

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0660.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 20-1110

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan and Exum,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO
102 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
103 EDUCATION TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN STAYING IN SCHOOL, AND, IN
104 CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE EMERGENCY
105 COMPLETION AND RETENTION GRANT PROGRAM.

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 emergency completion and retention grant program (grant program) in the department of higher education

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.

1 THE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN THE STATE.

2 **23-3.3-1302. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 13, UNLESS THE
3 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

4 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
5 EDUCATION CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-114.

6 (2) "ELIGIBLE COURSE OF STUDY" MEANS CREDIT HOURS TAKEN TO
7 COMPLETE A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE, AN
8 ASSOCIATE DEGREE, OR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE.

9 (3) "ELIGIBLE STUDENT" MEANS A STUDENT WHO:

10 (a) QUALIFIES FOR IN-STATE TUITION AS PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE
11 23;

12 (b) IS ENROLLED IN A STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION TO
13 OBTAIN A FIRST POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL IN AN ELIGIBLE COURSE OF
14 STUDY;

15 (c) MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN THE STATE
16 STUDENT FINANCIAL AID GUIDELINES; AND

17 (d) HAS COMPLETED MORE THAN SIXTY PERCENT OF THE COURSE
18 CREDITS REQUIRED IN THE ELIGIBLE COURSE OF STUDY AND IS EXPECTED
19 TO GRADUATE IN THE NEXT SEMESTER OR SCHOOL YEAR FOLLOWING THE
20 DATE ON WHICH THE STUDENT APPLIES FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

21 (4) "FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR" MEANS THE FINANCIAL AID
22 DIRECTOR FOR A STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION, OR HIS OR HER
23 DESIGNEE.

24 (5) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE EMERGENCY COMPLETION AND
25 RETENTION GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 23-3.3-1303.

26 (6) "QUALIFYING FINANCIAL EMERGENCY" MEANS AN UNEXPECTED
27 EVENT THAT CAUSES AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT TO INCUR A LEVEL OF

1 UNPLANNED COST THAT MAY REQUIRE THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT TO
2 WITHDRAW FROM POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. A QUALIFYING FINANCIAL
3 EMERGENCY MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

- 4 (a) INCURRING COSTS FOR VEHICLE REPAIR;
- 5 (b) BEING UNABLE TO PAY RENT OR PURCHASE FOOD AS A RESULT
6 OF UNEXPECTED, EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES, AS THE FINANCIAL AID
7 DIRECTOR MAY DETERMINE;
- 8 (c) INCURRING COSTS AS A RESULT OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY;
- 9 (d) INCURRING TRAVEL OR OTHER COSTS AS A RESULT OF A FAMILY
10 EMERGENCY;
- 11 (e) INCURRING OTHER NECESSARY COSTS THAT ARE NOT
12 PREDICTABLE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES, AS THE FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR
13 MAY DETERMINE; AND
- 14 (f) OTHER SITUATIONS THAT THE STATE HIGHER EDUCATION
15 INSTITUTION MAY IDENTIFY.

16 (7) "STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE
17 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102, A
18 LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF THIS
19 TITLE 23, OR AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE AS DEFINED IN SECTION
20 23-60-103.

21 **23-3.3-1303. Emergency completion and retention grant**
22 **program - created - administration.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE
23 DEPARTMENT THE EMERGENCY COMPLETION AND RETENTION GRANT
24 PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MONEY TO STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
25 TO USE IN ASSISTING ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCE A QUALIFYING
26 FINANCIAL EMERGENCY. THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT
27 PROGRAM BY:

1 (a) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS, ANNUALLY
2 DISTRIBUTING MONEY TO THE STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO
3 USE FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS AWARDED TO STUDENTS
4 PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-1304 TO ADDRESS QUALIFYING FINANCIAL
5 EMERGENCIES;

