Joint Budget Committee Staff

Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee Members
From: Kelly Shen, JBC Staff (303-866-5434)
Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2025
Subject: JBC Potential Legislation – Packet 11

This packet includes memos and bill drafts for the Committee's consideration.

Each individual item has page numbers, but also a packet page number (P-XX) to help navigate the whole document. The page numbers below refer to the packet page number that begins with a "P".

Potential Legislation

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First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

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LLS NO. 25-0988.01 Shelby Ross x4510 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Repeal Behavioral Health Voucher Program
DEADLINES: File by: 3/21/2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING REPEALING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill repeals the behavioral health voucher program for rural and agricultural communities and reduces the appropriation to the behavioral health administration by $50,000.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 27-60-110.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-50-105, **repeal** (1)(h) as follows:

27-50-105. Administration of behavioral health programs - state plan - sole mental health authority - gifts, grants, or donations. (1) The BHA shall administer and provide the following behavioral health programs and services:

(h) ~~Behavioral health-care services for rural and agricultural communities pursuant to section 27-60-110;~~

SECTION 3. Appropriation - adjustments to 2025 long bill. To implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year to the department of human services for use by the behavioral health administration for behavioral health vouchers is decreased by $50,000.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

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First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

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LLS NO. 25-0989.01 Chelsea Princell x4335 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Repeal School Mental Health Screening Act

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF THE SIXTH THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE
102 MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING ACT.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill repeals the sixth through twelfth grade mental health screening act that was enacted in 2023.

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

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-245-217, **amend** (2)(g) and (2)(h); and **repeal** (2)(i) as follows:

12-245-217. Scope of article - exemptions. (2) This article 245 does not apply to:

(g) Students who are enrolled in a school program and are practicing as part of a school practicum or clinical program; OR

(h) A professional practicing auricular acudetox in accordance with section 12-245-233. ~~or~~

(i) ~~Screeners conducting screenings pursuant to the sixth through twelfth grade mental health screening program created in section 27-50-903.~~

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** part 9 of article 50 of title 27.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

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First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

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LLS NO. 25-0919.01 Chelsea Princell x4335 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Electronic Discovery in Criminal Cases Task Force

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY IN CRIMINAL CASES TASK FORCE.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill creates the electronic discovery in criminal cases task force (task force), which consists of 13 task force members. The purpose of the task force is to study the costs and management of electronic discovery in criminal cases.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 16-18-106 as follows:

16-18-106. Electronic discovery in criminal cases task force - creation - purpose - membership - report - repeal. (1) THERE IS CREATED THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY IN CRIMINAL CASES TASK FORCE, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "TASK FORCE".

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IS TO STUDY THE COSTS AND MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY IN CRIMINAL CASES.

(3) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

(a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, WHO IS THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE;

(b) AN ATTORNEY EMPLOYED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, WHO IS THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE AND IS APPOINTED BY THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER;

(c) AN ATTORNEY EMPLOYED BY, OR UNDER CONTRACT WITH, THE OFFICE OF ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL, APPOINTED BY THE OFFICE OF ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL;

(d) AN ATTORNEY WITHIN THE ANTITRUST UNIT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;

(e) ONE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYED BY THE COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL, AND ONE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL;

(f) AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYED BY

THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, APPOINTED BY THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER;

(g) ONE EMPLOYEE OF A SHERIFF'S OFFICE WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNTY SHERIFFS OF COLORADO;

(h) AN EMPLOYEE OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY, APPOINTED BY THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF THE CHIEFS OF POLICE;

(i) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COLORADO STATE PATROL WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY, APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF OF THE COLORADO STATE PATROL; AND

(j) A COUNTY COMMISSIONER WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY COSTS AND LOCAL CONTRACTS RELATED TO ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY, APPOINTED BY COLORADO COUNTIES, INCORPORATED.

(4) (a) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE TASK FORCE WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AND PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL OF THE APPOINTMENT.

(b) THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE TASK FORCE SERVE FOR THE DURATION OF THE TASK FORCE.

(c) ANY VACANCY OCCURRING IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE MUST BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.

(d) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SERVE ON THE TASK FORCE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

(5) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

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(a) HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AT A TIME AND PLACE DETERMINED BY THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE;

(b) MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY MONTH OR MORE OFTEN AS DIRECTED BY THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE;

(c) COMMUNICATE WITH AND OBTAIN INPUT FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, PROSECUTORS, AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AFFECTED BY THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(d) CREATE SUBCOMMITTEES, AS NEEDED, TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE. THE SUBCOMMITTEES MAY CONSIST, IN PART, OF PERSONS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE AND WHO MAY VOTE ON ISSUES BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE BUT WHO ARE NOT ENTITLED TO A VOTE AT TASK FORCE MEETINGS.

