

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Appropriations.

SB21-232 be amended as follows:

1 Amend reengrossed bill, page 2, strike lines 4 through 21 and substitute:

2 "(a) Pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021",  
3 Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, Colorado will  
4 receive \$3,828,761,790 to be used for certain eligible uses. Federal  
5 regulations providing guidance regarding eligible uses of money allocated  
6 pursuant to the act include:

7 (I) Assistance to unemployed workers, including job training for  
8 individuals who want and are available for work;

9 (II) Aid to impacted industries to respond to the negative  
10 economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

11 (III) Programs, services, or other assistance for populations  
12 disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency,  
13 such as programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the  
14 public health emergency on education;

15 (b) In 2020, the Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative  
16 responded to needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by creating the  
17 displaced workers grant. The displaced workers grant supports  
18 Coloradans displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those who  
19 were laid off or furloughed, experienced decreased earnings, had job  
20 offers rescinded, or were unable to enter the workforce because of  
21 negative economic conditions. These workers have an incentive to reskill,  
22 upskill, or complete industry-recognized credentials in order to improve  
23 economic prospects for themselves and their communities.

24 (c) Appropriating a portion of the money received pursuant to the  
25 federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act  
26 may be subsequently amended, to the Colorado opportunity scholarship  
27 initiative is estimated to serve at least three thousand displaced Colorado  
28 workers and will provide these workers with the skills, supports, and  
29 credentials necessary to secure good jobs, sustain a resilient state  
30 economy, and help institutions of higher education scale high-demand  
31 and highly impacted programs; and

32 (d) These funds will be distributed to public institutions of higher  
33 education, community partners, and workforce centers across the state to  
34 provide scholarships, wraparound supports, and recruitment and retention  
35 efforts for Coloradans with some college education but no degree who  
36 have the need to reskill, upskill, or complete industry-recognized  
37 credentials due to lost or reduced employment.

38 (2) The general assembly declares that appropriating a portion of  
39 the money received pursuant to the federal "American Rescue Plan Act  
40 of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently amended, to the  
41 Colorado opportunity scholarship initiative for such purposes described  
42 in this section are appropriate and lawful."

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