

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

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 24-0532.01 Megan McCall x4215

SENATE BILL 24-226

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fenberg and Marchman, Bridges, Buckner, Cutter, Exum, Jaquez Lewis, Michaelson
Jenet, Priola

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Herod and Brown,

Senate Committees

Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE COLLEGE KICKSTARTER**
102 **ACCOUNT PROGRAM.**

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 modifies the college kickstarter account program (program). Under current law, an account may be opened by a parent or parents of an eligible child. The bill expands who may open an account and be an account sponsor, requiring that an account sponsor must provide the birth certificate number or order of adoption for an eligible child in accordance with the requirements of the program to open an

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.

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
May 3, 2024

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 2, 2024

account. The bill also expands the membership of the advisory board, requires the advisory board to meet at least on a quarterly basis each year, and makes changes to certain reporting requirements for the program.

Currently, a parent or parents of an eligible child must claim kickstarter funding within 5 years of the date of the eligible child's birth or adoption. The bill expands this period to 8 years for an account sponsor to claim kickstarter funding, and clarifies that an account is an "individual college savings account", which is any collegeinvest account.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.1-306.5, **amend**
3 (1)(a)(V), (1)(b) introductory portion, (2)(a), (2)(d), (3), (4)(a), (4)(b),
4 (4)(c) introductory portion, (4)(c)(I), (4)(c)(II), (5), (6) introductory
5 portion, (6)(a), (6)(b)(II), (6)(b)(IV), (6)(b)(V), (7), and (8)(c); **repeal**
6 (6)(b)(III) and (6)(b)(VI); and **add** (2)(a.5), (2)(a.7), (2)(b.5), (2)(c.5),
7 (6)(b)(VII), and (6)(c) as follows:

8 **23-3.1-306.5. College kickstarter account program - funding**
9 **- administration - financial literacy course - rules - legislative**
10 **declaration - definitions.** (1) (a) The general assembly hereby finds and
11 declares that:

12 (V) Providing seed money for each child born in OR ADOPTED
13 INTO Colorado as an incentive to enroll in a college savings account helps
14 make saving for college part of the collective culture of Colorado by
15 opening the door for economic opportunity for all children and their
16 families, better positions the state as a pioneer in building family financial
17 capability, and promotes the development of a stronger, more qualified
18 Colorado workforce.

19 (b) The general assembly further finds and declares that
20 establishing the college kickstarter account program, which provides both
21 an initial contribution of money for every child born in OR ADOPTED INTO

1 Colorado that may be claimed and transferred to a college savings
2 account and subsequently supplemented by ~~parental and family~~ OTHER
3 contributions and a potential opportunity for financial literacy education
4 free of charge:

5 (2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (a) ~~"Eligible child" means a child born or adopted in Colorado on~~
7 ~~or after January 1, 2020, but before January 1, 2040. "ACCOUNT~~
8 ~~SPONSOR" MEANS, BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, A PARENT OR PARENTS AND~~
9 ~~ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2025, A PARENT OR PARENTS OR ANY OTHER~~
10 INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE NUMBER OR ORDER OF
11 ADOPTION FOR AN ELIGIBLE CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
12 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

13 (a.5) "BASE AMOUNT" MEANS:

14 (I) ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021; OR

15 (II) ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, ANNUALLY ADJUSTED FOR
16 INFLATION, FOR EACH YEAR BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021.

17 (a.7) "ELIGIBLE CHILD" MEANS A CHILD BORN OR ADOPTED IN
18 COLORADO ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2020, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1,
19 2040.

20 (b.5) "INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT" MEANS ANY
21 COLLEGEINVEST ACCOUNT.

22 (c.5) "INTEREST ACCRUAL AMOUNT" MEANS THE AMOUNT OF
23 INTEREST THAT HAS ACCRUED FROM THE BASE AMOUNT IN THE YEAR THE
24 ELIGIBLE CHILD WAS BORN TO THE YEAR THAT THE ACCOUNT SPONSOR
25 CLAIMS KICKSTARTER FUNDING.

