

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-1154.02 Jessica Herrera x4218

HOUSE BILL 24-1444

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan and Herod,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Simpson,

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House Committees  
Education

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE RECREATION OF THE FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING  
102 SCHOOL RESEARCH PROGRAM.

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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>.)*

In 2022, the general assembly enacted House Bill 22-1327, which created the federal Indian boarding school research program (program) in the state historical society, commonly known as history Colorado. House Bill 22-1327 required the program to conduct research regarding the physical abuse and deaths that occurred at federal Indian boarding schools in Colorado and required history Colorado, in consultation with

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.*

the Colorado commission of Indian affairs, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to develop recommendations to better understand the abuse that occurred and to support healing in tribal communities. Pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 22-1327, the program was repealed on December 31, 2023.

The bill recreates and reenacts the program and appropriates \$1 million from the general fund divided in equal annual payments for fiscal years 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27 to implement the recommendations developed. The recommendations include:

- The continuation of the program until December 31, 2027;
- Authority for history Colorado, in partnership with the Colorado commission of Indian affairs, to conduct ongoing research and tribal consultations with different tribes and engage in listening sessions with American Indian and Alaska native communities on the history and impact of federal Indian boarding schools in Colorado;
- The collection of oral histories of survivors that highlight indigenous narratives;
- Quarterly updates from history Colorado to the Colorado commission of Indian affairs;
- Developing further recommendations to the general assembly to address the impact of federal, state, and local schooling systems on native communities;
- Developing further recommendations to the Colorado department of education and Colorado department of higher education to support education for native communities;
- Developing further recommendations to the Colorado department of human services and other state agencies on how to address the health, mental health, economic, and other impacts of the boarding school system; and
- Funding for 2 term-limited FTE to support the recommendations.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **recreate and**  
3 **reenact, with amendments,** 24-80-216 as follows:

4           **24-80-216. Federal Indian boarding school research program**  
5 **- recommendations - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,  
6 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

1 (a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION OF INDIAN  
2 AFFAIRS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-44-102.

3 (b) "FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL" MEANS A BOARDING  
4 SCHOOL FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH AUTHORIZED BY THE FEDERAL  
5 GOVERNMENT THAT WAS NOT LOCATED ON AN INDIAN RESERVATION.

6 (c) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL  
7 RESEARCH PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN THIS SECTION.

8 (d) "SOCIETY" MEANS THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

9 (2) (a) THERE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
10 THE FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL RESEARCH PROGRAM TO  
11 RESEARCH AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE COLORADANS'  
12 UNDERSTANDING OF THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE AND DEATHS  
13 THAT OCCURRED AT AND IN RELATION TO FEDERAL INDIAN BOARDING  
14 SCHOOLS IN COLORADO, INCLUDING THE VICTIMIZATION OF AND  
15 INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACTS ON FAMILIES OF THE YOUTH FORCED TO  
16 ATTEND THE BOARDING SCHOOLS.

17 (b) THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THROUGH THE PROGRAM,  
18 SHALL CONDUCT ONGOING RESEARCH TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
19 THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE COLORADO  
20 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO  
21 ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL SCHOOLING  
22 SYSTEMS ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE  
23 COMMISSION. IN DEVELOPING THE RECOMMENDATIONS, THE SOCIETY  
24 MUST:

25 (I) CONSULT WITH FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES;

26 (II) ENGAGE IN LISTENING SESSIONS WITH AMERICAN INDIAN AND  
27 ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES ON THE HISTORY AND IMPACT OF FEDERAL

1 INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS IN COLORADO. THE LISTENING SESSIONS MAY  
2 INCLUDE VISITS TO BOARDING SCHOOL SITES IN DURANGO, HESPERUS, AND  
3 GRAND JUNCTION.

4 (III) COLLECT ORAL HISTORIES FROM SURVIVORS THAT HIGHLIGHT  
5 INDIGENOUS NARRATIVES. THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS MUST INCLUDE  
6 HISTORIES FROM THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE AND THE UTE  
7 MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE. ADDITIONAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS WITH OTHER  
8 AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES MAY BE  
9 CONDUCTED.

10 (c) THE SOCIETY MUST PROVIDE QUARTERLY UPDATES TO THE  
11 COMMISSION ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS  
12 SECTION. THE SOCIETY SHALL PROVIDE PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS,  
13 DEVELOPED WITH TRIBAL CONSULTATION, TO THE COMMISSION NO LATER  
14 THAN NOVEMBER 8, 2025, AND SHALL PROVIDE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
15 BY MAY 10, 2027.

16 (3) THE SOCIETY MUST PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
17 PROVIDING THE BEST CARE AND MEMORIALIZATION AT BOARDING SCHOOL  
18 SITES IN HESPERUS AND GRAND JUNCTION AND ANY CEMETERY IN OLD  
19 FORT IN COLLABORATION WITH FORT LEWIS COLLEGE AND THE COLORADO  
20 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

21 (4) FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
22 SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE  
23 HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR DOLLARS, AND FOR EACH OF STATE FISCAL YEARS  
24 2025-26 AND 2026-27, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE  
25 THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED  
26 THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE STATE  
27 HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 24-80-201, TO FUND TWO

1 TERM-LIMITED, FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES AND TO IMPLEMENT THE  
2 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

3 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2027.

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