

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0965.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 13-1291

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Public Health Care & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING EXPANDING THE CAPACITY OF QUALIFIED EARLY HEAD**
102 **START PROGRAMS IN COLORADO THROUGH THE CREATION OF**
103 **THE COLORADO EARLY HEAD START GRANT 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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill creates the Colorado early head start grant program (grant program) in the office of early childhood programs in the department of human services (office). Eligibility for the grant program is limited to current grantees of the federal early head start program, and the goal is 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.

increase the number of infants, toddlers under 3 years of age, and pregnant women served through qualified early head start programs. The office is directed to administer the grant program with the director of head start programs (director). The director shall establish an application process, including guidelines and award criteria for the grant program. In fiscal year 2013-14, grant proposals must be received on or before July 31, 2013, and grant awards must be made on or before September 1, 2013. For each subsequent fiscal year, subject to available appropriations, the proposal deadline is June 30, and grant awards are to be made on or before August 1. Grantees and the director are required to provide annual reports concerning the use of grant moneys. The Colorado early head start grant program fund is created.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) The first three years of life are a period of dynamic and
5 unparalleled brain development in which children acquire the ability to
6 think, speak, learn, and reason. During these first three years, children
7 need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences
8 to lay the foundation for future school success.

9 (b) Young children living in poverty are more likely to face
10 challenges that can negatively impact their development and create
11 disparities in their cognitive and social abilities long before they enter
12 school;

13 (c) In 2011, an estimated twenty-one percent, or nearly forty-two
14 thousand, of all Colorado children under three years of age lived in
15 poverty. Since 2000, the number of infants and toddlers living in poverty
16 in Colorado has more than doubled, increasing by more than one hundred
17 thirty percent.

18 (d) In an effort to ensure that all young children have the same
19 opportunities to succeed in school and life, the federal Early Head Start

1 program was created to support the healthy development of low-income
2 infants, toddlers, and pregnant women;

3 (e) Research shows that Early Head Start programs make a
4 positive difference in areas associated with children's success in school,
5 family self-sufficiency, and parental support of child development; and

6 (f) Federal funding, however, only makes it possible to provide
7 Early Head Start to approximately three percent of eligible children and
8 families. In Colorado in 2011, licensed child care center homes had the
9 capacity to care for only nine percent of the infants in the state.

10 (2) The general assembly, therefore, declares that it is in the best
11 interests of the children and people of the state of Colorado to provide
12 state funding to expand and enhance Early Head Start services to meet the
13 needs of more of our infants, toddlers, and pregnant mothers who live in
14 poverty.

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 6.7 to title
16 26 as follows:

17 **ARTICLE 6.7**

18 **Colorado Early Head Start Grant Program**

19 **26-6.7-101. Short title.** THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY
20 BE CITED AS THE "COLORADO EARLY HEAD START GRANT PROGRAM".

21 **26-6.7-102. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE
22 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

23 (1) "EARLY CHILDHOOD OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE WITHIN THE
24 STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
25 PROGRAMS.

26 (2) "EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM THAT
27 QUALIFIES FOR AND RECEIVES FEDERAL EARLY HEAD START FUNDING.

1 (3) "FUND" MEANS THE COLORADO EARLY HEAD START GRANT
2 PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SECTION 26-6.7-105.

3 (4) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO EARLY HEAD
4 START GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 26-6.7-103.

5 (5) "HEAD START DIRECTOR" MEANS THE STATE HEAD START
6 COLLABORATION DIRECTOR.

7 **26-6.7-103. Colorado early head start grant program -**
8 **creation.** SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THERE IS HEREBY
9 CREATED IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD OFFICE THE COLORADO EARLY HEAD
10 START GRANT PROGRAM. THE GOAL OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO
11 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES PROVIDED TO
12 INFANTS, TODDLERS UNDER THREE YEARS OF AGE, AND PREGNANT WOMEN
13 IN COLORADO WHO LIVE IN POVERTY AND WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE
14 FEDERAL EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO INCREASE
15 THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THREE YEARS OF AGE AND PREGNANT
16 WOMEN SERVED RATHER THAN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS
17 RECEIVING FUNDING. THE GRANT PROGRAM WILL BE ADMINISTERED
18 JOINTLY BY THE EARLY CHILDHOOD OFFICE AND THE HEAD START
19 DIRECTOR AND MANAGED BY THE HEAD START DIRECTOR.

20 **26-6.7-104. Eligibility for grants - applications - deadlines.**

21 (1) THE HEAD START DIRECTOR SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE EARLY
22 CHILDHOOD OFFICE TO DEVELOP AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE GRANT
23 PROGRAM, INCLUDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS,
24 AND AWARD CRITERIA. THE HEAD START DIRECTOR SHALL ALSO BE
25 RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING CURRENT FEDERAL EARLY HEAD START
26 PROGRAM GRANTEES ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF MONEYS THROUGH THE
27 GRANT PROGRAM.