26 (d) "Kickstarter funding" means an amount in the master account
27 designated for each eligible child by the authority THAT IS EQUAL TO THE

1 BASE AMOUNT IN THE CLAIM YEAR PLUS, IF APPLICABLE, THE INTEREST
2 ACCRUAL AMOUNT, which ~~the parent or parents of~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR
3 FOR the eligible child can claim on behalf of the eligible child, LIMITED
4 TO ONE CLAIM PER BIRTH CERTIFICATE NUMBER OR ORDER OF ADOPTION
5 PER CHILD, AS APPLICABLE, by opening an INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS
6 account for the eligible child. as follows:

7 (I) One hundred dollars for each eligible child born before January
8 1, 2021; or

9 (II) One hundred dollars, annually adjusted for inflation for each
10 year beginning on or after January 1, 2021, for each eligible child born on
11 or after January 1, 2021.

12 (3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5) of this
13 section, the authority shall oversee and administer the college kickstarter
14 account program, which is created within the authority. The department
15 shall create an advisory board, FACILITATED BY THE AUTHORITY, ~~which~~
16 ~~shall include, at a minimum, the state treasurer or the state treasurer's~~
17 ~~designee and both an employee of the department who is not an employee~~
18 ~~of the authority and an employee of the authority~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH
19 SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION, WHICH IS A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AUTHORITY, to advise the authority
21 regarding the oversight and administration of the kickstarter program. The
22 advisory board is subject to the open meetings provisions of the Colorado
23 sunshine law contained in part 4 of article 6 of title 24 and the "Colorado
24 Open Records Act", article 72 of title 24.

- 25 (b) (I) MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD MUST INCLUDE:
26 (A) THE STATE TREASURER OR THE STATE TREASURER'S DESIGNEE;
27 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER

1 EDUCATION OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

2 (C) THE CHAIR OR THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3 OF THE AUTHORITY;

4 (D) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY

5 CHILDHOOD OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

6 (E) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

7 OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

8 (F) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,

9 AND FAMILIES IN THE DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

10 HUMAN SERVICES;

11 (G) A MARKETING EXPERT FROM OUTSIDE THE AUTHORITY;

12 (H) A CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE DESIGN EXPERT FROM OUTSIDE THE

13 AUTHORITY; AND

14 (I) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE AUTHORITY WITH CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

15 OF THE KICKSTARTER PROGRAM.

16 (II) ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE

17 AUTHORITY MAY SERVE ON THE ADVISORY BOARD.

18 (c) THE ADVISORY BOARD MUST MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY EACH

19 YEAR.

20 (4) (a) The authority shall create a kickstarter program master

21 account. By increasing available revenue, without reducing existing levels

22 of scholarship or matching grant funding, the authority shall annually

23 deposit to the master account for state fiscal year 2019-20 and for each

24 succeeding state fiscal year thereafter through state fiscal year 2044-45

25 the amount needed to ensure that there is sufficient money in the master

26 account to make all transfers of kickstarter funding from the master

27 account to INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS accounts that name an eligible

1 child as the beneficiary required by subsection (4)(b) of this section
2 during the state fiscal year for which the transfer is made.
3 Notwithstanding any other law, the amounts to be transferred shall be
4 taken from money of the authority that is available for use by the
5 authority for the Colorado collegeinvest scholarship program created in
6 section 23-3.1-206.9 (1) or for the authority's matching grant program.

7 (b) The authority shall designate kickstarter funding in the master
8 account for each eligible child upon receiving notice of the birth or
9 adoption of the eligible child from the office of the state registrar of vital
10 statistics in the department of public health and environment, created in
11 section 25-2-103 (1), as required by section 25-2-112 (8). The authority
12 shall initially invest the kickstarter funding in its stable value plus plan or
13 any successor plan that has a similar investment strategy. AN ACCOUNT
14 SPONSOR SHALL IDENTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT
15 THAT NAMES THE ELIGIBLE CHILD AS THE BENEFICIARY WHEN CLAIMING
16 KICKSTARTER FUNDING FOR THE ELIGIBLE CHILD. THE ACCOUNT SPONSOR
17 MAY OPEN AN INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS ACCOUNT WITHOUT MAKING
18 ANY ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION BEYOND KICKSTARTER FUNDING. ~~If the~~
19 ~~parent or parents of an eligible child open an account, which they may do~~
20 ~~without making any additional contribution, that names the child as the~~
21 ~~beneficiary~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR MAY CLAIM KICKSTARTER FUNDING
22 FOR AN ELIGIBLE CHILD within ~~five~~ EIGHT years of the date of the eligible
23 child's birth or adoption, AT WHICH TIME the authority shall transfer the
24 kickstarter funding designated for the eligible child and any associated
25 interest from the master account to the eligible child's INDIVIDUAL
26 COLLEGE SAVINGS account. ~~If the parent or parents of~~ AN ACCOUNT
27 SPONSOR FOR an eligible child ~~do~~ DOES not open an INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE

