

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 21-0890.01 Jacob Baus x2173

**SENATE BILL 21-232**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer**, Bridges, Buckner, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Ginal, Gonzales, Jaquez Lewis, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kipp and Bird**,

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**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

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**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.**

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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>.)*

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

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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.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 3, 2021

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 30, 2021

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) Pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021",  
5 Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, Colorado will  
6 receive \$3,828,761,790 to be used for certain eligible uses. Federal  
7 regulations providing guidance regarding eligible uses of money allocated  
8 pursuant to the act include:

9 (I) Assistance to unemployed workers, including job training for  
10 individuals who want and are available for work;

11 (II) Aid to impacted industries to respond to the negative  
12 economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

13 (III) Programs, services, or other assistance for populations  
14 disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency,  
15 such as programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the  
16 public health emergency on education;

17 (b) In 2020, the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative  
18 responded to needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by creating the  
19 displaced workers grant. The displaced workers grant supports  
20 Coloradans displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those who  
21 were laid off or furloughed, experienced decreased earnings, had job  
22 offers rescinded, or were unable to enter the workforce because of  
23 negative economic conditions. These workers have an incentive to reskill,  
24 upskill, or complete industry-recognized credentials in order to improve  
25 economic prospects for themselves and their communities.

26 (c) Appropriating a portion of the money received pursuant to the  
27 federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act

1 may be subsequently amended, to the Colorado opportunity scholarship  
2 initiative is estimated to serve at least three thousand displaced Colorado  
3 workers and will provide these workers with the skills, supports, and  
4 credentials necessary to secure good jobs, sustain a resilient state  
5 economy, and help institutions of higher education scale high-demand  
6 and highly impacted programs; and

7 (d) These funds will be distributed to public institutions of higher  
8 education, community partners, and workforce centers across the state to  
9 provide scholarships, wraparound supports, and recruitment and retention  
10 efforts for Coloradans with some college education but no degree who  
11 have the need to reskill, upskill, or complete industry-recognized  
12 credentials due to lost or reduced employment.

13 (2) The general assembly declares that appropriating a portion of  
14 the money received pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act  
15 of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, to the  
16 Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative for such purposes described  
17 in this section are appropriate and lawful.

18 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2020-21 state fiscal  
19 year, \$15,000,000 is appropriated to the department of higher education  
20 for use by the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board.  
21 This appropriation is from the workers, employers, and workforce centers  
22 cash fund created in section 24-75-231 (2)(a), C.R.S., and from money  
23 the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund.  
24 The Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board may use  
25 this appropriation for the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative's  
26 displaced workers grant. Any money appropriated in this section not  
27 expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated to the Colorado

1 opportunity scholarship initiative advisory board for the 2021-22 state  
2 fiscal year for the same purpose.

3 (2) For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, \$15,000,000 is appropriated  
4 to the workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund created in  
5 section 24-75-231 (2)(a), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the general  
6 fund. The department of personnel and administration is responsible for  
7 the accounting related to this appropriation.

8 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage  
9 only if House Bill 21-1264 becomes law, in which case this act takes  
10 effect on the effective date of this act or House Bill 21-1264, whichever  
11 is later.

12 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.