



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

Please SUPPORT HB 17-1131

Providing CollegeAssist the Authority to Delegate Certain Administrative Functions of the College Opportunity Fund to the Department of Higher Education

Sponsors: Representatives Kraft-Tharp and Saine/Senators Donovan and Smallwood

This technical clean-up bill provides clear statutory authority to Colorado Student Loan Program (known as CollegeAssist) to delegate aspects of the administration of the College Opportunity Fund to the Department of Higher Education, which it is a division of.

BACKGROUND

The Colorado Department of Higher Education is statutorily charged with the oversight and coordination of aspects of higher education for Colorado. The Colorado Student Loan Program (aka CollegeAssist), an enterprise fund, is a division of the Department pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 24-1-114.

With the intention of creating greater administrative efficiencies by streamlining some aspects of the administration of COF, the Department's Finance Division and the CollegeAssist division entered into an MOU for certain aspects.

The FY 2015 Financial Audit of CollegeAssist questioned whether they had the statutory authority to delegate any of the administrative responsibilities. It further urged consulting with the Attorney General on this issue.

In response to Recommendation No. 1 of the FY 2015 Financial Audit, CollegeAssist sought the advice of the Attorney General's office. While a formal written opinion was not issued, due to the cost associated with obtaining one, the Attorney General indicated that statute was unclear and a statutory change to provide better clarity would resolve this.

DHE and COLLEGE ASSIST SUPPORT LEGISLATION

College Assist and the Department are supportive of the Legislative Audit Committee bill, HB 17-1131, to amend statute and make the needed clarification.

We urge the General Assembly to support HB 17-1131.



For more information, please contact Kachina Weaver, Chief Policy Officer for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, at (303) 883-7076 or vial email kachina.weaver@dhe.state.co.us.

