

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0373.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

SENATE BILL 20-131

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**Foote and Holbert,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Education

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING FUNDING FOR PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY  
102 COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS.

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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>.)*

Beginning in the 2020-21 budget year, the bill allows a school district, a board of cooperative services, a charter school, or the state charter school institute (local education provider) that operates a pathways in technology early college high school (p-tech school) to apply to the department of education (department) for reimbursement for the amount of tuition and fees and the costs of books and materials incurred

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 enrolling p-tech school students in postsecondary courses. The amount of the reimbursement is based on the average of the in-state tuition for local district colleges or community colleges, depending on the type of institution that provides the course, and is payable only for each successfully completed course credit hour. The state board of education must promulgate rules to implement the reimbursements. For the 2020-21 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the general assembly is directed to appropriate at least \$2 million for the amount of the reimbursements. As part of the annual budget preparation process, the department will report the actual amount reimbursed and the amount expected to be reimbursed in the current and future budget years.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-35.3-104, **add** (3)  
3 as follows:

4           **22-35.3-104. P-tech schools - funding - rules - report.**

5 (3) (a) BEGINNING IN THE 2020-21 BUDGET YEAR, A LOCAL EDUCATION  
6 PROVIDER THAT OPERATES A P-TECH SCHOOL MAY APPLY TO THE  
7 DEPARTMENT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE AMOUNT THAT THE LOCAL  
8 EDUCATION PROVIDER PAYS FOR TUITION, FEES, AND BOOKS AND  
9 MATERIALS FOR COLLEGE COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED BY  
10 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE P-TECH SCHOOL. THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
11 REIMBURSE A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER FOR TUITION AND FEES PAID,  
12 AND THE COST OF BOOKS AND MATERIALS, FOR A COLLEGE COURSE ONLY  
13 IF THE STUDENT RECEIVES AT LEAST A PASSING GRADE FOR THE COURSE,  
14 AS DETERMINED BY THE ENROLLING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.  
15 THE REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT FOR EACH CREDIT HOUR IS THE AVERAGE  
16 OF THE IN-STATE TUITION COST PER CREDIT HOUR FOR THE APPLICABLE  
17 BUDGET YEAR FOR ALL LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGES CREATED PURSUANT TO  
18 ARTICLE 71 OF TITLE 23, IF THE COLLEGE COURSE WAS PROVIDED BY OR  
19 THROUGH A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR THE AVERAGE OF THE IN-STATE

1 TUITION COST PER CREDIT HOUR FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR FOR  
2 COLLEGES IN THE STATE SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL  
3 COLLEGES ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 23-60-201, IF THE COLLEGE COURSE  
4 WAS PROVIDED BY OR THROUGH ONE OF SAID COLLEGES. THE LOCAL  
5 EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT EACH SEMESTER  
6 FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3).

7 (b) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROMULGATE RULES  
8 TO IMPLEMENT COST REIMBURSEMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION  
9 (3). AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES MUST:

10 (I) ALLOW A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER TO APPLY AT THE END  
11 OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE COSTS FOR TUITION,  
12 FEES, AND BOOKS AND MATERIALS INCURRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR;  
13 AND

14 (II) REQUIRE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY  
15 TO DEMONSTRATE ENROLLMENT IN AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF  
16 COLLEGE COURSES BY STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE P-TECH SCHOOL.

17 (c) FOR THE 2020-21 BUDGET YEAR AND FOR EACH BUDGET YEAR  
18 THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE AT LEAST TWO  
19 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR REIMBURSEMENTS TO LOCAL  
20 EDUCATION PROVIDERS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3). IF THE  
21 AMOUNT APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(c) IN A  
22 BUDGET YEAR IS INSUFFICIENT TO FULLY FUND THE AMOUNT OF ELIGIBLE  
23 REIMBURSEMENTS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUEST A SUPPLEMENTAL  
24 APPROPRIATION IN AN AMOUNT TO FULLY FUND THE ELIGIBLE  
25 REIMBURSEMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT MUST MAKE THE REQUEST DURING  
26 THE BUDGET YEAR IN WHICH THE INSUFFICIENT FUNDING OCCURS. IF THE  
27 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DENIES THE REQUEST FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL

1 APPROPRIATION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REDUCE THE AMOUNT PAID FOR  
2 EACH ELIGIBLE REIMBURSEMENT BY THE SAME PERCENTAGE THAT THE  
3 DEFICIT BEARS TO THE AMOUNT REQUIRED TO FULLY FUND THE ELIGIBLE  
4 REIMBURSEMENTS.

5 (d) AS PART OF THE BUDGET PREPARATION PROCESS FOR THE  
6 2021-22 BUDGET YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE JOINT  
7 BUDGET COMMITTEE AN ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT THE DEPARTMENT  
8 EXPECTS TO REIMBURSE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) FOR THE  
9 2020-21 BUDGET YEAR AND THE 2021-22 BUDGET YEAR. AS PART OF THE  
10 BUDGET PREPARATION PROCESS FOR THE 2022-23 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH  
11 BUDGET YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE  
12 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THE ACTUAL AMOUNT REIMBURSED PURSUANT  
13 TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) FOR THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED BUDGET  
14 YEAR AND AN ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO  
15 REIMBURSE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) FOR THE THEN CURRENT  
16 BUDGET YEAR AND THE NEXT BUDGET YEAR. NOTWITHSTANDING THE  
17 PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO  
18 SUBMIT THE REPORT DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3)(d) CONTINUES  
19 INDEFINITELY.

20 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
23 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a  
24 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
25 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
26 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
27 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.