

First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9.9.22

BILL 1

LLS NO. 23-0165.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Colorado Youth Advisory Council Committee

BILL TOPIC: "School Psychologist Recruitment"

DEADLINES: File by: 9/9/2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE RECRUITMENT OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**
102 **PRACTICING IN COLORADO SCHOOLS.**

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/>.)

Colorado Youth Advisory Council Committee. The bill creates the Colorado school psychologist loan forgiveness program (program) in the Colorado commission on higher education (commission) to provide loan forgiveness to school psychologists that qualify for the program. The commission administers the program. The bill creates in the state treasury the Colorado school psychologist loan forgiveness fund. The bill requires

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

that the commission prepare an annual report on or before November 1 of each year the program is operational.

The bill creates the Colorado school psychologist salary grant program (grant program) in the department of education (department) to assist eligible Colorado public school districts, boards of cooperative services, charter schools, or institute charter schools in hiring and increasing the salaries of its school psychologists. The department administers the grant program. The bill requires the department to promulgate rules necessary to administer the grant program.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 3 to article 3.6 as follows:

PART 3

COLORADO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

23-3.6-301. Colorado school psychologist loan forgiveness program - definitions - creation - qualifications and requirements - funding - reporting. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

(b) "FUND" MEANS THE COLORADO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND.

(c) "POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 5-20-202.

(d) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(e) "QUALIFIED LOAN" MEANS A STUDENT LOAN INCURRED WHILE

1 OBTAINING A MASTERS DEGREE OR DOCTORATE IN PSYCHOLOGY FROM A
2 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

3 (f) "QUALIFIED POSITION" MEANS FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT WITH
4 A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF COOPERATIVE
5 SERVICES, CHARTER SCHOOL, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL.

6 (g) "RURAL SCHOOL" OR "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A
7 SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CREATED IN
8 SECTION 24-1-115, DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC
9 SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL
10 DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA, AND INDIVIDUAL
11 SCHOOLS OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, EVEN IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A
12 WHOLE IS NOT IDENTIFIED AS A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DETERMINES THAT THE SCHOOL IS RURAL
14 BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL AND THE DISTANCE OF
15 THE SCHOOL FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA.

16 (h) "SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SHORTAGE AREA" MEANS A
17 COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES,
18 CHARTER SCHOOL, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL THAT EMPLOYS LESS
19 THAN ONE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST PER FIVE HUNDRED STUDENTS.

20 (2) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZES THE COMMISSION TO
21 DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST LOAN FORGIVENESS
22 PROGRAM FOR IMPLEMENTATION BEGINNING IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF
23 THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR. THE PROGRAM MUST PROVIDE PAYMENT
24 OF UP TO TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR ALL OR PART OF THE
25 PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON A QUALIFIED LOAN FOR A PERSON HIRED FOR
26 A QUALIFIED POSITION WHO STAYS IN THE QUALIFIED POSITION FOR A
27 PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE CONSECUTIVE ACADEMIC YEARS.

1 REPAYMENT OF LOANS THROUGH THE PROGRAM MAY BE MADE USING
2 MONEY IN THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND, CREATED
3 IN THIS SECTION; MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, AND
4 DONATIONS; OR MONEY ALLOCATED TO THE PROGRAM BY
5 COLLEGEINVEST. ONLY PERSONS WHOSE LOANS HAVE COLLEGEINVEST
6 ELIGIBILITY MAY RECEIVE REPAYMENT OF THEIR LOANS FROM MONEY
7 ALLOCATED TO THE PROGRAM BY COLLEGEINVEST.

8 (b) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE COLORADO
9 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND, WHICH CONSISTS OF ALL
10 MONEY APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PROGRAM
11 AND ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
12 THE COMMISSION SHALL TRANSMIT ALL MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS,
13 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT
14 THE MONEY TO THE FUND. MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY
15 APPROPRIATED TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE PROGRAM. MONEY IN THE
16 FUND MUST BE USED ONLY FOR REPAYMENT OF QUALIFIED LOANS
17 THROUGH THE PROGRAM. ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE
18 INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEY IN THE FUND IS CREDITED TO THE
19 FUND. AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR, ALL UNEXPENDED AND
20 UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND REMAINS IN THE FUND AND IS NOT
21 CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

22 (3) IN ADDITION TO ANY QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIED BY THE
23 COMMISSION, TO QUALIFY AND APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM, A SCHOOL
24 PSYCHOLOGIST MUST:

25 (a) HAVE A GRADUATE DEGREE OR DOCTORATE IN PSYCHOLOGY
26 AND MEET THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OF A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST
27 SET FORTH IN PART 3 OF ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

1 (b) BE LIABLE FOR AN OUTSTANDING BALANCE ON A QUALIFIED
2 LOAN;

3 (c) AGREE TO PRACTICE AND PRACTICE PSYCHOLOGY IN A
4 QUALIFIED POSITION FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE CONSECUTIVE
5 ACADEMIC YEARS;

6 (d) AGREE THAT, IF THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST LEAVES THE
7 QUALIFIED POSITION WITHOUT OBTAINING ANOTHER QUALIFIED POSITION
8 PRIOR TO PRACTICING IN A QUALIFIED POSITION FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE
9 ACADEMIC YEARS, THE PSYCHOLOGIST WILL BE LIABLE FOR THE AMOUNT
10 OF THE QUALIFIED LOAN PAID OR FORGIVEN THROUGH THE PROGRAM PLUS
11 INTEREST; AND

12 (e) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE PROGRAM ON THE FORM
13 PRESCRIBED BY THE COMMISSION.

14 (4) SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS ACCEPTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
15 PROGRAM SHALL SUBMIT PROOF OF CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN A
16 QUALIFIED POSITION TO THE COMMISSION FOR EACH YEAR FOLLOWING
17 ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM. SUCH PROOF MUST BE SUBMITTED TO
18 THE COMMISSION NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 1 OF EACH YEAR.

