

Second Regular Session
Sixty-seventh General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
10.21.09

BILL 1

LLS NO. 10-0308.01 Michael Dohr

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

SHORT TITLE: "Early Childhood Teacher Scholarships"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR**
102 **DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. Subject to the receipt of sufficient federal moneys or gifts, grants, or donations, the bill creates the early childhood educator development scholarship program (program) in the department of education (department). The program will provide scholarships to persons who are employed in early childhood development who are pursuing an associate of arts degree in early childhood education. The

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

department will administer the program and develop rules for application to the program, the selection of recipients, and the amount of awards. The resources for the early childhood educator development scholarship fund will come from the federal race to the top and early learning challenge moneys and gifts, grants, and donations. The department will provide all recipients with a unique educator identifier.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY
3 THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:

4 **ARTICLE 9.7**

5 **Early Childhood Educator Development**

6 **Scholarship Program**

7 **22-9.7-101. Early childhood educator development scholarship**
8 **program - creation - eligibility.** SUBJECT TO THE RECEIPT OF SUFFICIENT
9 MONEYS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-9.7-103, THERE IS HEREBY CREATED
10 IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
11 DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE AS
12 THE "SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM", TO AWARD STIPENDS TO ASSIST PERSONS
13 EMPLOYED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN OFFSETTING THE COSTS
14 INCURRED IN OBTAINING AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE IN EARLY
15 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD STIPENDS ON
16 A NEED BASIS, BASED ON THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-9.7-102.
17 THE STIPENDS SHALL BE AWARDED ON A YEARLY BASIS, AND RECIPIENTS
18 SHALL REAPPLY EACH YEAR THAT THEY ARE ENROLLED IN THE ASSOCIATE
19 OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM. THE SCHOLARSHIPS SHALL BE PAID FROM ANY
20 MONEYS AVAILABLE IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT
21 SCHOLARSHIP FUND CREATED IN SECTION 22-9.7-103.

22 **22-9.7-102. Scholarship program - rules - criteria for awards.**

1 (1) THE DEPARTMENT, BY RULE, SHALL ESTABLISH THE PROCEDURES BY
2 WHICH A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR A STIPEND THROUGH THE SCHOLARSHIP
3 PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES SHALL SPECIFY THE INFORMATION
4 A PERSON SHALL SUBMIT AND THE DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING THE
5 APPLICATION.

6 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD STIPENDS TO AN APPLICANT
7 BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

8 (a) THE APPLICANT'S DEMONSTRATED DEGREE OF FINANCIAL NEED,
9 BASED ON THE RESOURCES OF THE APPLYING PERSON AND THE COST OF
10 THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT
11 REQUESTS A STIPEND;

12 (b) THE APPLICANT'S DEMONSTRATED DEGREE OF PROFESSIONAL
13 NEED;

14 (c) THE QUALITY OF THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM
15 FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT REQUESTS A STIPEND;

16 (d) THE APPLICANT'S COMMITMENT TO TEACH IN EARLY
17 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS AFTER RECEIVING THE
18 ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE;

19 (e) THE APPLICANT'S CURRENT EMPLOYMENT IN AN EARLY
20 CHILDHOOD CAPACITY; AND

21 (f) ANY OTHER CRITERIA ADOPTED BY RULE OF THE DEPARTMENT
22 TO IDENTIFY APPLICANTS IN THE GREATEST NEED OF ASSISTANCE IN
23 OBTAINING A HIGH-QUALITY ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE TO IMPROVE
24 THEIR PERFORMANCE AS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS.

25 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SET THE AMOUNT OF EACH STIPEND
26 AWARDED BASED ON THE APPLICANT'S DEGREE OF NEED, THE COST OF THE
27 ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT

1 REQUESTS A STIPEND, THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
2 EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE APPLICABLE
3 BUDGET YEAR, AND THE ANTICIPATED NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WILL
4 APPLY TO THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN THE COURSE OF THE APPLICABLE
5 BUDGET YEAR.

6 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ASSIGN AN EDUCATOR IDENTIFIER
7 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-68.5-102 TO EACH RECIPIENT OF A STIPEND
8 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

9 **22-9.7-103. Early childhood educator development scholarship**
10 **fund - created.** (1) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT
11 ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE PAID
12 FOR BY THE RECEIPT OF ANY AVAILABLE FEDERAL MONEYS OR OTHER
13 GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS AND THAT NO ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND
14 MONEYS BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT
15 PROGRAM.

16 (2) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT ANY
17 FEDERAL MONEYS OR OTHER GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FOR THE
18 PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE. IF NECESSARY, ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR
19 DONATIONS SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER WHO
20 SHALL CREDIT THEM TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT
21 SCHOLARSHIP FUND, WHICH FUND IS HEREBY CREATED AND REFERRED TO
22 IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND".

23 (3) THE MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE CONTINUOUSLY
24 APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS
25 ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE. ANY MONEYS IN THE
26 FUND NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE MAY BE
27 INVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER AS PROVIDED BY LAW. ALL INTEREST

1 AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS
2 IN THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED AND
3 UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A
4 FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR
5 TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER FUND.

6 (4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND UP TO ONE PERCENT OF THE
7 MONEYS ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FROM THE FUND TO OFFSET THE COSTS
8 INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE.

9 <*Do you want a safety clause or a petition clause?*>