

CHAPTER 154

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 21-1112

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Snyder and Bradfield, Bacon, Bernett, Bird, Cutter, Duran, Exum, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jodeh, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Ricks, Valdez A., Valdez D.; also SENATOR(S) Lee and Hisey, Buckner, Cooke, Danielson, Fields, Ginal, Holbert, Kirkmeyer, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Simpson, Smallwood, Story, Winter, Zenzinger, Garcia.

AN ACT**CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATES USING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S LOCALLY RECEIVED MONEY.**

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-32-149 as follows:

22-32-149. District scholarship programs - authorized. (1) A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION WHILE ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE SCHOLARSHIPS MUST BE FUNDED FROM ADDITIONAL MILL LEVY REVENUE THAT IS APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-54-108; FROM GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES FOR PURPOSES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; OR FROM A COMBINATION OF BOTH. A BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT ESTABLISHES A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO:

(a) **PRIORITIZE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE FEDERAL "RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1751 ET SEQ., AND STUDENTS WHOSE PARENTS DO NOT HAVE A POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL, TO FACILITATE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO INCREASE GRADUATES' ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND**

(b) **LIMIT THE USE OF SCHOLARSHIP MONEY TO TUITION, BOOKS AND SUPPLIES, AND TRANSPORTATION.**

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: May 18, 2021