program for that budget year multiplied by the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR calculated pursuant to section 22-54-104 (5)(g) for that budget year, the district may expend the amount of the excess balance. Any money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year must remain in the fund and may be used in future years only as provided in this paragraph (k) SUBSECTION (1)(k).
- **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **amend** (4.5)(c)(III) introductory portion, (4.7)(c) introductory portion, (5)(g)(I) introductory portion, (5)(g)(I)(B), (5)(g)(I)(C), (5)(g)(I)(D), (5)(g)(I)(E), (5)(g)(I)(F), (5)(g)(I)(G), (5)(g)(II)(A), (5)(g)(II)(B), (5)(g)(VII) introductory portion, (5)(g)(VII)(A), and (5)(g)(VII)(B) as follows:
- **22-54-104. District total program definitions.** (4.5) A district's online funding shall be determined in accordance with the following formulas:
- (c) (III) In any budget year in which the provisions of paragraph (g) of subsection (5) SUBSECTION (5)(g) of this section apply, the department of education shall calculate a district's reduction amount for online funding by multiplying the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR calculated for the applicable budget year pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of subparagraph (II) of paragraph (g) of

subsection (5) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(II)(A) of this section by the district's online funding calculated pursuant to subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (c) SUBSECTION (4.5)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION for the applicable budget year. A district's online funding for the applicable budget year shall be the greater of:

- (4.7) (c) In any budget year in which the provisions of paragraph (g) of subsection (5) SUBSECTION (5)(g) of this section apply, the department of education shall calculate a district's reduction amount for extended high school funding by multiplying the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR calculated for the applicable budget year pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of subparagraph (II) of paragraph (g) of subsection (5) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(II)(A) of this section by the amount of the district's extended high school funding calculated pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (4.7) SUBSECTION (4.7)(b) OF THIS SECTION for the applicable budget year. A district's extended high school funding for the applicable budget year shall be the greater of:
 - (5) For purposes of the formulas used in this section:
- (g) (I) For the 2010-11 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the general assembly determines that stabilization of the state budget requires a reduction in the amount of the annual appropriation to fund the state's share of total program funding for all districts and the funding for institute charter schools. The department of education shall implement the reduction in total program funding through the application of a negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR as provided in this paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (5)(g). For the 2010-11 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall determine, based on budget projections, the amount of such reduction to ensure the following:
- (B) That, for the 2011-12 budget year, the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, after application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR, is not less than five billion two hundred twenty-nine million five hundred sixty thousand three hundred forty-six dollars (\$5,229,560,346); except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures including, but not limited to, actual pupil enrollment, assessed valuations, and specific ownership tax revenue from the prior year, to determine any necessary changes in the amount of the reduction to maintain a total program funding amount for the 2011-12 budget year that is consistent with this sub-subparagraph (B) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I)(B).
- (C) That, for the 2012-13 budget year, the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, after application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR, is not less than five billion two hundred ninety-four million thirty-three thousand four hundred forty-nine dollars (\$5,294,033,449); except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures including, but not limited to, actual pupil enrollment, assessed valuations, and specific ownership tax revenue from the prior year, to determine any necessary changes in the amount of the reduction to maintain a total program funding amount for the 2012-13 budget year that is consistent with this sub-subparagraph (C)

SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I)(C).

