

CHAPTER 411

LABOR AND INDUSTRY

SENATE BILL 23-302

BY SENATOR(S) Pelton B. and Hinrichsen, Baisley, Bridges, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lundeen, Marchman, Mullica, Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Will, Winter F.;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Ortiz and Hartsook, Armagost, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Catlin, Dickson, Duran, English, Frizell, Froelich, Garcia, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Mabrey, Marshall, Martinez, Mauro, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Parenti, Ricks, Sharbini, Sirota, Snyder, Story, Taggart, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weinberg, Woodrow, Young, McCluskie.

AN ACT**CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE COLORADO VETERANS' SERVICE-TO-CAREER PROGRAM.**

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-14.3-201.5, **amend** (1) as follows:

8-14.3-201.5. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that

~~(a)~~ the pilot program enacted in House Bill 16-1267, which created the Colorado veterans' service-to-career pilot program that authorized nonprofit agencies to partner with work force centers selected by the department to provide veterans and other eligible participants with skills training, internships, work placements, mentorship opportunities, career and professional counseling, and support services, has been successful in increasing the employment rates for veterans, veterans' spouses, and eligible participants. ~~and~~

~~(b) The services offered through the pilot program were designed to enhance work force center services not available under the federal act.~~

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-14.3-203, **amend** (6)(c); and **repeal** (2)(b), (6)(b), and (6)(d); and **add** (3.5) as follows:

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

8-14.3-203. Colorado veterans' service-to-career program - report. (2) (b) ~~If an eligible participant is eligible for funding through the act, this funding must be used first. If funding is not available or is limited or if the use of funds is not allowable under the act, the eligible participant may use program funding.~~

(3.5) WORK FORCE CENTER STAFF SHALL VET POTENTIAL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND LEVERAGE ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES, INCLUDING THE ACT, TO DELIVER COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES.

~~(6) (b) The department shall develop an evaluation methodology to measure program outcomes and effectiveness prior to initiating the bid process for awarding grants. To the extent feasible, the evaluation process must enable a comparison between programs serving similar populations. It is the intent of the general assembly that the department award the grants no later than January 1, 2019. The grant period may be extended for one year subject to money appropriated by the general assembly. The grant award must include data tracking requirements that will be used to measure outcomes and effectiveness.~~

~~(c) Any unspent money remaining in the department's fiscal year 2017-18 appropriation for administrative costs may be used for the purpose of designing an evaluation methodology or contracting out the design. Any unspent money for direct program services remaining as of June 30, 2018, may be used by the programs in effect as of June 30, 2018, for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2018. Unspent money available at the end of each fiscal year rolls over to the next fiscal year to be spent in that year.~~

~~(d) In analyzing and reporting on the performance data described in subsections (6)(a) and (6)(b) of this section, the department shall separately account for data pertaining to significant barriers to employment.~~

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 8-14.3-205 as follows:

8-14.3-205. Repeal of part. This part 2 is repealed, effective **January 1, 2024** JULY 1, 2024.

SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 6, 2023