

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-1104.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 24-1403

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Bird and Sirota, Taggart**

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Zenzinger and Bridges, Kirkmeyer**

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**House Committees**  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS  
102 EXPERIENCING HOUSING DISRUPTIONS IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND, IN  
103 CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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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/>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** The bill requires all Colorado public institutions of higher education (institutions) to provide financial assistance to a Colorado resident student (qualifying student) who is between the ages of 17 and 26 and who has experienced homelessness in the state at any time during high school. The institutions shall provide

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

financial assistance to cover the remaining balance of the qualifying student's total cost of attendance in excess of the amount of any private, state, or federal financial assistance received by the student. Subject to available appropriations, the bill requires the Colorado commission on higher education to provide institutions money to cover 50% of the remaining balance of financial assistance for qualifying students.

The institutions are required to designate an employee to serve as a liaison to qualifying and prospective qualifying students. The institutions shall notify qualifying students of their eligibility for remaining balance financial assistance.

The bill requires the department of higher education (department) to add one employee as a navigator to provide guidance to prospective qualifying students when selecting institutions and completing applications for admission and financial aid. The bill requires the department to enter into a data-sharing agreement with the department of education in order to identify prospective qualifying students.

The bill clarifies student eligibility to participate in the foster youth financial assistance program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 15 to article  
3 3.3 of title 23 as follows:

4 **PART 15**

5 **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS**

6 **EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

7 **23-3.3-1501. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART, UNLESS THE  
8 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (1) "COST OF ATTENDANCE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET  
10 FORTH IN SECTION 23-3.3-1002.

11 (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER  
12 EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-114.

13 (3) "FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS  
14 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS" OR "FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"  
15 MEANS THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

1 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS CREATED IN SECTION 23-3.3-1502.

2 (4) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION"  
3 MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN  
4 SECTION 23-18-102 (10)(a); LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN  
5 SECTION 23-71-102; OR AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AS DEFINED IN  
6 SECTION 23-60-103.

7 (5) "QUALIFYING STUDENT" MEANS A RESIDENT OF COLORADO  
8 WHO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR ENROLLMENT AT AN INSTITUTION OF  
9 HIGHER EDUCATION AND WHO:

10 (a) HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY DESIGNATED SCHOOL PERSONNEL AS  
11 A HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH PURSUANT TO SECTION 725 OF THE FEDERAL  
12 "MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
13 11434a WHILE RESIDING IN COLORADO AT ANY TIME BETWEEN THE START  
14 OF NINTH GRADE AND THE END OF TWELFTH GRADE; AND

15 (b) WILL BE SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER BUT UNDER  
16 TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
17 RECEIPT.

18 **23-3.3-1502. Financial aid for students who have experienced**  
19 **homelessness - creation - purpose - rules.** (1) (a) THE FINANCIAL  
20 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IS  
21 CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO  
22 INCREASE ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WHO  
23 HAVE EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS DURING HIGH SCHOOL.

24 (b) BEGINNING IN THE 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH  
25 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE  
26 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO A QUALIFYING STUDENT FOR THE REMAINING  
27 BALANCE OF THE STUDENT'S TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE IN EXCESS OF

1 THE AMOUNT OF ANY PRIVATE, STATE, OR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
2 RECEIVED BY THE QUALIFYING STUDENT DURING THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED  
3 THIRTY-TWO SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS OR ONE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT  
4 QUARTER CREDIT HOURS THAT THE QUALIFYING STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN  
5 THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

6 (c) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE REMAINING BALANCE OF FINANCIAL  
7 ASSISTANCE, THE QUALIFYING STUDENT MUST:

8 (I) COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID  
9 OR THE COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID, INCLUDING,  
10 IF APPLICABLE, ACKNOWLEDGING PAST OR CURRENT EXPERIENCE OF  
11 HOMELESSNESS;

12 (II) REQUEST THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
13 POLICIES SET FORTH BY THE INSTITUTION;

14 (III) BE ENROLLED IN COURSES LEADING TOWARD THE QUALIFYING  
15 STUDENT'S FIRST BACHELOR'S DEGREE, ASSOCIATE DEGREE, OR  
16 CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AT AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
17 EDUCATION; AND

18 (IV) REMAIN IN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC STANDING IN  
19 ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACADEMIC POLICIES OF THE INSTITUTION AND  
20 MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
21 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN WHICH THE QUALIFYING STUDENT IS  
22 ENROLLED.