- (D) That, for the 2013-14 budget year, the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, after application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR, is not less than five billion five hundred twenty-four million forty-six thousand seven hundred sixty-seven dollars (\$5,524,046,767); except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures including, but not limited to, actual pupil enrollment, assessed valuations, and specific ownership tax revenue from the prior year, to determine any necessary changes in the amount of the reduction to maintain a total program funding amount for the applicable budget year that is consistent with this sub-subparagraph (D) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I)(D).
- (E) That, for the 2014-15 budget year, the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, after application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR, is not less than five billion nine hundred thirty million ninety-one thousand six hundred sixty dollars (\$5,930,091,660); except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures including, but not limited to, actual pupil enrollment, assessed valuations, and specific ownership tax revenue from the prior year, to determine any necessary changes in the amount of the reduction to maintain a total program funding amount for the applicable budget year that is consistent with this sub-subparagraph (E) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I)(E). For the 2015-16 budget year, the difference between calculated statewide total program funding must not exceed the difference between calculated statewide total program funding and actual statewide total program funding and actual statewide total program funding for the 2014-15 budget year.
- (F) That, for the 2015-16 budget year, the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, after application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR, is not less than six billion two hundred thirty-three million eight hundred thirty-five thousand forty-four dollars (\$6,233,835,044); except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures, including but not limited to actual pupil enrollment, assessed valuations, and specific ownership tax revenue from the prior year, to determine any necessary changes in the amount of the reduction to maintain a total program funding amount for the applicable budget year that is consistent with this sub-subparagraph (F) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I)(F). For the 2016-17 budget year, the difference between calculated statewide total program funding and actual statewide total program funding must not exceed the difference between calculated statewide total program funding and actual statewide total program funding for the 2015-16 budget year.
- (G) That, for the 2016-17 budget year, the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, after application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR, is not less than six billion three hundred ninety-four million five hundred twenty-eight thousand nine hundred thirty-one dollars (\$6,394,528,931); except that the department of education and the staff of the legislative council shall make mid-year revisions to replace projections with actual figures, including but not limited to actual pupil enrollment, assessed

valuations, and specific ownership tax revenue from the prior year, to determine any necessary changes in the amount of the reduction to maintain a total program funding amount for the applicable budget year that is consistent with this sub-subparagraph (G) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I)(G). For the 2017-18 budget year, the difference between calculated statewide total program funding and actual statewide total program funding must not exceed the difference between calculated statewide total program funding and actual statewide total program funding for the 2016-17 budget year.

- (II) For the 2010-11 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education shall:
- (A) Calculate the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR for the applicable budget year by dividing the reduction in total program funding for the applicable budget year, as specified in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (5)(g)(I) OF THIS SECTION, by the sum of the total program funding amounts of all districts as calculated pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, including the funding for institute charter schools, for the applicable budget year; and
- (B) Calculate each district's and each institute charter school's reduction amount by multiplying the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR by the district's total program funding calculated pursuant to subsection (2) of this section for the applicable budget year for the district and for any institute charter school located within the district.
- (VII) As used in this paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (5)(g), unless the context otherwise requires:
- (A) "Actual statewide total program funding" means the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, as calculated pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, after application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR pursuant to this paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (5)(g).
- (B) "Calculated statewide total program funding" means the sum of the total program funding for all districts, including the funding for institute charter schools, as calculated pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, before application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR pursuant to this paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (5)(g).
- **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-117, **amend** (1)(a)(VIII) as follows:
- **22-54-117.** Contingency reserve capital construction expenditures reserve fund lottery proceeds contingency reserve. (1) (a) For the 2007-08 fiscal year and fiscal years thereafter, the general assembly shall annually determine the amount to appropriate to the contingency reserve fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury. In deciding the amount to appropriate to the contingency reserve fund, the general assembly may take into consideration any recommendations made by the department of education, but nothing in this section obligates the general

assembly to provide supplemental assistance to all districts that are found to be in need or to fully fund the total amount of such need. The state board may approve and order payments from the contingency reserve fund for supplemental assistance to districts determined to be in need as the result of any or all of the following circumstances:

(VIII) Commencing with the 2016-17 budget year, unusual financial burden caused by a significant reduction in the assessed value of real property in a district whose state share of total program funding pursuant to section 22-54-106 before the application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR pursuant to section 22-54-104 (5)(g) was less than one-half of one percent of the district's total program funding in the previous budget year, causing the district to receive a state share that is one-half of one percent of total program funding or greater before application of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR in the budget year in which the assessed value is reduced. The amount of supplemental assistance paid pursuant to this subparagraph (VIII) SUBSECTION (1)(a)(VIII) shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the amount of the reduction in the district's state share as a result of the negative factor BUDGET STABILIZATION FACTOR. A school district may receive supplemental assistance pursuant to this subparagraph (VIII) SUBSECTION (1)(a)(VIII) only one time.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 97 to title 22 as follows:

