

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 14-0162.01 Debbie Haskins x2045

SENATE BILL 14-003

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Nicholson, Kefalas, Ulibarri

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pettersen, Fields, Exum

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR WORKING FAMILIES.**

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force. The bill makes several changes to the statute that created a pilot program to address the cliff effect that occurs when working parents in the Colorado child care assistance program (CCCAP) receive a minor increase in their income that makes them ineligible for child care assistance and the increase in wages is not enough to cover the costs for child care without the child care assistance. The cliff effect pilot program was designed to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

allow families to remain in the CCCAP program notwithstanding the increase in income. The changes to the statute governing the pilot program include:

- ! Extending the duration of the cliff effect pilot program;
- ! Allowing counties to limit participation in the pilot program to a reasonable percentage of their CCCAP caseload instead of having to cover all of their CCCAP caseload;
- ! Allowing counties to limit participation in the pilot program to families who enter CCCAP with children who are 36 months of age or younger;
- ! Allowing counties to have more flexibility in designing a pilot program that best addresses their specific community needs;
- ! Clarifying the data collection and reporting responsibilities of the county departments of human services and the department of human services (department) about the pilot program.

The bill creates a grant program in the department for the purpose of encouraging counties to undertake activities or strategies that promote access to child care or increase the quality of child care in CCCAP. A county may apply to the department for a grant to fund any of these purposes:

- ! To pay the county's administrative expenses to participate in a cliff effect pilot program and to provide additional benefits to CCCAP parents in the cliff effect pilot program; or
- ! To expand access to child care in CCCAP by providing a full or partial subsidy for child care without a county contribution for more families than those currently served in the county; or
- ! To pay all or a portion of the county's expenses to engage in more than one activity or strategy to promote quality child care in CCCAP in that county.

The state department awards grants from a CCCAP enhancement fund created in the state treasury. To the extent possible and subject to available appropriations, the state department must manage the amount of funds in the enhancement fund and allocate the grants awarded to counties for the purposes or strategies allowed for distributions from the fund with at least 25% of the moneys in the enhancement fund spent on each of the specified purposes. When awarding grants to increase the number of children served in CCCAP, the state department shall distribute the moneys in the enhancement fund among the counties that are awarded grants in a manner that increases the number of children served statewide by an amount that does not exceed 15% more children

than the unduplicated count of the number of children who were served statewide in state fiscal year 2013-14. The bill specifies the types of activities or strategies that may be used to qualify for a grant for activities that promote quality child care.

Grant moneys awarded to a county out of the enhancement fund do not affect the county's block grant for CCCAP and do not affect the county's maintenance of effort for CCCAP. A county is not required to provide local funds to qualify for a grant from the enhancement fund.

Counties are highly encouraged to collaborate with early childhood councils and other community partners as necessary in the development of a grant application.

The executive director of the department or his or her designee must enter into a memorandum of understanding with each county that receives a grant from the CCCAP enhancement fund. The state department may adopt rules as necessary concerning the application process and the administration of the grant program.

The cliff effect program and authority to make grants from the CCCAP enhancement fund for a cliff effect program are repealed, effective July 1, 2020.

The department is directed to report annually about CCCAP and the results of the CCCAP enhancement fund grant program to the house public health care and human services committee and to the senate health and human services committee, or any successor committees. The bill lists the items that should be included in the annual report.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-802.5 as
3 follows:

4 **26-2-802.5. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE
5 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

6 (1) "COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" OR "CCCAP"
7 MEANS THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE STATE
8 DEPARTMENT.

9 (2) "EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL" MEANS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD
10 COUNCIL ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 6.5 OF THIS
11 TITLE.

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SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-808, **amend** (2), (3), (6), (7), and (8); and **add** (2.3), (2.5), and (2.7) as follows:

26-2-808. Pilot program to mitigate cliff effect for low-income families that are working and receiving child care assistance - legislative declaration - county participation - fund - grant program - report - repeal. (2) Beginning on April 13, 2012, the state department is authorized to develop and oversee a pilot program in which the Colorado child care assistance program as outlined in section 26-2-805 is modified to mitigate the cliff effect for low-income families that are working and receiving child care assistance, referred to in this section as the "pilot program". County departments of social services may apply to the executive director or his or her designee to participate in the pilot program. COUNTIES ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO COLLABORATE WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS AND OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS AS NECESSARY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE APPLICATION. The executive director or his or her designee may select up to ten counties that will participate in the pilot program as described in this section. In selecting the counties, the executive director or his or her designee shall seek diversity in the size of population, regional location, and demographic composition AND SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER THERE WILL BE ENOUGH PARTICIPANTS IN EACH PILOT PROGRAM TO ENABLE RESEARCHERS TO EVALUATE WHETHER THE STRATEGIES USED IN THE PILOT PROGRAM HAVE ADDRESSED THE CLIFF EFFECT. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE SHALL ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING GOVERNS THE

1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IN THAT COUNTY, INCLUDING
2 BUT NOT LIMITED TO HOW THE COUNTY DECIDES WHICH AND HOW MANY
3 FAMILIES CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

4 (2.3) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
5 PILOT PROGRAM MAY APPLY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR A GRANT
6 THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2.7) OF THIS
7 SECTION AND FUNDED THROUGH THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE
8 CLIFF EFFECT PILOT PROGRAM FUND, CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2.5) OF THIS
9 SECTION. GRANT MONEYS MAY BE USED, AT THE COUNTY'S DISCRETION,
10 TO COVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT
11 PROGRAM AND THE COSTS OF PROVIDING CONTINUED BENEFITS TO
12 FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM. MONEYS RECEIVED
13 THROUGH A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION FOR A COUNTY'S
14 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS DO NOT AFFECT THE COUNTY'S BLOCK GRANT FOR
15 CCCAP AND DO NOT AFFECT THE COUNTY'S MAINTENANCE EFFORTS FOR
16 CCCAP. A COUNTY IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE LOCAL MONEYS TO
17 RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO COVER
18 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.

