

**Second Regular Session  
Sixty-seventh General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 10-0384.02 Julie Pelegrin

**HOUSE BILL 10-1131**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO IMPROVE COLORADO YOUTHS'**  
102 **KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103 **THEREWITH, CREATING THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS GRANT**  
104 **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 creates the Colorado kids outdoors grant program (grant program) in the department of natural resources to provide grants for

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.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 3, 2010

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 2, 2010

programs that allow Colorado youth to participate in outdoor activities in the state, including but not limited to programs that emphasize the environment and experiential, field-based learning. The executive director of the department of natural resources (executive director) will adopt rules to implement the grant program, including criteria for selecting grant recipients. An advisory council will assist the executive director in reviewing the applications and creating the criteria. The grant program will be funded through gifts, grants, and donations, which will be deposited in the newly created Colorado kids outdoors grant program fund. The executive director will report to certain legislative committees concerning implementation of the grant program, including the amount awarded and the activities that receive funding.

The bill directs the department of education, in consultation with the department of natural resources, to create and the state board of education (state board) to adopt a state plan for environmental education (state plan). The state plan will be designed to strengthen environmental education in the state and provide to educators professional development in environmental education. The department of education and the state board will create and adopt the state plan only if the department receives gifts, grants, and donations to pay the costs of creating and adopting the plan. Any moneys received by the department of education for creating the state plan will be credited to the newly created state environmental education fund.

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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 that:

4 (a) From the arid high plains of the eastern slope, through the  
5 stunning grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, to the fruitful river valleys of  
6 the western slope and the rocky deserts of the northwest and southwest  
7 corners of the state, Colorado boasts an amazing array of ecosystems and  
8 stunning, undeveloped, natural areas;

9 (b) Too many of the youth who grow up in Colorado lack  
10 opportunities to experience the natural areas of the state and spend most  
11 of their time in highly developed urban areas with little access to the open  
12 spaces and natural environments for which Colorado is famous;

1 (c) Providing Colorado's youth with quality opportunities to  
2 directly experience the natural areas of Colorado can improve their  
3 overall academic performance, raise their self-esteem, and increase their  
4 sense of personal responsibility and community involvement;

5 (d) Greater access to outdoor activities in a natural environment  
6 can also promote healthy habits and increased levels of activity and can  
7 reduce childhood obesity and the symptoms of attention deficit  
8 hyperactivity disorder;

9 (e) Promoting sportsmen's activities and recreations, including  
10 hunting and fishing, creates opportunities for youth to interact with their  
11 parents, provides circumstances in which to develop positive social and  
12 behavioral traits, and expands youths' understanding of the important role  
13 sportsmen play in wildlife and habitat conservation;

14 (f) Many youth lack an understanding of the opportunities that are  
15 unique to persons in Colorado for developing careers and life skills  
16 relating to natural resources and the science, agricultural, and recreational  
17 outdoor industries that operate in the state; and

18 (g) Greater understanding of and engagement with the  
19 environment can give students a greater sense of their responsibility as  
20 future stewards of the environment and better prepare them to address the  
21 challenges and opportunities of making decision that impact the health of  
22 the environment, the success of Colorado's communities, and the vitality  
23 of the state's economy.

24 (2) The general assembly concludes, therefore, that enacting the  
25 Colorado kids outdoors grant program and directing the department of  
26 education to adopt a state plan for environmental education is necessary  
27 in order to:

1 (a) Help ensure greater coordination and cooperation among state  
2 agencies and private organizations in providing to Colorado's youth  
3 high-quality experiences in Colorado's vast range of natural environments  
4 and a greater understanding of and appreciation for the complex  
5 ecosystems of the state; and

6 (b) Improve statewide access to environmental education and raise  
7 awareness for the need for and benefits of outdoor experiences as part of  
8 the broad scope of public education provided by the state.