ARTICLE 97 Teacher Grants for Computer Science Education

22-97-101. Definitions. As used in this article 97, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION" MEANS THE STUDY OF COMPUTERS, ALGORITHMIC PROCESSES, AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING AND CODING, INCLUDING THEIR PRINCIPLES, THEIR HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE DESIGNS, THEIR APPLICATIONS, AND THEIR IMPACT ON SOCIETY.
- (2) "Department" means the department of education created and existing pursuant to section 24-1-115.
- (3) "ELIGIBLE TEACHER" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS EMPLOYED AS A TEACHER IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE.
- (4) "Grant program" means the grant program established pursuant to section 22-97-102.
- (5) "Public school" has the same meaning as provided in Section 22-1-101 and includes, but is not limited to, a district charter school, an institute charter school, and an online school, as defined in Section 22-30.7-102 (9.5).
- (6) "School district" means a school district authorized by section 15 of article IX of the state constitution and organized pursuant to article 30 of this title 22. "School district" also includes a board of cooperative

SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22, IF IT IS OPERATING A PUBLIC SCHOOL; A DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL; AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL; AND AN ONLINE SCHOOL, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-30.7-102 (9.5).

- (7) "State board" means the state board of education created and existing pursuant to section 1 of article IX of the state constitution.
- 22-97-102. Computer science education grants for teachers creation.
- (1) There is created in the department a grant program for eligible teachers who wish to pursue additional postsecondary education in order to provide computer science education to students in public schools. A school district or a school district on behalf of an eligible teacher or teachers may apply for a grant.
- (2) The department shall administer the grant program in accordance with state board rules. The department shall accept and review grant applications received from school districts or school districts on behalf of an eligible teacher or teachers and shall make recommendations to the state board for the award of grants. In making its recommendations, the department may consider the priorities contained in subsection (4) of this section.
- (3) Pursuant to article 4 of title 24, the state board shall promulgate rules necessary for the implementation of the grant program, including rules relating to:
- (a) The application process, including application requirements and deadlines;
- (b) Criteria for the award of grants, including the priorities for awarding grants contained in subsection (4) of this section;
 - (c) THE AMOUNT AND DURATION OF THE GRANTS; AND
- (d) The approved uses of the grant, including tuition, fees, training program costs, and books and materials.
 - (4) IN AWARDING GRANTS, THE STATE BOARD MAY:
- (a) Give priority to grant applications that benefit a teacher or teachers in a school district that serves:
 - (I) A HIGH-POVERTY STUDENT POPULATION;
 - (II) A HIGH NUMBER OF MINORITY STUDENTS; OR
 - (III) STUDENTS IN RURAL AREAS;
- (b) Give priority to grant applications that benefit a teacher or teachers who intend to continue teaching in public schools in Colorado after completing postsecondary education obtained through the grant

PROGRAM; AND

- (c) GIVE PRIORITY TO GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR POSTSECONDARY COURSE WORK OR TRAINING THAT ENABLES A TEACHER TO TEACH COMPUTER SCIENCE, INCLUDING CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COURSES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, AND THAT APPLIES TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF A DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, THE COMPLETION OF AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE, OR THE COMPLETION OF A HIGH-QUALITY TRAINING PROGRAM, OR THAT RESULTS IN THE MASTERY OF A TEACHING CONTENT AREA IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.
- (5) THE STATE BOARD MAY AWARD GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR HIGH-QUALITY TRAINING PROGRAMS OFFERED TO TEACHERS IN THE DISTRICT THAT ENABLE THE TEACHERS TO TEACH COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES.
- (6) Subject to available appropriations, the state board shall annually award grants.
- (7) The general assembly declares that, for purposes of section 17 of article IX of the state constitution, computer science education grants for teachers are an important element in expanding technology education and may therefore receive funding from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of article IX of the state constitution.
- **22-97-103. Reporting.** (1) No later than January 1, 2018, and no later than each January 1 thereafter if the state board has awarded a grant during the previous calendar year, the department shall report to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, or any successor committees.
 - (2) AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:
 - (a) THE NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED DURING THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR;
 - (b) THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANTS;
- (c) THE NUMBER OF TEACHERS IN EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT WHO BENEFITTED FROM THE GRANT; AND
- (d) The uses of the grant, including the postsecondary courses, degrees, training programs, or industry-recognized certificates completed and the education provider providing the education.
- (3) Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), the report required in this section continues indefinitely.
 - **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-61-103 as follows:
- **22-61-103. Teacher's oath, affirmation, or pledge.** (1) Any A person now holding a license to teach in the public schools in the state of Colorado or who shall hereafter be issued a license to teach in such public schools within the state of Colorado, except any A person employed to teach in a temporary capacity who is a

