



# Legislative Council Staff

## Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 9/7/2016

### Bill Number

**House Bill 16-1267**

### Sponsors

***Representatives Lee & Fields  
Senators Woods & Carroll***

### Short Title

***Colorado Veterans'  
Service-To-Career Pilot Program***

### Research Analyst

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### Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which became effective on August 10, 2016.

### Summary

This bill creates the Colorado Veterans' Service-to-Career Pilot Program in the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). Through CDLE and in partnership with nonprofit agencies, workforce centers throughout the state may apply for grants to develop and expand career services for veterans, spouses, and eligible participants. Eligible participants include a veteran's dependent child under age 27 and a veteran's caregiver over age 18. The bill defines a veteran as one who served in the U.S. armed forces and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable and includes a person serving or who served in the National Guard or as a reservist.

In selecting grantees, CDLE must give preferences to workforce centers that partner with an integrated service and support center for veterans, that are located in a community with large military installations, that have existing programs or partnerships with businesses or organizations that provide employment services, and that have the capacity to provide a wide range of services. Workforce centers that participate in the program must report on services offered, participation rates, and program success, and CDLE must report, in turn, to the General Assembly.

The bill makes a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to CDLE to administer the program. CDLE may use up to five percent and workforce centers may use up to seven percent of the money for administrative costs. The program repeals January 1, 2019.

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## Background

CDLE currently operates 77 workforce centers in 53 counties across the state. These workforce centers provide a variety of free services to Colorado employers and job seekers, including career counseling, and help applying for various training and educational opportunities, among others. Colorado workforce centers currently provide veterans with early priority access to job listings, job fairs and events, and other services for veterans. This bill would allow selected workforce centers to develop or expand services designed specifically to assist veterans in obtaining training, job opportunities, and other services. There are approximately 400,000 veterans living in Colorado.

## House Action

**House Business Affairs and Labor Committee (March 3, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from the United Veterans Committee, Vets4Energy Program, Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance, Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence, Arapahoe Douglas Workforce Board, and two individuals testified in support of the bill.

The committee adopted amendments L.001 and L.002, and referred the bill, as amended to the House Appropriations Committee. Amendment L.001 revised the bill's definition of "veteran." Amendment L.002 replaced a "shall" with a "may," allowing CDLE the option of whether or not to contract with a nonprofit agency to administer the program.

**House Appropriations Committee (May 3, 2016).** The committee adopted amendment L.009, and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole. The amendment adjusted the bill's appropriation clause.

**House second reading (May 3, 2016).** The House adopted the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee report, the House Appropriations Committee report, and amendment No. 3, and passed the bill, as amended. Floor amendment No. 3 removed the requirement that CDLE give preference when selecting work force centers to those that are located in communities with large military installations.

**House third reading (May 4, 2016).** The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

## Senate Action

**Senate Finance Committee (May 5, 2016, & May 6, 2016).** At the hearing on May 5, representatives from the Pikes Peak Workforce Center and one individual testified in support of the bill. The committee postponed the bill indefinitely.

At the hearing on May 6, the committee moved to reconsider the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Senate Appropriations Committee (May 6, 2016).** At the hearing, the committee adopted amendment J.004, which was conceptually amended, and amendment L.011, and referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole.

Amendment J.004, as amended, and amendment L.011, added an appropriation clause to the bill and funded the program with money from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund instead of from the

General Fund.

**Senate second reading (May 6, 2016).** The Senate adopted the Senate Appropriations Committee report and amendment No. 2, which amended the Senate Appropriations Committee report, and passed the bill, as amended, on second reading.

**Senate third reading (May 9, 2016).** The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.