

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0359.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 20-1016

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie and Wilson, Sirota

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Pettersen, Story

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING STATE ASSISTANCE TO INCREASE QUALITY LEVELS IN
102 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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/>.)

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The bill requires the department of human services (state department) to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to programs that are rated at a level one or 2 in the Colorado shines system (system) to support the programs in advancing to a higher quality level, and to programs that are rated at a level 3, 4, or 5 to support the programs

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

in maintaining a high-quality level or advancing to a higher quality level. Each early childhood council (council) shall support the state department with this assistance by providing local community outreach and engagement strategies.

The bill requires each council seeking to apply for school-readiness quality improvement funding (funding) to describe how the council will target and recruit programs that are rated in the system at a level one or higher in the council's 3-year school readiness plan. Councils that received funding prior to the 2020-21 fiscal year must amend the council's 3-year school readiness plan.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-106, **amend** (6)(b) and (8)(a); and **add** (4.5) as follows:

26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement program - created - Colorado shines quality rating and improvement system - rules. (4.5) **State assistance** (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO:

(I) PROGRAMS THAT ARE RATED IN THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM AT A LEVEL ONE OR TWO TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS IN ADVANCING TO A LEVEL THREE OR HIGHER QUALITY LEVEL; AND

(II) PROGRAMS THAT ARE RATED IN THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM AT A LEVEL THREE, FOUR, OR FIVE TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS IN MAINTAINING A HIGH-QUALITY LEVEL OR ADVANCING TO A HIGHER QUALITY LEVEL.

(b) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL SUPPORT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION BY PROVIDING LOCAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES.

(6) **School-readiness plans.** Each early childhood council seeking to apply for school-readiness quality improvement funding pursuant to

1 this section shall prepare and submit to the state department a three-year
2 school-readiness plan that outlines strategies to improve the school
3 readiness of children. The school-readiness plan, at a minimum, must
4 include:

5 (b) A plan that describes how the early childhood council will
6 target and recruit programs that are rated in the Colorado shines system
7 at a level ~~two~~ ONE or higher. ~~or that are licensed programs with a~~
8 ~~demonstrated hardship that are actively working toward achieving a~~
9 ~~Colorado shines system level two rating.~~ The early childhood council
10 must target and recruit programs to increase the access and availability of
11 quality child care for children participating in the Colorado child care
12 assistance program, created in part 8 of article 2 of this title 26. IF THE
13 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECEIVED SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY
14 IMPROVEMENT FUNDING PRIOR TO THE 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR, THE EARLY
15 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL AMEND THE THREE-YEAR SCHOOL READINESS
16 PLAN TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

17 (8) **Funding.** (a) The school-readiness quality improvement
18 program shall be funded using federal child care development fund
19 money or other federal OR STATE money annually appropriated for the
20 program. The state department shall allocate the money to the eligible
21 early childhood councils for distribution to early childhood education
22 programs, as provided in this section.

23 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.