1 SAVINGS account that names the eligible child as a beneficiary AND
2 CLAIMS KICKSTARTER FUNDING within ~~five~~ EIGHT years of the eligible
3 child's birth or adoption, any money in the master account that was
4 designated for the eligible child remains in the master account and may
5 be designated for another eligible child. Kickstarter funding and any
6 associated interest, whether it is designated for an eligible child in the
7 master account or in an INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS account that names
8 an eligible child as the beneficiary, is excluded from the income of the
9 eligible child and ~~the parent or parents of~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR FOR the
10 eligible child for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits amounts
11 for any state-funded program.

12 (c) The authority, in consultation with the advisory board created
13 in subsection (3) of this section, shall develop and, no later than
14 ~~November 1, 2019~~, NOVEMBER 1, 2024, obtain the approval of the
15 department to implement, directly or through a contractor, a
16 comprehensive and robust marketing and outreach plan to make the
17 parent or parents of each eligible child aware of the kickstarter program
18 and encourage them to claim the kickstarter funding designated for their
19 eligible child by enrolling in an INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS account.
20 The marketing and outreach plan shall include multiple strategies,
21 including grants to appropriate community-based nonprofit organizations,
22 to specifically target low- and middle-income families who may be less
23 likely than wealthier families to already be aware of the authority and the
24 availability of accounts. Upon making initial contact with ~~the parent or~~
25 ~~parents of~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR FOR an eligible child, the authority or its
26 contractor shall:

27 (I) Educate the ~~parent or parents~~ ACCOUNT SPONSOR as to how to

1 claim the designated kickstarter funding for ~~their~~ AN eligible child by
2 enrolling in an INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS account, make future
3 contributions to the account, choose from available fund options for the
4 investment of the INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE SAVINGS account, and contact the
5 authority regarding questions concerning the INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE
6 SAVINGS account;

7 (II) Advise the ~~parent or parents~~ ACCOUNT SPONSOR of the
8 opportunity to take any financial literacy education program provided by
9 the state treasurer as authorized in subsection (5) of this section; and

10 (5) If, in the sole discretion of the state treasurer, adequate gifts,
11 grants, and donations are received, the kickstarter program may include
12 a free program for financial literacy education for eligible children and
13 ~~their parent or parents~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR and other family members
14 OF THE ELIGIBLE CHILD. The state treasurer shall develop and administer
15 any program for financial literacy education included in the kickstarter
16 program.

17 (6) The authority shall conduct an ongoing summative evaluation
18 to collect summative data to evaluate the kickstarter program's
19 effectiveness over time. The authority shall prepare, present DURING THE
20 DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" HEARING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
21 2-7-203 to the committees of reference of the general assembly to which
22 the department is assigned, ~~pursuant to section 2-7-203 (1)~~, and
23 conspicuously post on its website an annual written report on the results
24 of the ongoing summative evaluation, which report shall include, at a
25 minimum:

26 (a) A descriptive and evaluative summary of the marketing and
27 outreach plan for the kickstarter program developed and implemented as

1 required by subsection (4)(c) of this section, including a description of the
2 strategies used and an assessment of the successes and failures of the plan
3 generally and of the individual strategies used; and

4 (b) Statistical summaries of the usage of the kickstarter program
5 both for the past calendar year and for the life of the program that include:

6 (II) The number of eligible children, and the percentage of all
7 eligible children, for whom ~~the parent or parents~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR
8 claimed kickstarter funding; ~~by opening accounts~~

