

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 15-0596.01 Nicole Myers x4326

**SENATE BILL 15-082**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Marble and Hodge,** Holbert, Lundberg, Woods

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Moreno and Lawrence,**

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**Senate Committees**

Local Government

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH A COUNTY**  
102      **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

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**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 authorizes a county to establish a workforce development program to provide financial assistance to high school graduates in the county who pursue post-secondary education or training from an accredited institution of higher education or certified training program. Any county that establishes a workforce development program may also establish a workforce development fund to accept contributions for the

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.*

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 6, 2015

purpose of the program.

The bill also authorizes a county that has established a workforce development program to offer an incentive, in the form of a county property tax credit or rebate, to a residential or commercial property owner in the county who contributes to a county workforce development fund. The bill specifies that a county cannot give a credit or rebate unless the board of county commissioners approves the total program amount annually at a public budget hearing.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 30-11-126 as  
3 follows:

4 **30-11-126. Counties - workforce development - incentives -**  
5 **limitations - authority to exceed revenue-raising limitations -**  
6 **legislative declaration - definitions.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
7 HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

8 (I) THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF  
9 COLORADO AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF  
10 LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE DEPEND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A  
11 WORKFORCE THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS IN THE STATE;

12 (II) FINANCIAL INCENTIVES ARE OFTEN NECESSARY TO ATTRACT  
13 RESOURCES FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND SUCH INCENTIVES CAN  
14 BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE WHEN OFFERED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL; AND

15 (III) PROVIDING SUCH INCENTIVES STIMULATES ECONOMIC  
16 DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE AND RESULTS IN THE CREATION AND  
17 MAINTENANCE OF NEW JOBS.

18 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT  
19 IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE AND THE  
20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE STATE TO  
21 CREATE AN INCENTIVE AT THE COUNTY LEVEL FOR TAXPAYERS TO

1       CONTRIBUTE TO A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS COUNTIES TO PROVIDE  
2       FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS TO PURSUE  
3       POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING.

4               (2) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "COUNTY" MEANS ANY  
5       COUNTY OR CITY AND COUNTY.

6               (3) ANY COUNTY MAY ESTABLISH A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
7       PROGRAM, TO BE KNOWN AS "BRIGHT FUTURE COLORADO", TO PROVIDE  
8       FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO PURSUE  
9       POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION OR TRAINING FROM AN ACCREDITED  
10       INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR CERTIFIED TRAINING PROGRAM. A  
11       COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED  
12       NOT BE LIMITED TO, COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO ARE HIGH SCHOOL  
13       GRADUATES, COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED  
14       A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
15       22-33-102(8.5), C.R.S., OR COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO ARE VETERANS. ANY  
16       COUNTY THAT ESTABLISHES A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MAY  
17       ALSO ESTABLISH A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND TO ACCEPT  
18       CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM.

19              (4) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY, A  
20       COUNTY THAT HAS ESTABLISHED A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
21       MAY OFFER AN INCENTIVE, IN THE FORM OF A COUNTY PROPERTY TAX  
22       CREDIT OR REBATE, TO A RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNER  
23       IN THE COUNTY WHO CONTRIBUTES TO A COUNTY WORKFORCE  
24       DEVELOPMENT FUND.

25              (b) A COUNTY SHALL NOT MAKE ANY APPROPRIATION IN  
26       FURTHERANCE OF A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OR GIVE ANY  
27       CREDIT OR REBATE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION UNLESS THE BOARD OF

1 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVES THE TOTAL PROGRAM AMOUNT  
2 ANNUALLY AT A PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING.

3 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
6 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a  
7 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
8 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
9 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
10 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
11 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.