

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 19-0388.01 Brita Darling x2241

**SENATE BILL 19-066**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Todd,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Buentello,**

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**Senate Committees**

Finance  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED**  
102 **FROM A TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED FOR THAT PURPOSE.**

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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>.)*

The bill creates the high-cost special education trust fund (trust fund) to be used for high-cost special education trust fund grants (trust fund grants) to public school special education administrative units that have made significant expenditures in providing special education services to a child with a disability.

The trust fund consists of money transferred from the general fund

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

to the trust fund for the 2018-19 fiscal year, as well as an annual appropriation beginning in the 2019-20 fiscal year from the marijuana tax cash fund to the trust fund.

The department of education may expend interest and income from the trust fund for trust fund grants awarded by the Colorado special education fiscal advisory committee (committee).

The bill specifies the eligibility criteria for a trust fund grant and criteria that the committee shall consider in determining the trust fund grant recipients and the amount of the trust fund grants.

The bill requires an annual report to the education committees of the general assembly concerning trust fund grants awarded during the fiscal year.

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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** 22-20-114.7 as  
3 follows:

4 **22-20-114.7. High-cost special education trust fund - creation**  
5 **- grants - eligibility - legislative declaration - definition - annual**  
6 **report - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES

7 THAT:

8 (I) PROVIDING EQUAL ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC  
9 EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS, INCLUDING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES,  
10 IS A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE STATE;

11 (II) EACH ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT IN THE STATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
12 MAKING AVAILABLE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES REQUIRED BY THE IEP  
13 FOR ANY CHILD WITH A DISABILITY FOR WHOM IT IS RESPONSIBLE;

14 (III) EACH YEAR, A SMALL NUMBER OF CASES, RANDOMLY  
15 AFFECTING ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS ACROSS THE STATE, BECOME  
16 EXTRAORDINARILY EXPENSIVE, THREATENING TO JEOPARDIZE THE  
17 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS TO EACH  
18 CHILD AND TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STABILITY;

19 (IV) ENSURING THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP

1 ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS DEFRAY THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING  
2 HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IS A STATEWIDE CONCERN; AND

3 (V) BUILDING A RESERVE THAT MAY PROVIDE NECESSARY  
4 FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS EXPERIENCING HIGH COSTS WILL  
5 HELP BRING EQUITY AND STABILITY TO THE STATE'S SPECIAL EDUCATION  
6 PROGRAMS.

7 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS  
8 NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO CREATE A HIGH-COST SPECIAL  
9 EDUCATION TRUST FUND TO BUILD A RESERVE FOR HIGH-COST SPECIAL  
10 EDUCATION SERVICES.

11 (2) (a) THE HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND,  
12 REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "TRUST FUND", IS CREATED IN THE  
13 STATE TREASURY. THE TRUST FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE COLORADO  
14 SPECIAL EDUCATION FISCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, CREATED IN THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-20-114.5(2), AND  
16 REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "COMMITTEE".

17 (b) (I) ON JULY 1, 2019, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER  
18 TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE MARIJUANA  
19 TAX CASH FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 39-28.8-501, TO THE TRUST FUND.

20 (II) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS ENCOURAGED TO PRIORITIZE THE  
21 TRANSFER OR APPROPRIATION OF MONEY TO THE TRUST FUND IN FUTURE  
22 FISCAL YEARS.

23 (c) THE TRUST FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE  
24 TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY  
25 OTHER MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE TO THE  
26 TRUST FUND AND THE INTEREST AND INCOME EARNED ON THE PRINCIPAL  
27 OF THE TRUST FUND.

1 (d) TRANSFERS TO THE TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
2 (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE TRUST  
3 FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION CONSTITUTE THE  
4 PRINCIPAL OF THE TRUST FUND. THE PRINCIPAL OF THE TRUST FUND  
5 REMAINS IN THE TRUST FUND AND SHALL NOT BE APPROPRIATED,  
6 TRANSFERRED, OR EXPENDED.

7 (e) THE STATE TREASURER IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO  
8 MANAGE THE TRUST FUND THROUGH PRUDENT INVESTMENTS WITH A  
9 TARGETED MINIMUM ANNUAL RETURN OF THREE PERCENT ON THE  
10 PRINCIPAL AND SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM  
11 THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE TRUST FUND TO THE  
12 TRUST FUND.

13 (f) TRUST FUND INTEREST AND INCOME IS CONTINUOUSLY  
14 APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION  
15 TRUST FUND GRANTS AWARDED BY THE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO  
16 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. INTEREST AND INCOME NOT EXPENDED  
17 DURING THE FISCAL YEAR FOR HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST  
18 FUND GRANTS MAY BE EXPENDED IN SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS FOR THAT  
19 PURPOSE.

20 (3) (a) THE COMMITTEE MAY AWARD HIGH-COST SPECIAL  
21 EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANTS FROM INTEREST AND INCOME IN THE  
22 TRUST FUND.