9 (III) ~~The number of families who had not opened an account for~~
10 ~~any of their children before January 1, 2020, who opened an account for~~
11 ~~an eligible child or for any of their other children on or after January 1,~~
12 ~~2020, and the total number of accounts opened by such families;~~

13 (IV) ~~To the extent that such information is available,~~ The number
14 of ~~accounts opened~~ CLAIMS FOR KICKSTARTER FUNDING for both eligible
15 children ~~and other children~~ by ~~low-income, middle-income, and~~
16 ~~high-income families~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR CATEGORIZED BY INCOME
17 LEVELS;

18 (V) The number of ~~accounts opened for both~~ ACCOUNT SPONSORS
19 CLAIMING KICKSTARTER FUNDING FOR AN eligible ~~children and other~~
20 ~~children,~~ CHILD, and the percentage of all ~~accounts opened for both~~
21 eligible children ~~and for other children~~ FOR WHOM NO CLAIM FOR
22 KICKSTARTER FUNDING HAS BEEN MADE, in each county; and

23 (VI) ~~The number and percentage of all families claiming~~
24 ~~kickstarter funding for an eligible child; by opening an account:~~

25 (A) ~~Who did not make additional contributions to the account; and~~

26 (B) ~~Who did, or for whom others did, make additional~~
27 ~~contributions to the account.~~

1 (VII) THE AGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN WHEN THE ACCOUNT
2 SPONSOR CLAIMS KICKSTARTER FUNDING;

3 (c) A SUMMARY OF GRANTS DISTRIBUTED TO APPROPRIATE
4 COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PURSUANT TO
5 SUBSECTION (4)(c) OF THIS SECTION AND A LIST OF THE GRANTEES; AND

6 (d) PROJECTIONS OF THE SOLVENCY OF KICKSTARTER FUNDING IN
7 THE MASTER ACCOUNT, BASED ON FACTORS INCLUDING THE ACCRUED
8 INTEREST IN THE MASTER ACCOUNT.

9 (7) The kickstarter program is intended to be a public-private
10 partnership, with the authority designating kickstarter funding for each
11 eligible child within the master account and transferring the kickstarter
12 funding into an individual college savings account for each eligible child
13 when ~~the parent or parents of~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR FOR the eligible child
14 ~~claim~~ CLAIMS the kickstarter funding by opening the INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE
15 SAVINGS account and the state treasurer working with a private partner to
16 develop a free program of financial literacy education for eligible children
17 and ~~their parent or parents~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR and other family
18 members OF THE ELIGIBLE CHILD. The state treasurer may seek to enter
19 into agreements with private foundations or other entities to fund,
20 develop, and implement the financial literacy education program
21 component of the kickstarter program, and the authority may seek to enter
22 into agreements with such private foundations or other entities to provide
23 additional funding for the kickstarter program.

24 (8) (c) The authority may expend money from the fund for any
25 kickstarter program purpose, and the state treasurer may expend money
26 from the fund for the purpose of developing and implementing a free
27 program of financial literacy education for eligible children and ~~their~~

1 ~~parent or parents~~ AN ACCOUNT SPONSOR and other family members OF THE
2 ELIGIBLE CHILD as authorized in subsection (5) of this section.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-2-112, **amend** (8)
4 as follows:

5 **25-2-112. Certificates of birth - filing - establishment of**
6 **parentage - notice to collegeinvest.** (8) On or before February 15, 2020,
7 and on or before the fifteenth day of each month thereafter, the state
8 registrar shall provide to the director of collegeinvest the name of each
9 eligible child, as defined in ~~section 23-3.1-306.5 (2)(a)~~ SECTION
10 23.3-1-306.5 (2)(a.7), born or adopted during the prior calendar month,
11 the date and location of the birth or adoption, and the name and mailing
12 address of the parent or parents, as defined in section 23-3.1-306.5 (2)(g),
13 of the eligible child listed on the eligible child's certificate of birth or the
14 report of adoption forwarded to the state registrar as required by section
15 25-2-107 (1).

16 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
17 except that section 23-3.1-306.5 (2)(a.5), (2)(c.5), and (2)(d), Colorado
18 Revised Statutes, as enacted in section 1 of this act, takes effect January
19 1, 2025.

20 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
21 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
23 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
24 institutions.