

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 23-0712.02 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 23-149

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HIGHER**
102 **EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WHO**
103 **PERFORM YOUTH MENTORSHIP.**

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 youth mentorship stipend pilot program in the department of higher education. The program provides money for higher education tuition and fees to students who provide mentorship services to an approved youth mentorship organization.

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

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

2 **SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 23-3.3-1010 as**
3 **follows:**

4 **23-3.3-1010. Youth mentorship assistance grant pilot program**
5 **- creation - policies - reports - definitions - repeal. (1) THERE IS**
6 **CREATED IN THE INITIATIVE THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ASSISTANCE GRANT**
7 **PILOT PROGRAM. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL**
8 **ASSISTANCE TO A STUDENT WHO PROVIDES MENTORSHIP SERVICES TO**
9 **DEFRAY THE COST OF THE STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE AT A PUBLIC**
10 **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

11 **(2) THE BOARD SHALL:**

12 **(a) SELECT APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS TO**
13 **PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM;**

14 **(b) ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM CAP, OR VARIOUS MAXIMUM CAPS, ON**
15 **THE AMOUNT THAT ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS MAY EARN THROUGH**
16 **PROVIDING MENTORSHIP SERVICES; AND**

17 **(c) ESTABLISH PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR ELIGIBLE**
18 **STUDENT-MENTORS WHO DEMONSTRATE THE GREATEST FINANCIAL**
19 **ASSISTANCE NEEDS.**

20 **(3) TO BE AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION, A**
21 **YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL:**

22 **(a) PROVIDE MENTORSHIP SERVICES TO YOUTH WHO RESIDE IN**
23 **COMMUNITIES THAT WERE HISTORICALLY AND ARE CURRENTLY**
24 **NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC DESIGN, AND**
25 **CONSEQUENTLY HAVE NO OR LIMITED ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTORSHIP**
26 **SERVICES;**

1 (b) APPLY TO THE BOARD IN THE TIME AND MANNER REQUIRED BY
2 THE BOARD; AND

3 (c) (I) HAVE A POLICY AND PROCEDURE REQUIRING A STATE AND
4 NATIONAL FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK
5 UTILIZING THE RECORDS OF THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OF ALL PROSPECTIVE
7 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EMPLOYEES.

8 (II) THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT PERMIT
9 PROSPECTIVE ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS, VOLUNTEERS, OR EMPLOYEES
10 TO SERVE THE ORGANIZATION IF THEY HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF,
11 ENTERED A PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE TO, OR RECEIVED A
12 DEFERRED SENTENCE FOR:

13 (A) A FELONY;

14 (B) A MISDEMEANOR CRIME INVOLVING UNLAWFUL SEXUAL
15 BEHAVIOR OR UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOR INVOLVING CHILDREN; OR

16 (C) A MISDEMEANOR CRIME, THE UNDERLYING FACTUAL BASIS OF
17 WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND BY THE COURT ON THE RECORD TO INVOLVE
18 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

19 (4) TO BE AN ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR, THE STUDENT SHALL:

20 (a) APPLY TO THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION
21 IN THE TIME AND MANNER SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD;

22 (b) SATISFY ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO BE A
23 STUDENT-MENTOR THROUGH THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
24 ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING COMPLETING THE FINGERPRINT-BASED
25 CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF
26 THIS SECTION; AND

27 (c) BE ENROLLED IN A QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION FOR THE DURATION OF THE MENTORSHIP.

2 (5) (a) THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES THAT ENSURE THAT
3 PROGRAM MONEY IS USED FOR APPROVED ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS'
4 HIGHER EDUCATION COST OF ATTENDANCE AND THAT ELIGIBLE
5 STUDENT-MENTORS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM PROVIDE
6 EVIDENCE OF PROGRAM COMPLIANCE TO EARN THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
7 FOR COST OF ATTENDANCE. THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES FOR
8 THE REPAYMENT OF ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLIED TOWARD THE
9 COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR THAT THE
10 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR DID NOT EARN.

11 (b) THE BOARD MAY ESTABLISH POLICIES NECESSARY FOR THE
12 ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE DATES FOR
13 DISBURSEMENTS TO APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS AND
14 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTORS' PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
15 EDUCATION.

