

CHAPTER 123

**HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES**

SENATE BILL 98-070

BY SENATOR Tanner;  
also REPRESENTATIVES Tate, Bacon, Clarke, Dyer, Hagedorn, Mace, Nichol, and Udall.

**AN ACT**

CONCERNING TUITION VOUCHERS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR COLORADO WORKS PARTICIPANTS.

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

**SECTION 1.** 26-2-709 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs. (2) Other assistance.**

(a) Subject to available appropriations, a county department may provide assistance, including but not limited to cash assistance, in addition to the basic assistance grant described in subsection (1) of this section that was provided to recipients of AFDC or JOBS or is authorized pursuant to the provisions of the federal law OR THIS SECTION. Such other assistance shall be intended to promote sustainable employment for the participants in the county.

(b) A county department shall provide assistance to help participants apply for and receive the earned income tax credit under applicable rules of the federal internal revenue service.

(c) (I) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE A VOUCHER CREATED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH (c) TO A PARTICIPANT FOR USE AT ONE OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE 23, C.R.S., FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING SHORT-TERM EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC SKILLS TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES.

(II) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, AND THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-60-104 (1) (b), C.R.S., SHALL ANNUALLY ANALYZE JOB MARKET INFORMATION IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A COMPILATION OF THE TYPES OF JOBS MOST APPROPRIATE AND LIKELY TO LEAD TO LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR PARTICIPANTS. AS USED IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II), "JOB MARKET INFORMATION" MEANS ANY STATE OR REGIONAL JOB MARKET OR LABOR DATA OR STATISTICS OR ANY INFORMATION RELATED TO STATE OR REGIONAL LABOR TRENDS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT MAY HAVE OR TO WHICH IT MAY HAVE ACCESS.

(III) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION, CREATED IN SECTION 23-60-104 (1) (b), C.R.S., TO DEVELOP A TUITION VOUCHER SYSTEM PURSUANT TO WHICH A PARTICIPANT MAY ATTEND COURSES AT AN INSTITUTION IN THE STATE'S SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES BY USING A TUITION VOUCHER.

(IV) THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION, CREATED IN SECTION 23-60-104 (1) (b), C.R.S., SHALL ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT TO MAKE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO RECEIVE TUITION VOUCHERS.

**SECTION 2.** 23-60-304 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

**23-60-304. Plans - development and implementation.** (4) (a) The board has the authority to enter into cooperative arrangements with the system of public employment offices in the state, in order to make available to appropriate educational agencies all occupational information possessed by such employment offices regarding reasonable prospects of employment in the community and elsewhere, so that such agencies may consider such information in providing occupational guidance and counseling to students and prospective students, and in determining the occupations for which persons should be trained, and in order to make available to the public employment offices information possessed by guidance and counseling personnel regarding the qualifications of persons leaving or completing occupational education programs, so that the employment offices may be aided in the occupational guidance and placement of such persons.

(b) THE BOARD SHALL ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO DEVELOP:

(I) APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, CREATED IN PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 26, C.R.S., BASED UPON THE JOB MARKET ANALYSIS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 26-2-709 (2) (c) (II), C.R.S.; AND

(II) A TUITION VOUCHER SYSTEM PURSUANT TO WHICH A PARTICIPANT IN THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, CREATED IN PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 26, C.R.S., MAY ATTEND COURSES AT AN INSTITUTION IN THE STATE'S SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES BY USING A TUITION VOUCHER.

**SECTION 3. No appropriation.** The general assembly has determined that this act can be implemented within existing appropriations, and therefore no separate

appropriation of state moneys is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

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

Approved: April 17, 1998