1 (2) AN EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT
2 AWARD PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE ONLY IF IT:

3 (a) IS A CURRENT GRANTEE THROUGH THE FEDERAL EARLY HEAD
4 START PROGRAM;

5 (b) CAN DEMONSTRATE AN ADDITIONAL NEED FOR EARLY
6 CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR AN INCREASED NUMBER OF INFANTS, TODDLERS
7 UNDER THREE YEARS OF AGE, AND PREGNANT WOMEN;

8 (c) CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT IT MEETS THE QUALITY STANDARDS
9 OF THE EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
10 THE STANDARDS FOR HOME-BASED AND CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS;

11 (d) CAN DEMONSTRATE THAT IT UTILIZES THE SAME MONITORING
12 STANDARDS REQUIRED BY THE EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM;

13 (e) MEETS STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR
14 CHILD CARE CENTERS AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE, IF IT IS A
15 CENTER-BASED PROGRAM;

16 (f) PROVIDES A DETAILED PLAN DESCRIBING HOW IT WILL UTILIZE
17 A GRANT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INFANTS, TODDLERS UNDER THREE
18 YEARS OF AGE, AND PREGNANT WOMEN SERVED; AND

19 (g) MEETS ANY OTHER CRITERIA SET FORTH BY THE HEAD START
20 DIRECTOR IN THE APPLICATION GUIDELINES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS
21 SECTION.

22 (3) (a) IN FISCAL YEAR 2013-14, GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST BE
23 RECEIVED BY THE HEAD START DIRECTOR ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2013.
24 THE HEAD START DIRECTOR SHALL REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINE
25 WHICH PROGRAMS RECEIVE GRANTS AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.
26 GRANT AWARDS MUST BE MADE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2013,
27 THROUGH THE FUND.

1 (b) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-15, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
2 THEREAFTER, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, GRANT
3 APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE HEAD START DIRECTOR ON OR
4 BEFORE JUNE 30, 2014, AND EACH JUNE 30 THEREAFTER. THE HEAD START
5 DIRECTOR SHALL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
6 OFFICE, REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINE WHICH PROGRAMS
7 RECEIVE GRANTS AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT. GRANT AWARDS
8 MUST BE MADE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2014, AND EACH AUGUST 1
9 THEREAFTER THROUGH THE FUND.

10 (c) IF IN ANY FISCAL YEAR THE FULL APPROPRIATION BY THE
11 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM IS NOT DISPERSED AS
12 SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), THE HEAD
13 START DIRECTOR SHALL REVIEW PROPOSALS AND AWARD GRANTS AS THE
14 APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED AND NOT REQUIRE THE APPLICATIONS BE
15 HELD UNTIL THE NEXT GRANT CYCLE.

16 **26-6.7-105. Colorado early head start grant program fund.**
17 THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE COLORADO
18 EARLY HEAD START GRANT PROGRAM FUND, CONSISTING OF ANY MONEYS
19 THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
20 THE MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY
21 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD OFFICE FOR THE
22 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THIS
23 ARTICLE. THE STATE TREASURER MAY INVEST ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND
24 NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE AS PROVIDED BY LAW.
25 THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED
26 FROM THE INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND TO THE
27 FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN

1 THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL
2 NOT BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER
3 FUND. THE EARLY CHILDHOOD OFFICE MAY EXPEND UP TO THREE PERCENT
4 OF THE MONEYS ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FROM THE FUND TO OFFSET THE
5 COSTS INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE.

6 **26-6.7-106. Reporting requirements.** (1) NO LATER THAN TWO
7 MONTHS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A GRANT, A GRANTEE OF THE GRANT
8 PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE HEAD START DIRECTOR WITH AN ANNUAL
9 REPORT CONCERNING THE OUTCOMES OF THE GRANT. THE REPORT MUST
10 INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

11 (a) THE NUMBER OF INFANTS, TODDLERS UNDER THREE YEARS OF
12 AGE, AND PREGNANT WOMEN SERVED BECAUSE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM
13 IN HOME-BASED PROGRAMS AND THE NUMBER SERVED IN CENTER-BASED
14 PROGRAMS;

15 (b) THE LENGTH OF TIME SERVICES WERE PROVIDED;

16 (c) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW FEDERAL EARLY HEAD START MONEYS
17 WERE COMBINED WITH STATE MONEYS THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM TO
18 CREATE THE GREATEST IMPACT;

19 (d) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE GRANTEE'S PROGRAM MET THE
20 STATED OUTCOMES IN ITS APPLICATION; AND

21 (e) ANY OTHER DATA REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL EARLY HEAD
22 START PROGRAM.

23 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2014, AND EACH DECEMBER 1
24 THEREAFTER, THE HEAD START DIRECTOR SHALL PROVIDE A REPORT ON
25 THE GRANT PROGRAM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND TO THE PUBLIC
26 HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
27 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF

1 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE REPORT MUST
2 INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF THE DATA RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
3 (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS AWARDED, AND THE
4 TOTAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INFANTS, TODDLERS UNDER THREE
5 YEARS OF AGE, AND PREGNANT WOMEN SERVED BY THE GRANT PROGRAM.

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