9 **SECTION 2.** Part 1 of article 33 of title 24, Colorado Revised  
10 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
11 read:

12 **24-33-109.5. Colorado kids outdoors grant program - created**  
13 **- definitions - fund created - rules - report - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN  
14 THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

15 (a) "ADVISORY COUNCIL" MEANS THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS  
16 ADVISORY COUNCIL CREATED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

17 (b) "ELIGIBLE ENTITY" MEANS:

18 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT; A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES  
19 CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S.; A DISTRICT  
20 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART  
21 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S.; AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL  
22 AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO  
23 PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S., OR AN APPROVED FACILITY  
24 SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-2-402 (1), C.R.S.; OR

25 (II) A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OR  
26 A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH ORGANIZATION OR AGENCY PROVIDES  
27 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH THAT EMPHASIZE THE ENVIRONMENT

1 AND EXPERIENTIAL, FIELD-BASED LEARNING.

2 (c) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
3 THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

4 (d) "FUND" MEANS THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS GRANT  
5 PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

6 (e) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS  
7 GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (2) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
9 DIRECTOR THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND  
10 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN OUTDOOR  
11 ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PROGRAMS  
12 THAT EMPHASIZE THE ENVIRONMENT AND EXPERIENTIAL, FIELD-BASED  
13 LEARNING. THE GRANT PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH PUBLIC  
14 OR PRIVATE GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR SAID PURPOSE PURSUANT TO  
16 SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION. IN ADDITION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
17 MAY USE MONEYS RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
18 RESOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 24-33-109 (2) TO MAKE  
19 AWARDS THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES THAT  
20 PROVIDE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THAT MEET THE CRITERION SPECIFIED IN  
21 SUBPARAGRAPH (V) OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS  
22 SECTION. THE GRANT PROGRAM SHALL NOT RECEIVE APPROPRIATIONS OF  
23 GENERAL FUND MONEYS.

24 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES IN  
25 ACCORDANCE WITH THE "STATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT",  
26 ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE, TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM. AT A  
27 MINIMUM, THE RULES SHALL SPECIFY:

1 (a) THE PROCEDURES, TIMELINES, AND FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A  
2 GRANT; AND

3 (b) CRITERIA FOR SELECTING GRANT RECIPIENTS, WHICH CRITERIA  
4 SHALL ADDRESS, AT A MINIMUM:

5 (I) PROVIDING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH WHO RESIDE IN  
6 THE METROPOLITAN, URBAN, AND RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE;

7 (II) ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE WITH THEIR PARENTS  
8 OR LEGAL GUARDIANS IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES;

9 (III) PROVIDING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH FROM  
10 LOW-INCOME FAMILIES;

11 (IV) WHETHER THE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY WILL OCCUR IN A STATE  
12 PARK, A NATIONAL PARK OR MONUMENT, COUNTY OPEN SPACE, OR SOME  
13 OTHER NATURAL AREA OF THE STATE THAT IS EITHER DEVELOPED FOR  
14 OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OR UNDEVELOPED; AND

15 (V) WHETHER THE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY IS DESIGNED TO FOSTER AN  
16 INTEREST IN AND A SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP TOWARD THE NATURAL  
17 RESOURCES OF THE STATE BY PROVIDING SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTH  
18 INTERESTED IN CAREERS IN NATURAL RESOURCES OR PROVIDING OTHER  
19 CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES; EXCEPT THAT THIS CRITERION IS  
20 APPLICABLE ONLY TO GRANTS AWARDED FROM MONEYS RECEIVED BY THE  
21 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION  
22 24-33-109 (2).

23 (4) (a) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE COLORADO KIDS  
24 OUTDOORS ADVISORY COUNCIL TO ASSIST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN  
25 IMPLEMENTING THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL  
26 CONSIST OF SEVEN MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

27 (I) THE FOLLOWING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OR THEIR DESIGNEES:

1 (A) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
2 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT;

3 (B) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION;

4 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
5 COLORADO PROGRAM;

6 (D) THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR  
7 RECREATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; AND

8 (E) THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE IN THE  
9 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; AND

10 (II) TWO PERSONS WITH EXPERTISE IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND  
11 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, ONE OF WHOM IS APPOINTED BY THE  
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
13 ONE OF WHOM IS APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.

14 (b) THE APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL  
15 SERVE VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.  
16 EACH APPOINTED MEMBER SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE  
17 APPOINTING AUTHORITY AND FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM. IF A VACANCY  
18 ARISES IN AN APPOINTED POSITION, THE APPROPRIATE APPOINTING  
19 AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT A PERSON WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED  
20 IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (4) TO FILL  
21 THE VACANCY.

22 (c) THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

23 (I) TO REVIEW GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF  
24 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR GRANT AWARDS;

26 (II) TO ASSIST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN ESTABLISHING THE  
27 CRITERIA FOR AWARDING GRANTS THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM; AND

1 (III) TO OTHERWISE ADVISE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
2 CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM.

3 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020.  
4 PRIOR TO SAID REPEAL, THE ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL BE REVIEWED AS  
5 PROVIDED IN SECTION 2-3-1203, C.R.S.