23 (b) AN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT MAY APPLY TO THE COMMITTEE FOR  
24 A HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANT IF THE  
25 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT:

26 (I) HAS EXPENDITURES, AS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS  
27 SECTION, IN THE PRECEDING BUDGET YEAR TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A

1 SINGLE STUDENT WITH AN IEP; AND  
2 (II) THE EXPENDITURES EXCEED THE LESSER OF:  
3 (A) ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS; OR  
4 (B) TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT'S  
5 ANNUAL AUDITED OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE PRECEDING BUDGET  
6 YEAR.

7 (c) FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION,  
8 "EXPENDITURES" INCLUDES ITEMS THAT ARE ALLOWABLE SPECIAL  
9 EDUCATION EXPENDITURES PURSUANT TO STATE AND FEDERAL LAW. AN  
10 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT APPLYING FOR A HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION  
11 TRUST FUND GRANT SHALL PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION OR OTHER  
12 CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES, AS REQUIRED BY THE COMMITTEE.

13 (d) IF THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES THAT AN ADMINISTRATIVE  
14 UNIT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND  
15 GRANT, THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA IN  
16 DETERMINING WHETHER TO AWARD A TRUST FUND GRANT AND IN WHAT  
17 AMOUNT:

- 18 ==
- 19 (I) NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN A GIVEN YEAR;
  - 20 (II) THE AMOUNT OF HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND  
21 GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION IN A GIVEN YEAR; AND
  - 22 (III) ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
23 INDIVIDUAL HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANT REQUEST.

24 (e) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION AS  
25 TO THE HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANT AWARD AND  
26 AMOUNT; HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE SHALL ATTEMPT TO AWARD TRUST  
27 FUND GRANTS IN PROPORTION TO THE NEED PRESENTED BY INDIVIDUAL

1 CASES AND THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PRESENTED BY  
2 ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS IN A GIVEN YEAR.

3 (f) THE COMMITTEE MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
4 FROM ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS PRIOR TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH-COST  
5 SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANTS.

6 (g) THE COMMITTEE IS ENCOURAGED TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH AN  
7 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT TO HELP TAILOR HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION  
8 TRUST FUND GRANTS TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL  
9 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT FOR THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF TRUST FUND  
10 GRANT MONEY.

11 (4) (a) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE AWARDS  
12 A HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANT, THE COMMITTEE  
13 SHALL INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
14 SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANT INTO THE ANNUAL SPECIAL  
15 EDUCATION FISCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE STATE BOARD  
16 OF EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
17 REPRESENTATIVES AND OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES:

18 (I) THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR A HIGH-COST  
19 SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANT;

20 (II) THE NUMBER OF HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND  
21 GRANTS AWARDED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR;

22 (III) THE NAME OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT RECEIVING A  
23 HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST FUND GRANT AND THE AMOUNT OF  
24 MONEY AWARDED FOR EACH TRUST FUND GRANT; AND

25 (IV) THE BALANCE IN THE TRUST FUND, INCLUDING PRINCIPAL AND  
26 AVAILABLE INTEREST AND INCOME IN THE TRUST FUND.

27 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136

1 (11)(a)(I) TO THE CONTRARY, THE REPORT REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS  
2 SUBSECTION (4) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

3 (5) (a) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

4 (b) PRIOR TO SUCH REPEAL, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL:

5 (I) TRANSFER ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED TRUST  
6 FUND INTEREST AND INCOME TO THE GENERAL FUND; AND

7 (II) TRANSFER ANY REMAINING MARIJUANA TAX CASH FUND  
8 MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
9 (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION TO THE MARIJUANA TAX CASH FUND, CREATED IN  
10 SECTION 39-28.8-501.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-20-114.5, **add** (6)  
12 as follows:

13 **22-20-114.5. Special education fiscal advisory committee -**  
14 **special education high-cost grants - definitions - repeal.** (6) (a) IN  
15 ADDITION TO AWARDING GRANTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
16 SECTION, THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION  
17 TRUST FUND GRANTS AND REPORT ON THOSE GRANTS PURSUANT TO  
18 SECTION 22-20-114.7.

19 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

20 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-28.8-501, **amend**  
21 (2)(c); and **add** (4.5) as follows:

22 **39-28.8-501. Marijuana tax cash fund - creation - distribution**  
23 **- legislative declaration - repeal.** (2) (c) Subject to the limitations in  
24 subsection (5) of this section and in addition to the purposes for which the  
25 general assembly may appropriate ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund specified  
26 in ~~paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTIONS (2)(a) AND  
27 (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION, the general assembly may also direct the state

1 treasurer to transfer ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund to the general fund as  
2 specified in subsection (4) of this section AND TO THE HIGH-COST SPECIAL  
3 EDUCATION TRUST FUND. The general assembly may direct the state  
4 treasurer to make such transfers only for a fiscal year following the fiscal  
5 year in which the ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund ~~were~~ WAS received by the  
6 state.

7 (4.5) (a) ON JULY 1, 2019, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL  
8 TRANSFER FROM THE FUND TO THE HIGH-COST SPECIAL EDUCATION TRUST  
9 FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 22-20-114.7, THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN  
10 SECTION 22-20-114.7 (2)(b)(I).

11 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (4.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

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