

First Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 15-0385.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

SENATE BILL 15-063

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING AN EXPANSION OF THE WIND FOR SCHOOLS GRANT
102 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 takes the existing wind for schools grant program enacted in 2007 and broadens the program to include other types of electricity generated from eligible energy resources. The 2007 program allowed for grants not to exceed \$5,000 to be provided to public schools and community colleges for wind generation projects, was funded by federal "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act" money, required the schools

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.

to work with the national renewable energy laboratory to establish the projects, and was overseen by the Colorado energy office. This expanded program allows for grants not to exceed \$15,000 and continues to be overseen by the Colorado energy office. Because the national renewable energy laboratory no longer accepts applications for these grants, the bill also removes the requirement for a school to partner with the national renewable energy laboratory.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-89-101 as
3 follows:

4 **22-89-101. Short title.** This article shall be known and may be
5 cited as the "~~Wind~~ ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for Schools Grant Program".

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-89-102 as
7 follows:

8 **22-89-102. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
9 hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

10 (a) Colorado's schools face a perennial struggle with tight budgets,
11 and their financial difficulties are worsened by volatile electricity prices
12 that often lead to high electricity bills;

13 (b) A small but growing number of schools have responded to
14 these difficulties by beginning to produce their own electricity with ~~wind~~
15 ~~turbines~~ ALTERNATIVE ENERGY;

16 (c) By producing their own electricity with ~~wind-turbines~~
17 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, some schools have reduced their electricity costs
18 while promoting energy independence and environmental responsibility
19 and have provided students with an opportunity to understand this
20 burgeoning technology;

21 (d) The general assembly would serve the best interests of
22 Colorado schools by supporting the efforts of public schools and

1 community colleges that are considering ~~wind power~~ ALTERNATIVE
2 ENERGY projects; AND

3 (e) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BEST SERVE THE INTEREST OF
4 COLORADO SCHOOLS BY REVISING THE WIND FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM, AS
5 IT EXISTED PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH (e), TO
6 INCORPORATE A BROADER RANGE OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS.

7 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-89-103 as
8 follows:

9 **22-89-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context
10 otherwise requires:

11 (1) ~~"Colorado energy office" means the Colorado energy office~~
12 ~~created in section 24-38.5-101, C.R.S.~~ "ALTERNATIVE ENERGY" MEANS
13 ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM ELIGIBLE ENERGY RESOURCES AS DEFINED
14 IN SECTION 40-2-124 (1), C.R.S.

15 (2) ~~"Qualified school" means a public school or community~~
16 ~~college in the state that is working with the national renewable energy~~
17 ~~laboratory to establish a wind for schools project. A qualified school shall~~
18 ~~have a project team involved that includes the school, community, and~~
19 ~~technical assistance membership.~~ "ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FOR SCHOOLS
20 GRANT PROGRAM" OR "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE GRANT PROGRAM
21 CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-89-104 TO FUND ALTERNATIVE
22 ENERGY PROJECTS AT A QUALIFIED SCHOOL.

23 (3) ~~"Wind for schools grant program" or "grant program" means~~
24 ~~the grant program created pursuant to section 22-89-104 to fund wind~~
25 ~~power projects at a qualified school.~~ "ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FOR
26 SCHOOLS PROJECT" MEANS A PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE COLORADO
27 ENERGY OFFICE TO HELP A QUALIFIED SCHOOL INSTALL ALTERNATIVE

1 ENERGY GENERATION THAT WILL HELP DEFRAID THE SCHOOL'S ENERGY
2 COSTS AND PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS
3 RELATING TO SUCH GENERATION.

4 (4) "~~Wind for schools project~~" means a project supported by the
5 ~~national renewable energy laboratory and wind powering America to help~~
6 ~~a qualified school install a wind turbine that will help defray the school's~~
7 ~~energy costs and provide educational opportunities for students relating~~
8 ~~to the generation of wind power.~~ "COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE" MEANS
9 THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.5-101, C.R.S.

10 (5) "QUALIFIED SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY
11 COLLEGE IN THE STATE THAT IS WORKING WITH THE COLORADO ENERGY
12 OFFICE TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FOR SCHOOLS PROJECT. A
13 QUALIFIED SCHOOL MUST HAVE A PROJECT TEAM INVOLVED THAT
14 INCLUDES THE SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
15 MEMBERSHIP.

16 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-89-104 as
17 follows:

18 **22-89-104. Alternative energy for schools grant program -**
19 **created - applications.** (1) There is hereby created the ~~wind~~
20 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for schools grant program to fund ~~wind~~
21 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for schools projects at qualified schools. A
22 qualified school may, with the written authorization of the local board of
23 education, apply to the Colorado energy office, in accordance with
24 procedures and deadlines adopted by the office, to receive moneys
25 through the grant program. The office shall administer the grant program
26 as provided in this article and pursuant to policies adopted by the office.

27 (2) (a) The Colorado energy office shall adopt policies specifying

1 when a qualified school may request a grant and the procedure for making
2 the request.

3 (b) A qualified school that receives a grant through the grant
4 program ~~shall~~ MUST use the moneys received to pay for technical
5 assistance, equipment, or installation costs associated with ~~a wind~~ AN
6 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for schools project.

7 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-89-105 as
8 follows:

9 **22-89-105. Alternative energy for schools grant program -**
10 **policies - awarding grants.** (1) The Colorado energy office shall adopt
11 policies for the implementation of the ~~wind~~ ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for
12 schools grant program. At a minimum, the policies ~~shall~~ MUST specify the
13 procedures for applying for a grant, the form of the grant application, the
14 information to be provided by the applicant, and the criteria for awarding
15 grants.

16 (2) (a) The Colorado energy office shall review each grant
17 application received from a qualified school pursuant to section
18 22-89-104 and shall make a determination as to whether the grant should
19 be awarded and, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection
20 (2), the amount of the grant. If the office determines an application is
21 missing any information required by the office's policy to be included
22 with the application, the office may contact the applicant to obtain the
23 missing information.

24 (b) In awarding grants pursuant to this article, the Colorado
25 energy office shall consider, at a minimum, whether a qualified school:

26 (I) Would reduce its electricity costs by the implementation of a
27 ~~wind~~ AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for schools project; ~~and~~

1 (II) Has a plan in place to incorporate the implementation of a
2 ~~wind~~ AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for schools project into its educational
3 curriculum; AND

4 (III) HAS DEMONSTRATED TO THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE
5 THAT IT IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF ITS
6 BUILDINGS.

7 (c) A qualified school ~~shall~~ MAY not receive an aggregate amount
8 of grants pursuant to this article that exceeds ~~five~~ FIFTEEN thousand
9 dollars.

10 (3) ~~The Colorado energy office shall use at least fifty thousand~~
11 ~~dollars for the implementation of this grant program from the existing~~
12 ~~resources of the office. The minimum funding requirement for the~~
13 ~~implementation of this grant program may be met in one or more fiscal~~
14 ~~years. The office shall not submit a request for an appropriation or a~~
15 ~~supplemental appropriation for this purpose.~~

16 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-38.5-102, **amend**
17 (1) (f) as follows:

18 **24-38.5-102. Colorado energy office - duties and powers.**

19 (1) The Colorado energy office shall:

20 (f) Implement and administer a ~~wind~~ AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY for
21 schools project pursuant to article 89 of title 22, C.R.S.;

22 **SECTION 7. Applicability.** This act applies to grant applications
23 received by the Colorado energy office on or after the effective date of
24 this act.

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