



# Workforce and Skills Legislation at the Capitol

The following bills in the 2018 Colorado General Assembly focus on some issues related to skills training for Colorado workers.

## SUPPORT-LEAD

### **House Bill 18-XXXX** Representative Coleman (D) **Establishing an Employment Support Services Fund**

#### **The Issue**

- The availability of supportive services for employment goals – such as emergency child care, work equipment or legal assistance – is critical for those with barriers to employment to successfully pursue an employment or training opportunity. A 2017 report authored by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research **found that each supportive service provided increased a participant’s probability of completing a job training activity by 11 percentage points.**
- A needs assessment encompassing 63 of Colorado’s 64 counties revealed the need for emergency supportive service funds to support job-seekers’ employment goals.
- No large scale program for this purpose exists in Colorado, leaving many Coloradans without the resources they need to participate in the state’s growing economy.

#### **What would this proposal do?**

1. Create a pilot project for an emergency supportive services fund that community based organizations (CBOs) and public agencies (PAs) can draw from to serve their participants with barriers to employment.
2. Target 17 rural counties and economically disadvantaged communities within Pueblo, Denve, Arapahoe and Adams counties.
3. Appropriate \$1.4 million for FY2018-2019, and \$2.5 million for two years thereafter, from the General Fund to fund this pilot project.
4. Establish a reimbursement mechanism for eligible PAs and CBOs to provide funds up-front to their participants for employment related supportive services. Participant benefits are capped at \$400 per annum, per job-seeker on a per need basis.

## ACTIVE SUPPORT

### **Senate Bill 18-087** Representative Fenberg (D) and Senator Court (D)

#### **In-State Tuition Foreign Nationals Settled in CO**

Would allow refugees resettled in Colorado who intend to stay here and those who received SIV visas (often those who assisted the US Military in their home countries before fleeing persecution) to go to post-secondary institution under in-state tuition status.

*Senate State Affairs*

## SUPPORT

### **Senate Bill 18-069** Senator Holbert (R) and Senator Zenzinger (D) and Representative Garnett (D) and Rep J Becker (R)

#### **Enforcement Statewide Degree Transfer Agreements.**

For transferring juniors who hold an AA degree, , a four year college who requires additional lower division classes will not receive any tuition for such required classes.

*Senate Education.*

**House Bill 18-1052** Representatives Lundeen (R) and Senator Todd (D)

**Exception to 2 year Higher Education Service Areas**

If a 2 year higher education institution declines to participate in concurrent enrollment, the bill allows for other institutions outside that area to serve the students in that area.

*House Education*

**House Bill 18-1086** Representatives Buckner (D) & Lundeen (R) & Senators Aguilar (D) T Neville (R)

**Community College Bachelor Science Degree Nursing**

Allows Community Colleges to offer Bachelor of Science Degrees in Nursing

*House Health, Insurance and Environment*

**MONITOR**

**Senate Bill 18-002** Senators Coram (R) & Sonnenberg(R); Representatives K Becker (D) & Duran (D)

**Financing Rural Broadband Deployment.** Adjusts definition of "broadband network" related to speed, and "unserved area". Removes requirement that the PUC reduce the high Cost Support Mechanism that funds deployment of broadband into the rural areas.

*Senate Business.*

**Senate Bill 18-042** Senators Donovan (D) & Crowder (R) & Reps Catlin(R) & McLachlin (D)

**Concerning creation of the Agricultural Workforce Development Program**

Establishes agricultural business interns. Reimburses 50% of salary for up to 6 months. Requires 130 hours of work experience.

*Senate Agricultural*

**Senate Bill 18-101** Senators Holbert (R) & Todd (D) & Representatives Hamner (D) & Van Winkle (R)

**CSU Global Campus Student Admission Criteria**

Removes prohibition on CSU Global campus from admitting first time freshman baccalaureate students who live in Colorado and are under 23 years old.

*Senate Education*

**Senate Bill 18-104** Senator Donovan (D) & Representative Willett (R)

**Federal Funds for Rural Broadband Deployment**

Requires the Broadband Deployment Board to seek a waiver from the FCC prohibition on state entities applying for federal broadband deployment moneys.

*Senate Business*

**House Bill 18-1005** Representative Petersen (D) and Becker J. (R)

**Notice to Students of Postsecondary Courses**

Adds requirements for additional information to be given top students about the opportunities and benefits of applying for concurrent enrollment.

*House Education*

**House Bill 18-1034** Representative Covarrubias (R) & McKean (R) and Senator Priola (R)

**Career and Technical Education Capital Grant Program**

Creates a new capital grant program for CTE education. The CWDC will administer the new grant program for use for equipment, construction or maintenance. Priority for rural areas.

*House Education*

**House Bill 18-1095** Rep Carver (R) and Arndt (D) and Senators Todd (D) and Gardner (R)

### **Education License Military Spouse**

For military spouse who have a teaching license from another state, drop license transfer requirement that the 3 years of teaching experience be continuous.

*House Education*

**House Bill 18-1099** Representative Catlin (R) and McLachlin (D) and Senator Coram(R)

### **Broadband Deployment Level Playing Field**

Changes the right of first refusal by incumbent telecommunications providers in unserved areas to include criteria that the incumbent provider exercising their right of first refusal agree to provide downstream and upstream speeds equal to or faster than the speeds indicated by other applicant, and at a equal or lesser cost.

*House Transportation*

**House Bill 18-1116** Representative Rankin (R) and Representative Moreno (D)

### **Broadband Deployment Board Apply for Federal Funds**

Authorize the board to apply for waiver to seek federal funds.

*Senate Appropriations*

Copies of the full bills are available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>

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