

First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0158.02 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 17-1131

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Kraft-Tharp and Saine**, Winter, Nordberg

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Smallwood and Donovan**, Neville T., Jahn

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CONTRACTING BY THE COLORADO STUDENT LOAN  
102 PROGRAM FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLLEGE  
103 OPPORTUNITY FUND 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://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Legislative Audit Committee.** The bill permits the Colorado student loan program (program) to enter into an agreement with the department of higher education or another state entity to administer part or all of the college opportunity fund program. The program's authority to contract is effective on and after July 1, 2015.

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.*

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-18-201, **amend**  
3 (1) as follows:

4           **23-18-201. College opportunity fund program - creation -**  
5 **eligibility - guidelines.** (1) There is ~~hereby~~ created in the department of  
6 higher education the college opportunity fund program, which ~~shall be~~ IS  
7 administered by the Colorado student loan program. ON AND AFTER JULY  
8 1, 2015, THE COLORADO STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM MAY ENTER INTO AN  
9 AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OR ANOTHER STATE ENTITY TO  
10 ADMINISTER ALL OR PART OF THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND PROGRAM.  
11 The college opportunity fund, created in section 23-18-202, ~~shall be~~ IS a  
12 trust fund for the benefit of eligible undergraduate students. It ~~shall~~  
13 ~~consist~~ CONSISTS of a stipend for each undergraduate student in Colorado  
14 who applies for the stipend and who is admitted and registers to attend a  
15 state or participating private institution of higher education and is  
16 determined to be eligible by the Colorado student loan program to receive  
17 a stipend. An eligible undergraduate student may use the stipend for  
18 undergraduate courses and graduate-level courses that apply toward the  
19 student's undergraduate degree that are taken at a state or participating  
20 private institution of higher education at a fixed rate per credit hour, set  
21 annually by the general assembly.

22           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.1-106, **add** (4)  
23 as follows:

24           **23-3.1-106. Student loan program established.** (4) ON AND  
25 AFTER JULY 1, 2015, THE COLORADO STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM MAY  
26 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OR ANOTHER STATE

1 ENTITY TO ADMINISTER ALL OR PART OF THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FUND  
2 PROGRAM CREATED IN PARTS 1 AND 2 OF ARTICLE 18 OF THIS TITLE 23.

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