23 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE  
24 COMMISSION TO COVER FIFTY PERCENT OF THE COST OF PROVIDING THE  
25 REMAINING BALANCE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFYING  
26 STUDENTS. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE COMMISSION  
27 SHALL PROVIDE FUNDING TO AN INSTITUTION EQUAL TO FIFTY PERCENT OF

1 THE REMAINING BALANCE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE  
2 INSTITUTION.

3 (3) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY  
4 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS SECTION.

5 (b) EACH INSTITUTION SHALL ADOPT POLICIES FOR THE  
6 ADMINISTRATION OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

7 **23-3.3-1503. Financial assistance program for students**  
8 **experiencing homelessness - program liaison - program navigator -**

9 **data-sharing.** (1) EACH INSTITUTION SHALL DESIGNATE ONE EMPLOYEE  
10 AS A LIAISON TO SERVE AS A POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUALIFYING  
11 STUDENTS AND PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENTS. THE LIAISON MAY  
12 HAVE OTHER DUTIES UNRELATED TO WORK AS THE LIAISON. THE LIAISON  
13 SHALL PROVIDE QUALIFYING STUDENTS AND PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING  
14 STUDENTS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING APPLICATION ASSISTANCE,  
15 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT SERVICES, AND OTHER RESOURCES AND  
16 ASSISTANCE THAT ARE AVAILABLE. EACH INSTITUTION SHALL PUBLICIZE  
17 THE AVAILABILITY OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR  
18 STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ON THE INSTITUTION'S WEBSITE  
19 AND NOTIFY QUALIFYING STUDENTS OF THEIR ELIGIBILITY.

20 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EMPLOY AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME  
21 EQUIVALENT POSITION AS A NAVIGATOR FOR STUDENTS EXPERIENCING  
22 HOMELESSNESS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICTS' HOMELESS EDUCATION  
23 LIAISONS, DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-33-103.5 (7), DESIGNATED HIGH  
24 SCHOOL PERSONNEL, AND PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENTS IN  
25 APPLYING FOR AND ENROLLING IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.  
26 THE NAVIGATOR SHALL WORK WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS' HOMELESS  
27 EDUCATION LIAISONS AND HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS OR OTHER

1 DESIGNATED PERSONNEL TO SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION OF  
2 PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENTS. THE NAVIGATOR SHALL PROVIDE  
3 SUPPORT TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS' HOMELESS EDUCATION LIAISONS,  
4 DESIGNATED HIGH SCHOOL PERSONNEL, AND PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING  
5 STUDENTS IN SELECTING INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS IN WHICH THE  
6 PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENT MAY WANT TO ENROLL. THE  
7 NAVIGATOR SHALL, AT THE REQUEST OF A PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING  
8 STUDENT, ASSIST THE PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENT WITH THE  
9 COMPLETION OF AN INSTITUTION'S APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION, THE FREE  
10 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID, OR THE COLORADO APPLICATION  
11 FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID.

12 (b) EACH INSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE THE NAVIGATOR WITH THE  
13 CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE INSTITUTION'S LIAISON DESIGNATED  
14 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

15 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO A DATA-SHARING  
16 AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SHARE  
17 PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
18 IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENTS. AT  
19 A MINIMUM, THE DATA-SHARING AGREEMENT MUST ENSURE THAT THE  
20 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IS CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
21 "COLORADO PRIVACY ACT", PART 13 OF ARTICLE 1 OF TITLE 6; THE  
22 FEDERAL "FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY RIGHTS ACT OF  
23 1974", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1232g, AS AMENDED; AND THE "STUDENT DATA  
24 TRANSPARENCY AND SECURITY ACT", ARTICLE 16 OF TITLE 22. THE  
25 DEPARTMENTS SHALL MAINTAIN STRICT STANDARDS FOR STUDENT DATA  
26 PRIVACY AND SHALL NOT PUBLICLY REPORT INDIVIDUAL STUDENT DATA  
27 FOR ANY PURPOSE.