citizen of a nation other than the United States, shall take OR SIGN the following oath, or affirmation, OR WRITTEN PLEDGE:

- "I solemnly (swear) (affirm) (PLEDGE) that I will uphold the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Colorado, and I will faithfully perform the duties of the position upon which I am about to enter."
- (2) The said oath or affirmation shall be administered by any A person authorized to administer oaths in the state of Colorado SHALL ADMINISTER THE OATH OR AFFIRMATION, OR THE TEACHER MUST SIGN THE PLEDGE.
 - **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-61-104 as follows:
- **22-61-104.** Oath, affirmation, or pledge professors, instructors, and teachers in state institutions of higher education. (1) Every person employed to teach in any A state university, college, junior college, community college, or technical college in the state of Colorado, before entering upon or continuing the discharge of his OR HER duties, shall take OR SIGN the following oath, or affirmation, OR WRITTEN PLEDGE; except that no A person employed to teach in a temporary capacity who is a citizen of a nation other than the United States shall be IS NOT required to take such oath or affirmation OR SIGN SUCH PLEDGE:
 - "I solemnly (swear) (affirm) (PLEDGE) that I will uphold the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Colorado, and I will faithfully perform the duties of the position upon which I am about to enter."
- (2) The said oath or affirmation shall be administered by any A person authorized to administer oaths in the state of Colorado SHALL ADMINISTER THE OATH OR AFFIRMATION, OR THE PROFESSOR, INSTRUCTOR, OR TEACHER MUST SIGN THE PLEDGE.
 - **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-61-105 as follows:
- **22-61-105. Penalty.** Any A person who, being in charge of any A public school, state university, college, junior college, community college, or technical college within the state of Colorado, allows or permits any A teacher to enter upon the discharge of his OR HER duties or give instruction therein, unless such teacher shall have taken the oath or affirmation OR SIGNED THE PLEDGE AS provided for in sections 22-61-103 and 22-61-104, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall MUST be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.
- **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-2-1902, **amend as added by House Bill 17-1340** (1)(j)(II) and (1)(j)(IV) as follows:
- **2-2-1902.** School finance study issues hiring consultant. (1) The interim committee shall, at a minimum, study the following issues:
- (j) The level of funding for education that is available from the local resources available to each local education provider and the amount of local resources that

each district charter school and each institute charter school receives, including consideration of:

- (II) Strategies for equalizing mill levies in school districts and public schools across the state AND FOR ENSURING THAT AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL MILL LEVIES FOR OPERATING PURPOSES COMPLIES WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT OF MAINTAINING A THOROUGH AND UNIFORM STATEWIDE EDUCATION SYSTEM;
- (IV) Other sources of funding for public education, INCLUDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS, available to each institute charter school and each school district, or available to schools of a school district, including district charter schools, individually or by campus, and the amount received from each source; and
- **SECTION 10. Appropriation.** For the 2017-18 state fiscal year, \$500,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the state education fund created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution and is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 0.4 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for computer science education grants for teachers pursuant to section 22-97-102, C.R.S.
- **SECTION 11. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage; except that section 9 of this act takes effect only if House Bill 17-1340 becomes law, and it takes effect either upon the effective date of this act or House Bill 17-1340, whichever is later.
- **SECTION 12. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: June 2, 2017