16 (6) FOR THE 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM
18 THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE BY THE COMMISSION
19 FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION. ANY MONEY APPROPRIATED
20 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION NOT EXPENDED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2024, IS
21 FURTHER APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR USE BY THE BOARD FOR
22 THE 2024-25 AND 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEARS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

23 (7) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, THE BOARD SHALL MAKE
24 ITS FIRST DISBURSEMENT TO APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
25 ORGANIZATIONS.

26 (b) THE BOARD SHALL DISBURSE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO
27 EACH APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION.

1 (c) AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL
2 DISBURSE THE MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM TO THE
3 QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WHICH AN
4 ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR WHO PROVIDES SERVICE TO THE YOUTH
5 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION IS ENROLLED, TO BE APPLIED TOWARD THE
6 COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE ELIGIBLE STUDENT-MENTOR IN EXCHANGE
7 FOR THE MENTORSHIP SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ELIGIBLE
8 STUDENT-MENTOR. THE AMOUNT DISBURSED PURSUANT TO THIS
9 SUBSECTION (7)(c) MUST NOT EXCEED THE APPLICABLE CAP ESTABLISHED
10 BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (d) AT THE END OF THE GRANT TERM, THE APPROVED YOUTH
12 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS SHALL RETURN ANY UNUSED MONEY
13 RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

14 (8) (a) AN APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION SHALL
15 SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT INCLUDES:

16 (I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
17 ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING ITS LOCATION, THE SERVICES IT PROVIDES,
18 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE MENTEES IT SERVES, AND SUMMARIES
19 OF THE PROGRAM'S IMPACT ON THE MENTEES SERVED; EXCEPT THAT ANY
20 SUMMARY MUST NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF A MENTEE OR INCLUDE
21 PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF A
22 MENTEE;

23 (II) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS WHO PROVIDED
24 MENTORSHIP SERVICES TO THE APPROVED YOUTH MENTORSHIP
25 ORGANIZATION DURING THE PRECEDING STATE FISCAL YEAR, IN TOTAL
26 AND DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER IDENTITY, AND THE
27 QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN WHICH THE

1 ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS ARE ENROLLED; AND

2 (III) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY RECEIVED BY THE APPROVED YOUTH
3 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION FROM THE PROGRAM, IN TOTAL AND
4 DISAGGREGATED BY PAYMENTS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
5 EDUCATION.

6 (b) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE
7 DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT
8 A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, CONCERNING THE
10 PROGRAM IN THE PRECEDING STATE FISCAL YEAR. AT A MINIMUM, THE
11 REPORT MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING:

12 (I) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE APPROVED YOUTH
13 MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (8)(a) OF THIS
14 SECTION;

15 (II) IF AVAILABLE, THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS
16 WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM WHO CONTINUED ENROLLMENT IN
17 THE QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN A
18 SUBSEQUENT ACADEMIC TERM, REPORTED FOR THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE
19 AND FOR EACH INSTITUTION, IN TOTAL AND DISAGGREGATED BY RACE,
20 ETHNICITY, AND GENDER IDENTITY; AND

21 (III) IF AVAILABLE, THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE-STUDENT MENTORS
22 WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM WHO GRADUATED FROM THE
23 QUALIFIED PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, REPORTED FOR
24 THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE AND FOR EACH INSTITUTION, IN TOTAL AND
25 DISAGGREGATED BY RACE, ETHNICITY, AND GENDER IDENTITY.

26 (9) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
27 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE YOUTH MENTORSHIP ASSISTANCE
2 GRANT PILOT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (b) "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS A STATE
4 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 23-18-102
5 (10)(a), A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE, OR AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

6 (c) "YOUTH MENTORSHIP ORGANIZATION" MEANS A
7 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES MENTORSHIP
8 SERVICES TO YOUTH WHO RESIDE IN COMMUNITIES THAT WERE
9 HISTORICALLY AND ARE CURRENTLY NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY
10 STRUCTURAL AND SYSTEMIC DESIGN, AND CONSEQUENTLY HAVE NO OR
11 LIMITED ACCESS TO QUALITY MENTORSHIP SERVICES.

12 (10) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

13 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
14 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
15 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
16 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
17 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
18 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
19 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
20 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
21 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.