6 (5) AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY THAT SEEKS A GRANT THROUGH THE  
7 GRANT PROGRAM SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE  
8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES PROMULGATED BY THE  
9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, THE  
10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL SELECT GRANT RECIPIENTS, SPECIFYING THE  
11 AMOUNT TO BE AWARDED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE  
12 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE CRITERIA  
13 ESTABLISHED IN RULE.

14 (6) (a) THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IS AUTHORIZED  
15 TO SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE GIFTS, GRANTS, OR  
16 DONATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM; EXCEPT  
17 THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MAY NOT ACCEPT A GIFT,  
18 GRANT, OR DONATION FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM THAT IS SUBJECT TO  
19 CONDITIONS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION OR ANY OTHER  
20 LAW OF THE STATE. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL  
21 TRANSMIT ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEYS RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS,  
22 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT  
23 THE SAME TO THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS GRANT PROGRAM FUND,  
24 WHICH FUND IS HEREBY CREATED. THE MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE  
25 CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
26 RESOURCES FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
27 IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION.



1 (b) ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE  
2 OF THIS SECTION MAY BE INVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER AS  
3 PROVIDED BY LAW. ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE  
4 INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED  
5 TO THE FUND. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MAY EXPEND  
6 UP TO TWO PERCENT OF THE MONEYS ANNUALLY CREDITED TO THE FUND  
7 TO OFFSET THE COSTS INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THE GRANT PROGRAM.  
8 ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND  
9 AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT  
10 BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER FUND.

11 (7) ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2011, AND ON OR BEFORE  
12 FEBRUARY 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER IN WHICH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
13 AWARDS GRANTS PURSUANT TO THE GRANT PROGRAM, THE EXECUTIVE  
14 DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT TO THE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND  
15 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR  
16 ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE, THE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL  
17 RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE,  
18 AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
19 AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT  
20 SUMMARIZING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE PRECEDING FISCAL  
21 YEAR:

22 (a) THE AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT  
23 PROGRAM AND THE SOURCES OF SAID AMOUNT;

24 (b) THE ELIGIBLE ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED GRANTS AND THE  
25 AMOUNTS AWARDED TO EACH RECIPIENT; AND

26 (c) THE ACTIVITIES FUNDED WITH THE GRANT AWARDS.

27 **SECTION 3.** 2-3-1203 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, is

1 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

2 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees.** (3) The  
3 following dates are the dates for which the statutory authorization for the  
4 designated advisory committees is scheduled for repeal:

5 (gg) JULY 1, 2020: THE COLORADO KIDS OUTDOORS ADVISORY  
6 COUNCIL CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33-109.5, C.R.S.

7 **SECTION 4.** Part 1 of article 2 of title 22, Colorado Revised  
8 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
9 read:

10 **22-2-138. State environmental education plan - fund created.**

11 (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
12 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
13 RESOURCES, SHALL DEVELOP AND THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT A  
14 STATE PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. AT A MINIMUM, THE  
15 STATE PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SHALL ADDRESS  
16 STRENGTHENING THE REACH AND COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
17 EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PROVIDING TO EDUCATORS  
18 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. THE  
19 DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT THE STATE PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
20 EDUCATION COMPLIES WITH ANY REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY FEDERAL  
21 LAW OR BY REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF  
22 EDUCATION.

23 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK, ACCEPT, AND  
24 EXPEND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FOR THE  
25 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION; EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
26 NOT ACCEPT A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
27 THIS SECTION THAT IS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT

1 WITH THIS SECTION OR ANY OTHER LAW OF THE STATE. THE DEPARTMENT  
2 SHALL TRANSMIT ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEYS RECEIVED THROUGH  
3 GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL  
4 CREDIT THE SAME TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FUND,  
5 WHICH FUND IS HEREBY CREATED AND REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS  
6 THE "FUND". THE MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY  
7 APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS  
8 ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION.

9 (b) ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE  
10 OF THIS SECTION MAY BE INVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER AS  
11 PROVIDED BY LAW. ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE  
12 INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED  
13 TO THE FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS  
14 REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN  
15 THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE  
16 GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER FUND.

17 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF  
18 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION ONLY IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES  
19 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS IN AN AMOUNT IT  
20 DEEMS SUFFICIENT TO OFFSET THE COSTS INCURRED IN CREATING AND  
21 ADOPTING THE STATE PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

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