6 (b) ADOPTING GUIDELINES, INCLUDING STUDENT ELIGIBILITY
7 CRITERIA, FOR THE FINANCIAL AID DIRECTORS AT THE STATE HIGHER
8 EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO USE IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
9 GRANTS TO STUDENTS;

10 (c) ESTABLISHING THE REPORTING CRITERIA FOR THE STATE
11 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO
12 MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IN RAISING THE STUDENT
13 PERSISTENCE AND GRADUATION RATES AT THE STATE HIGHER EDUCATION
14 INSTITUTIONS;

15 (d) DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT TO ACT AS A CLEARINGHOUSE
16 FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING
17 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND EXAMPLES OF MATERIALS THAT STATE HIGHER
18 EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS MAY USE IN PUBLICIZING TO STUDENTS THE
19 AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS; AND

20 (e) INCLUDING IN THE INFORMATION ANNUALLY SUBMITTED TO
21 THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-3.3-102 (7) THE
22 AMOUNT ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTED TO EACH STATE HIGHER EDUCATION
23 INSTITUTION THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM, THE AMOUNTS THAT EACH
24 STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION DISTRIBUTED IN EMERGENCY
25 ASSISTANCE GRANTS, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND TYPES OF
26 EMERGENCIES FOR WHICH GRANTS WERE PROVIDED, AND AN EVALUATION
27 OF WHETHER THE GRANT PROGRAM IS CONTRIBUTING TO AN INCREASE IN

1 THE COMPLETION AND RETENTION RATES AT THE STATE HIGHER
2 EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, TO THE EXTENT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION IS
3 AVAILABLE. AFTER THE GRANT PROGRAM HAS OPERATED FOR THREE
4 FISCAL YEARS, THE ANNUAL INFORMATION MUST ALSO INCLUDE THE
5 RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR THE PROGRAM AS CALCULATED BY THE
6 DEPARTMENT.

7 **23-3.3-1304. State higher education institutions - emergency**
8 **assistance grants.** (1) EACH STATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION
9 SHALL DEVELOP A PROCESS BASED ON THE COMMISSION'S GUIDELINES BY
10 WHICH AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE AN
11 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT.

12 (2) IN AWARDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS, THE STATE
13 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL PRIORITIZE ELIGIBLE STUDENTS
14 WHO ARE LOW-INCOME, ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO ARE IN THE FIRST
15 GENERATION OF THEIR FAMILY TO ENROLL IN POSTSECONDARY
16 EDUCATION, AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO LACK OTHER IDENTIFIABLE
17 FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THEIR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.

18 (3) THE FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT
19 OF EACH EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANT BASED ON THE ELIGIBLE
20 STUDENT'S LEVEL OF FINANCIAL NEED. AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT SHALL NOT
21 RECEIVE MORE THAN A TOTAL OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN EMERGENCY
22 ASSISTANCE GRANTS WHILE ENROLLED AT A SINGLE STATE HIGHER
23 EDUCATION INSTITUTION.

24 (4) IN DISBURSING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS, THE
25 FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR SHALL DETERMINE THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER
26 IN WHICH TO ADDRESS THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S QUALIFYING FINANCIAL
27 EMERGENCY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE, WHEN APPROPRIATE, PAYING A

1 VENDOR DIRECTLY FOR THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT'S EXPENSES.

2 (5) AS OF JUNE 1 OF EACH FISCAL YEAR, IF A STATE HIGHER
3 EDUCATION INSTITUTION HAS NOT DISTRIBUTED THE ENTIRE AMOUNT
4 ALLOCATED TO THE INSTITUTION FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS
5 FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, THE INSTITUTION MAY DISTRIBUTE THE
6 REMAINING AMOUNT AS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS DURING THE
7 SUMMER SEMESTER OR DURING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR OR DISTRIBUTE
8 ANY PORTION OF THE REMAINING AMOUNT AS NEED-BASED STUDENT
9 FINANCIAL AID.

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