1           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-1401, **amend**  
2 (1)(d)(I), (2)(a), and (5)(a) as follows:

3           **23-3.3-1401. Financial aid for students who have been in**  
4 **out-of-home placement - institution liaisons - navigators - definitions.**

5 (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

6           (d) "Qualifying student" means a resident of Colorado who has  
7 been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education who:

8           (I) Has been ~~placed~~ in foster care, as defined in section 19-1-103,  
9 in Colorado at any time on or after the student's thirteenth birthday; or

10           (2) (a) Beginning in the 2022-23 academic year, each institution  
11 of higher education in the state shall provide financial assistance to a  
12 qualifying student for the remaining balance of the student's total cost of  
13 attendance in excess of the amount of any private, state, or federal  
14 financial assistance received by the student, referred to in this section as  
15 "remaining balance financial assistance", during the first one hundred  
16 thirty-two semester hours or one hundred ninety-eight quarter hours that  
17 the student is enrolled ~~at the institution~~ IN THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
18 PROGRAM CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 14.

19           (5) (a) Each institution shall designate one employee as a liaison  
20 to serve as a direct point of contact with the institution for qualifying  
21 students and prospective qualifying students. The liaison may have other  
22 duties unrelated to work as the liaison. The liaison shall provide  
23 qualifying students and prospective qualifying students with information  
24 regarding application assistance, financial assistance, support services,  
25 and other resources and assistance available to qualifying students and  
26 prospective qualifying students. EACH INSTITUTION SHALL PUBLICIZE THE  
27 AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THIS PART 14 ON

1 THE INSTITUTION'S WEBSITE AND NOTIFY QUALIFYING STUDENTS OF THEIR  
2 ELIGIBILITY.

3 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-33-103.5, **amend**  
4 (8)(b); and **add** (8)(c) as follows:

5 **22-33-103.5. Attendance of homeless children and youth -**  
6 **definitions. (8) Credit accrual and college readiness. (b) Counseling**  
7 ~~shall~~ **MUST** be provided to a homeless child or youth and to an  
8 unaccompanied homeless child or youth to assist the homeless child or  
9 youth and unaccompanied homeless child or youth by advising, preparing,  
10 and improving access to postsecondary options. COUNSELING MUST  
11 INCLUDE PROVIDING PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENTS WITH  
12 INFORMATION ABOUT THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR  
13 STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS CREATED IN SECTION  
14 23-3.3-1502.

15 (c) TO FACILITATE DATA SHARING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT  
16 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION  
17 23-3.3-1503 (3), EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE THE  
18 DEPARTMENT WITH DATA IDENTIFYING PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING  
19 STUDENTS BY DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER,  
20 FOR THE PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING PROSPECTIVE  
21 QUALIFYING STUDENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR  
22 STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS CREATED IN SECTION  
23 23-3.3-1502. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
24 DATA IDENTIFYING PROSPECTIVE QUALIFYING STUDENTS TO THE  
25 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY JANUARY 2, 2025, AND EACH  
26 JANUARY 2 THEREAFTER.

27 **SECTION 4. Appropriations. (1) For the 2024-25 state fiscal**



1 year, \$1,668,381 is appropriated to the department of higher education.  
2 This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption  
3 that the department will require an additional 1.8 FTE. To implement this  
4 act, the department may use this appropriation for postsecondary  
5 assistance for students who experienced homelessness during high school.

6 (2) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$26,055 is appropriated to  
7 the department of education for use by the office of dropout prevention  
8 and student reengagement. This appropriation is from the general fund  
9 and is based on an assumption that the office will require an additional  
10 0.2 FTE. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for  
11 the homeless student scholarship program.

12 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
15 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
16 institutions.