

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0890.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 21-232

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kipp and Bird,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER**
102 **EDUCATION FOR THE COLORADO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP**
103 **INITIATIVE'S DISPLACED WORKERS GRANT.**

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 appropriates money to the department of higher education for the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative's displaced workers grant.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds that:

4 (a) In 2020, the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative
5 responded to needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by creating the
6 displaced workers grant;

7 (b) The displaced workers grant supports Coloradans displaced by
8 the COVID-19 pandemic who have completed a portion of their higher
9 education but have not earned or completed a credential, or who have the
10 need to reskill or upskill due to loss of employment; and

11 (c) Increased investment in the displaced workers grant is
12 estimated to serve at least three thousand displaced Colorado workers and
13 will provide these workers with the skills, supports, and credentials
14 necessary to secure good jobs; help sustain a resilient state economy; and
15 help institutions of higher education scale high-demand and highly
16 impacted programs.

17 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares its commitment to
18 responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing its support of the
19 Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative and furthering its purpose to
20 support students who are committed to academic achievement and
21 successful placement in the workforce.

22 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2020-21 state fiscal year,
23 \$15,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education for use
24 by the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board. This
25 appropriation is from the general fund. The Colorado opportunity
26 scholarship initiative advisory board may use this appropriation for the
27 Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative's displaced workers grant.

1 Any money appropriated in this section not expended prior to July 1,
2 2021, is further appropriated to the Colorado opportunity scholarship
3 initiative advisory board for the 2021-22 state fiscal year for the same
4 purpose.

5 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.