19 (2.5) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE COLORADO
20 CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE CLIFF EFFECT PILOT PROGRAM FUND, REFERRED
21 TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND", CONSISTING OF ANY MONEYS THAT
22 MAY BE APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE
23 MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE
24 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
25 PROVIDE GRANTS TO COUNTY DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH
26 IN SUBSECTION (2.3) OF THIS SECTION. THE STATE TREASURER MAY INVEST
27 ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS

1 SECTION AS PROVIDED BY LAW. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL
2 INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF
3 MONEYS IN THE FUND TO THE FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED AND
4 UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A
5 FISCAL YEAR REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR
6 TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER FUND.

7 (2.7) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A GRANT PROGRAM
8 AND AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS TO APPLY FOR
9 GRANTS FROM THE FUND. THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT RULES AS
10 NECESSARY CONCERNING THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND THE
11 ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE STATE DEPARTMENT
12 SHALL REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINE WHICH APPLICATIONS WILL
13 RECEIVE GRANTS AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT. THE GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGES THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO DISTRIBUTE GRANT
15 MONEYS AMONG THE COUNTIES IN A WAY THAT FAIRLY DISTRIBUTES THE
16 MONEYS AMONG THE COUNTIES WITH VARYING POPULATIONS AND AMONG
17 COUNTIES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE STATE.

18 (3) A COUNTY HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO DESIGN THE PILOT
19 PROGRAM IN A MANNER THAT BEST ADDRESSES THE COUNTY'S SPECIFIC
20 COMMUNITY NEEDS. IN DEVELOPING THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE
21 COUNTY, A COUNTY MAY LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM TO
22 A REASONABLE PERCENTAGE OF THE COUNTY'S CASELOAD FOR THE
23 COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. A COUNTY MAY ALSO
24 LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN THE PILOT PROGRAM TO FAMILIES WHO ENTER THE
25 COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE
26 THIRTY-SIX MONTHS OF AGE OR YOUNGER. Subject to available
27 appropriations, a county that is participating in the pilot program shall

1 continue to provide child care assistance for a period of up to two years
2 for ~~any person who has~~ A GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE been
3 receiving child care assistance from the county and whose income
4 exceeds the county-adopted income eligibility limit for the county's child
5 care assistance program. The county shall require a parent who is
6 receiving extended child care assistance to pay a series of incremental
7 increases in the portion of the parental share of the child care costs on a
8 scheduled basis based upon a formula established by the county; except
9 that assistance shall not be provided if said income exceeds the maximum
10 level for eligibility for services set by federal law for a family of the same
11 size. The county shall work with the person to provide a gradual transition
12 off of the child care assistance over a two-year period. Each county
13 department shall set its own parental fee schedule and may consult with
14 the state department on setting the parental fee schedule.

15 (6) A county may participate in the pilot program on and after July
16 1, 2012, and through ~~July 1, 2016~~ JUNE 30, 2019. A county shall operate
17 the pilot program for at least two years. A county may apply to participate
18 in the pilot program on or before January 1, ~~2014~~ 2017. Each
19 participating county SHALL IDENTIFY THE FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN THE
20 PILOT PROGRAM IN THAT COUNTY. THE STATE DEPARTMENT shall collect
21 ALL data on the pilot program. ~~and shall work with~~ The state department
22 ~~to~~ SHALL evaluate and report on the pilot program using measurable
23 outcomes.

24 (7) (a) The state department shall compile the data submitted by
25 the counties pursuant to subsection (6) of this section and submit a report
26 on the pilot program with the state department's findings and
27 recommendations to the house PUBLIC health and ~~environment~~ HUMAN

1 SERVICES committee and to the senate health and human services
2 committee, or any successor committees. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
3 REPORT MUST INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED, TO THE FOLLOWING:

4 (I) THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PILOT
5 PROGRAM, BY COUNTY AND STATEWIDE;

6 (II) THE NUMBER OF MONTHS THAT EACH FAMILY PARTICIPATED
7 IN THE PILOT PROGRAM, BY COUNTY AND STATEWIDE;

8 (III) A SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
9 THE REASONS WHY FAMILIES STOPPED PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT
10 PROGRAM, BY COUNTY AND STATEWIDE.

11 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE ITS REPORT ON THE
12 PILOT PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON ITS WEB SITE AND
13 THROUGH OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS. The state department shall submit
14 its report TO THE COMMITTEES on or before October 1, ~~2015~~ 2019.

15 (8) This section is repealed, effective July 1, ~~2016~~ 2020.

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