

**UPDATED SUMMARY
SENATE BILL 15-138**

First Regular Session - Seventieth Colorado General Assembly

This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.

Under existing law, the department of education (department) designates a certain number of students who meet certain requirements to participate in the accelerating students through concurrent enrollment (ASCENT) program. For purposes of school finance funding, the local education provider that enrolls a designated ASCENT program student may include that student in its funded pupil count for one year after the student finishes twelfth grade, while the student takes higher education courses. Funding for the student is calculated through the school finance formula and included in the school district's total program funding.

~~The bill takes funding for ASCENT program students out of the school finance formula and creates the ASCENT program fund consisting of the moneys that the general assembly appropriates to fund the ASCENT program. The department must annually designate a certain number of students to participate in the ASCENT program and must annually allocate to each local education provider an amount equal to the ASCENT program per pupil funding amount multiplied by the number of the local education provider's designated ASCENT program students.~~

~~Beginning in the 2015-16 budget year, the ASCENT program per pupil funding amount is \$6,632, which is the per pupil amount actually paid for ASCENT program funding in the 2014-15 budget year. The ASCENT program per pupil funding amount increases annually by the same percentage that the statewide base per pupil funding increases. In a year in which the amount appropriated is insufficient to fully fund the ASCENT program allocations, the department must reduce each local education provider's allocation in proportion to the amount of the deficit.~~

~~The department must distribute the ASCENT program moneys to the local education provider upon proof that the local education provider has enrolled a designated qualified student in an institution of higher education through the ASCENT program. If a local education provider does not enroll in an institution of higher education the number of qualified students for which it is allocated ASCENT program moneys in a school year, the department must reserve the remainder of the local education provider's allocation and distribute it to the local education provider for qualified students that the department designates and the local education provider enrolls in an institution of higher education through the ASCENT program in the following school year. The department will reserve allocated ASCENT program moneys only for the school year immediately following the school year for which the moneys were originally allocated.~~

The bill allows a local education provider that receives funding for ASCENT program students to use the moneys in the budget year in which it receives the moneys or

in the next budget year for students who are admitted to institutions of higher education for purposes of the ASCENT program by May 1 of the budget year in which it receives the moneys. The local education provider must submit to the department a list of admitted ASCENT program students by May 10. The local education provider must remit to the department any moneys that are not used during the budget year or committed to be used for ASCENT program students by May 1 of the budget year, and those moneys are credited to the state public school fund.

Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.
Prepared by the Office of Legislative Legal Services.