

**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. 23-0987.01 Megan McCall x4215

SENATE BILL 23-250

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Mullica and Kirkmeyer,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Catlin,

Senate Committees
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR TRANSFER FROM THE**
102 **SEVERANCE TAX OPERATIONAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL**
103 **CONSTRUCTION FUND FOR USE BY STATE-SUPPORTED**
104 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENERGY IMPACTED**
105 **COUNTIES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
106 **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>.)

On July 1, 2023, the state treasurer is required to transfer \$10

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.

million from the severance tax operational fund to the capital construction fund. The money is to be used by state-supported institutions of higher education in energy impacted counties for energy-related programs or projects.

For fiscal year 2023-24, the bill appropriates \$6 million to Colorado Mesa university to expand the university's campus-wide geothermal exchange system. For fiscal year 2023-24, the bill appropriates \$4 million to Western Colorado university to provide additional teaching and laboratory space for the university's petroleum geology program and to generally allow for the expansion of the natural and environmental sciences department.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-29-109.3, **amend**
3 (1) introductory portion; and **add** (9) as follows:

4 **39-29-109.3. Severance tax operational fund - core reserve -**
5 **grant program reserve - definitions - repeal.** (1) The executive director
6 of the department of natural resources shall submit with the department's
7 budget request for each fiscal year a list and description of the programs
8 the executive director recommends to be funded from the severance tax
9 operational fund created in section 39-29-109 (2)(b), referred to in this
10 section as the "operational fund". EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN
11 SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION, the general assembly may appropriate
12 money from the total money available in the operational fund to fund
13 recommended programs as follows:

14 (9) (a) ON JULY 1, 2023, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
15 TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE OPERATIONAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL
16 CONSTRUCTION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-302 (1)(a) FOR USE BY
17 STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN ENERGY
18 IMPACTED COUNTIES FOR ENERGY-RELATED PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS.

19 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

1 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-302, **amend**
2 (13) as follows:

3 **24-75-302. Capital construction fund - capital assessment fees**
4 **- calculation - information technology capital account.** (13) The fund
5 includes money transferred pursuant to ~~section~~ SECTIONS 24-33.5-706
6 (4.7) AND 39-29-109.3 (9).

7 **SECTION 3. Capital construction appropriation.** (1) For the
8 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$9,108,609 is appropriated to Colorado Mesa
9 university. This appropriation consists of \$6,000,000 from the capital
10 construction fund created in section 24-75-302 (1)(a), C.R.S., and
11 \$3,108,609 cash funds from Colorado Mesa university institutional
12 reserves and donations. To implement this act, the university may use this
13 appropriation for capital construction related to the campus-wide
14 geothermal-exchange loop. Any money appropriated in this subsection (1)
15 not expended prior to July 1, 2024 is further appropriated to Colorado
16 Mesa university for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 state fiscal years for the
17 same purpose.

18 (2) For the FY 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$4,000,000 is
19 appropriated to Western Colorado university. This appropriation is from
20 the capital construction fund created in section 24-75-302 (1)(a), C.R.S.
21 To implement this act, the university may use this appropriation for
22 capital construction related to the petroleum geology program teaching
23 and laboratory space expansion and the natural and environmental
24 sciences department expansion. Any money appropriated in this
25 subsection (2) not expended prior to July 1, 2024 is further appropriated
26 to Western Colorado university for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 state fiscal
27 years for the same purpose.

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