19 (5) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE COMMISSION
20 SHALL ANNUALLY APPROVE APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM. IF MORE
21 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS APPLY THAN CAN BE APPROVED BASED ON THE
22 MONEY AVAILABLE IN THE FUND, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

23 (a) FIRST, APPROVE APPLICANTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN QUALIFIED
24 POSITIONS IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR RURAL SCHOOL AND IN A
25 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SHORTAGE AREA;

26 (b) SECOND, APPROVE APPLICANTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN
27 QUALIFIED POSITIONS IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR RURAL SCHOOL;

1 AND

2 (c) THIRD, APPROVE APPLICANTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN
3 QUALIFIED POSITIONS IN A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SHORTAGE AREA.

4 (6) THE PROGRAM MUST PROVIDE THAT, FOLLOWING EACH OF THE
5 FIVE CONSECUTIVE ACADEMIC YEARS THAT THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST IS
6 EMPLOYED IN A QUALIFIED POSITION, THE LESSER OF ONE-FIFTH OR FOUR
7 THOUSAND DOLLARS OF THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S QUALIFIED LOAN IS
8 PAID OR FORGIVEN.

9 (7) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH
10 NOVEMBER 15 THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE AN
11 ANNUAL REPORT THAT INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE NUMBER OF
12 PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM, THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS APPLIED TOWARD
13 LOAN REPAYMENT OR FORGIVENESS, AND THE SOURCES OF THOSE FUNDS.
14 THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES
15 OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
16 COMMITTEES, THAT THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
17 COMMITTEES UPON REQUEST.

18 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-2-148** as
19 follows:

20 **22-2-148. Colorado school psychologist salary grant program**
21 **- created - eligibility - funding - rules - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS
22 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

23 (a) "ELIGIBLE ENTITY" MEANS A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL
24 DISTRICT, BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, CHARTER SCHOOL, OR
25 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL.

26 (b) "GRANT APPLICANT" MEANS AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY THAT APPLIES
27 FOR A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION.

1 (c) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO SCHOOL
2 PSYCHOLOGIST SALARY GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF
3 THIS SECTION.

4 (d) "GRANT RECIPIENT" MEANS A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL
5 DISTRICT, BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, CHARTER SCHOOL, OR
6 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL THAT IS AWARDED A GRANT PURSUANT TO
7 THIS SECTION.

8 (e) "SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET
9 FORTH IN SECTION 22-102-103.

10 (2) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE SCHOOL
11 PSYCHOLOGIST SALARY GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MONEY TO AN
12 ELIGIBLE ENTITY TO ASSIST WITH HIRING AND INCREASING THE SALARIES
13 OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS,
14 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE GRANT
15 PROGRAM AND SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO GRANT RECIPIENTS IN AN
16 AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT. A GRANT RECIPIENT SHALL
17 USE THE GRANT MONEY TO HIRE OR INCREASE THE SALARIES OF ITS
18 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

19 (3) AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT, IN
20 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES AND TIME FRAMES ADOPTED BY
21 RULE OF THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
22 SECTION, TO RECEIVE MONEY THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM.

23 (4) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 24, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
24 PROMULGATE RULES REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION AND ADDITIONAL RULES
25 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE
26 RULES MUST SPECIFY THE PROCEDURES AND TIME FRAMES FOR APPLYING
27 FOR A GRANT, THE FORM OF THE GRANT APPLICATION, ANY INFORMATION

1 TO BE PROVIDED BY THE GRANT APPLICANT THAT IS IN ADDITION TO THE
2 INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, ANY
3 CRITERIA FOR AWARDING GRANTS, AND THE TIME FRAMES FOR
4 DISTRIBUTING GRANT MONEY.

5 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
6 FROM GRANT APPLICANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

7 (6) TO RECEIVE A GRANT, A GRANT APPLICANT MUST SUBMIT AN
8 APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT IN THE FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE
9 DEPARTMENT. AT A MINIMUM, THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE THE
10 FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

11 (a) THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS PROPOSED TO
12 RECEIVE A SALARY INCREASE;

13 (b) THE SCHOOLS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF
14 COOPERATIVE SERVICES, CHARTER SCHOOL, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER
15 SCHOOL IN NEED OF FUNDS TO HIRE AND INCREASE THE SALARIES OF
16 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS;

17 (c) THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS CURRENTLY
18 EMPLOYED AT EACH SCHOOL NAMED IN THE APPLICATION AND EACH OF
19 THEIR CURRENT SALARIES;

20 (d) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT EACH SCHOOL
21 NAMED IN THE APPLICATION;

22 (e) THE SALARY ASSISTANCE NEEDS OF EACH SCHOOL NAMED IN
23 THE APPLICATION; AND

24 (f) WRITTEN ATTESTATION THAT THE MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE
25 GRANT PROGRAM WILL ONLY BE USED TO INCREASE SALARIES AND HIRING
26 OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS, AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS
27 SECTION.

1 (7) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A SET PERCENT SALARY
2 INCREASE FOR EACH SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST TO BE AWARDED TO EACH
3 GRANT RECIPIENT THAT ALREADY EMPLOYS A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST AND
4 A SET FULL SALARY AMOUNT TO BE AWARDED TO EACH GRANT RECIPIENT
5 FOR SCHOOLS NEEDING FULL SALARY ASSISTANCE BASED ON THE NUMBER
6 OF APPLICATIONS AND AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS.

7 (8) THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND UP TO TWO PERCENT OF THE
8 MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM TO OFFSET THE DIRECT
9 AND INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING AND ADMINISTERING
10 THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

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