First Regular Session Seventy-second General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

REREVISED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted in the Second House **HOUSE BILL 19-1187**

LLS NO. 19-0724.01 Jacob Baus x2173

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, AND, IN

101 **CONCERNING INCREASING COMPLETION RATES OF APPLICATIONS FOR**

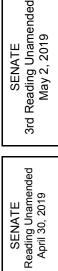
102

103 CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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 requires the general assembly to appropriate \$250,000 each year for the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 fiscal years from the general fund to the state board of education. The state board of education shall distribute the appropriation to education providers that receive a grant under the school counselor corps grant program, for the purpose of



SENATE

HOUSE 3rd Reading Unamended April 16, 2019
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Amended 2nd Reading April 12, 2019

HOUSE

2nd

educating and supporting students and families with the completion and submission of the free application for federal student aid or applications for state student aid.

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

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SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

4 (a) During the 2015-16 academic year, Colorado students did not
5 claim approximately fifty million dollars available through federal Pell
6 grants because they did not complete or submit the free application for
7 federal student aid;

8 (b) Low-income students are hurt the most by not completing or 9 submitting the free application for federal student aid. Federal aid for 10 higher education includes Pell grants, which are awarded to 11 undergraduate students from low-income families. Unlike student loans, 12 Pell grants generally do not have to be paid back. The maximum Pell 13 grant amount for the 2018-19 academic year was over six thousand 14 dollars. Pell grants are awarded based on financial need and are 15 determined by completing and submitting the free application for federal 16 student aid.

17 (c) Completing the free application for federal student aid allows 18 all students to understand the financial aid package they are entitled to in 19 the form of grants, loans, and work study programs. Without completing 20 or submitting the free application for federal student aid, students might 21 incorrectly believe that higher education is unaffordable when they might 22 be entitled to a substantial amount of financial aid or low-interest loans 23 that would make attending a higher education institution a smart 24 investment.

(d) If high school graduates knew how much money was available
 for higher education, especially students from low-income families that
 are eligible for Pell grants, then more students would choose to attend
 higher education institutions.

5 (2) The general assembly, therefore, further declares that it is in 6 the best interest of the people of Colorado to educate and support students 7 and families with the completion and submission of the free application 8 for federal student aid and applications for state student aid to claim 9 available federal and state money so that more Colorado students are able 10 to attain higher education degrees.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-91-104, amend
(5) as follows:

13 22-91-104. School counselor corps grant program - application 14 - criteria - grant awards - rules - repeal. (5) (a) Subject to available 15 appropriations, but not to exceed ten million dollars annually, the state 16 board shall award grants to applying education providers pursuant to this 17 section. The state board shall base the grant awards on the department's 18 recommendations. Each grant has a term of four years beginning in the 19 2014-15 budget year. In making a grant award, the state board shall 20 specify the amount of each grant.

(b) (I) IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO
SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
APPROPRIATE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH YEAR FOR
THE 2019-20, 2020-21, AND 2021-22 FISCAL YEARS, FROM THE GENERAL
FUND TO THE STATE BOARD. THE STATE BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE
APPROPRIATION TO THE EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE A GRANT
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

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(A) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO STUDENTS,
 FAMILIES, AND SCHOOL LEADERS REGARDING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR
 FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID, AND
 THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL
 STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID;

6 (B) DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING INFORMATION TO STUDENTS
7 AND FAMILIES REGARDING THE STEPS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FREE
8 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE
9 STUDENT AID;

10 (C) TRAINING SCHOOL COUNSELORS ON BEST PRACTICES TO 11 SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WITH FILLING OUT THE FREE 12 APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE 13 STUDENT AID, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES WHO 14 HAVE HISTORICALLY LOW COMPLETION RATES OF THE FREE APPLICATION 15 FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID AND APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID; 16 AND

17 (D) ORGANIZING AND HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND
18 FAMILIES TO MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS WHO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE
19 FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR APPLICATIONS FOR
20 STATE STUDENT AID.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (5)(b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.
SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-91-105, amend
(1)(e) and (1)(f); and add (1)(g) as follows:

24 22-91-105. Reporting - repeal. (1) Each education provider that
25 receives a grant through the program shall report the following
26 information to the department each year during the term of the grant:

27 (e) Information indicating an increase in the level of

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postsecondary preparation services provided to students at recipient
 schools, such as the use of individual career and academic plans or
 enrollment in pre-collegiate preparation programs or postsecondary or
 vocational preparation programs; and

5 (f) (I) Any additional information that the state board, by rule, 6 may require. A COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO 7 COMPLETED THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID OR 8 APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID FOR THE YEAR THE EDUCATION 9 PROVIDER RECEIVES THE GRANT, IF AVAILABLE, AND THE NUMBER OF 10 STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL 11 STUDENT AID OR APPLICATIONS FOR STATE STUDENT AID FOR EACH OF THE 12 YEARS THE EDUCATION PROVIDER RECEIVES THE GRANT.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(f) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.
(g) ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT THE STATE BOARD, BY
RULE, MAY REQUIRE.

16 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, 17 \$250,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This 18 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the 19 department may use this appropriation for the school counselor corps 20 grant program.

SECTION 5. 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.