



**Legislative Council Staff**  
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# Fiscal Note

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**Drafting Number:** LLS 23-0712  
**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Coleman

**Date:** February 16, 2023  
**Bill Status:** Senate Education  
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**Bill Topic:** **HIGHER ED STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FOR YOUTH MENTORS**

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill creates the Youth Mentorship Stipend Pilot Program to provide financial aid for college students who provide mentorship services through participating youth mentorship organizations. The bill increases state expenditures through FY 2026-27.

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**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2023-24, the bill requires an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Department of Higher Education.

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**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 23-149**

		<b>Budget Year FY 2023-24</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2024-25</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	General Fund	\$100,000	-
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>Other Budget Impacts</b>	General Fund Reserve	\$15,000	

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## **Summary of Legislation**

The bill creates the Youth Mentorship Stipend Pilot Program in the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to provide grants to youth mentorship organizations, to be distributed as financial aid to students who provide mentorship services. Students must be in at least their second year at the institution of higher education, and each participating organization must receive an equal distribution of money.

By November 1, 2023, a newly created committee must select participating youth mentorship organizations and establish a maximum financial aid amount for each mentor. To be eligible, a youth mentorship organization must:

- provide mentorship services to youth who reside in communities that are negatively impacted by structural or systemic design, and have no access to quality mentorship services;
- require its employees, volunteers, and prospective students to complete a finger-print based criminal record check; and
- prohibit employees, volunteers, and prospective students to serve if convicted, pled nolo contendere, or received a deferred sentence for a felony, or a misdemeanor crime related to unlawful behavior around children, sexual behavior, or domestic violence.

The bill establishes annual reporting requirements, and permits the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) to establish administrative policies for the program. For FY 2023-24, the General Assembly must appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund for the program. The program is repealed July 1, 2027.

## **State Revenue and Expenditures**

The bill increases state expenditures in DHE by \$100,000 in FY 2023-24, paid from the General Fund, and minimally increases revenue and workload in the Department of Public Safety.

**Department of Higher Education.** In FY 2023-24, DHE will distribute \$100,000 in grants to youth mentorship organizations, and will have increased workload to support the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the pilot program committee. Due to the short term nature and size of the program, these duties can be accomplished by existing staff. Any program funding that is not used in FY 2023-24 is further available in FY 2024-25; the fiscal note assumes that most of the pilot program will occur over two fiscal years. In FY 2024-25, workload for DHE will increase to distribute any unused funds and handle data collection and reporting.

**Department of Public Safety.** The bill increases fee revenue and workload for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation by a minimal amount to complete a fingerprint-based criminal record check for any employees, volunteers, and students of participating organizations who have not already completed one. The additional checks can be accomplished within current appropriations.

## **Other Budget Impacts**

**General Fund reserve.** Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## **State Appropriations**

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Department of Higher Education. Any funds that are not expended in FY 2023-24 may be spent in FY 2024-25.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Higher Education

Public Safety