(6) THE TASK FORCE SHALL EXAMINE AND GATHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING:

(a) THE CURRENT CONTRACTS IN PLACE BETWEEN A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, A DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, THE OFFICE OF ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL, OR, IF AVAILABLE, PRIVATE CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS AND A VENDOR FOR ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY SERVICES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING EACH CONTRACT:

(I) THE LENGTH AND EXPIRATION DATE OF THE CONTRACT;

(II) THE COST OF THE CONTRACT;

(III) THE TERMS, CONTRACTED SERVICES, LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, AND ANY OTHER KEY COMPONENT OF THE CONTRACT; AND

(IV) THE EXPECTED FUTURE COSTS OF THE CONTRACT, IF KNOWN;

(b) THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF INFORMATION PLACED INTO ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY, INCLUDING:

(I) THE NUMBER, SIZE, AND TYPE OF FILES PLACED INTO THE STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY PORTAL THAT CAN BE FULLY DOWNLOADED, ACCESSED, OR UTILIZED THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY PORTAL;

(II) THE NUMBER, SIZE, AND TYPE OF FILES THAT REQUIRE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE TO USE AN OUTSIDE VENDOR OR WEBSITE TO FULLY DOWNLOAD, ACCESS, OR UTILIZE THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY DOCUMENTS; AND

(III) THE NUMBER, SIZE, AND TYPE OF FILES THAT ARE PLACED ON PHYSICAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVICES SUCH AS FLASH DRIVES, EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES, OR PHYSICAL COPIES IN ORDER FOR PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE TO ACCESS AND UTILIZE THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY DOCUMENTS;

(c) THE EXTENT TO WHICH PROSECUTORS, PUBLIC DEFENDERS, ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS, PRIVATE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, AND PRO SE DEFENDANTS HAVE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND THE ABILITY TO REVIEW AND UTILIZE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY DOCUMENTS COMPARED TO OTHER PROSECUTORS, PUBLIC DEFENDERS, ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL ATTORNEYS, PRIVATE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, AND PRO SE DEFENDANTS, INCLUDING:

(I) THE TIME IT TAKES TO DOWNLOAD INFORMATION TO VIEW;

(II) THE ABILITY TO SEARCH DISCOVERY DOCUMENTS ELECTRONICALLY;

(III) THE ABILITY TO SEE AUTOMATED TRANSCRIPTIONS, USE

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO GENERATE TRANSCRIPTIONS, OR USE ANY OTHER TOOLS TO EXPEDITE REVIEW OF DISCOVERY DOCUMENTS; AND

(IV) THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY WHICH OFFICER THE BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE IS FROM OR THE ABILITY TO IDENTIFY WHERE ANOTHER SOURCE OF VIDEO FOOTAGE WAS TAKEN FROM;

(d) HOW THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF INFORMATION PLACED INTO ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY HAS CHANGED SINCE THE CREATION OF THE STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY PORTAL AND, TO THE EXTENT KNOWN, HOW ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY IS PROJECTED TO CHANGE OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS;

(e) THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A SYSTEM THAT WOULD MAKE THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY PROCESS MORE EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE, AVOID OR MINIMIZE THE NEED FOR OUTSIDE VENDORS, AND BETTER CONTROL COSTS;

(f) THE POSSIBLE COORDINATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, PROSECUTING AGENCIES, THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, THE OFFICE OF ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL, AND PRIVATE DEFENSE ATTORNEY CONTRACTS TO MAKE THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY PROCESS MORE EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE, AVOID OR MINIMIZE THE NEED FOR OUTSIDE VENDORS, AND BETTER CONTROL COSTS;

(g) THE EXPECTED COSTS TO THE STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IF CHANGES ARE NOT MADE TO THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY PROCESS OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS; AND

(h) RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE LEGISLATION, THAT WOULD ASSIST IN:

(I) CONTROLLING THE COST OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY, INCLUDING WHAT CONTRACT OR STATUTORY CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO

ALLOW FOR COORDINATED CONTRACT NEGOTIATION AND PAYMENT TO VENDORS BY THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS;

(II) ENSURING THE FLOW OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY FROM ONE ENTITY TO ANOTHER;

(III) WORK EFFICIENCY, INCLUDING SAVING TIME FOR EMPLOYEES WHO CREATE OR USE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY;

(IV) PROVIDING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO AND USE OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY WHILE PROTECTING THE WORK PRODUCT AND MENTAL PROCESSES OF PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE; AND

(V) CONSIDERING PROCEDURAL CHANGES TO EXISTING STATUTES; COLORADO RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE; OR PRACTICES RELATED TO THE DISCOVERY OBLIGATIONS OF PROSECUTION, DEFENSE, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO IMPROVE DISCOVERY COMPLIANCE AND PROCESSES.

(7) (a) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' OFFICES, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, AND THE OFFICE OF ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL SHALL SHARE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE TASK FORCE REGARDING CONTRACTS, VENDORS, THE ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY PROCESS, AND COSTS BUT SHALL NOT SHARE INFORMATION THAT WOULD VIOLATE STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS, REGULATIONS, OR RULES OR THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF A PERSON INVOLVED IN A CRIMINAL CASE.

(b) THE ENTITIES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM THE TASK FORCE FOR INFORMATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION IN GOOD FAITH AND PROVIDE INFORMATION WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME.

(8) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2025, THE TASK FORCE SHALL

SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND THE JOINT TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE THAT, AT A MINIMUM, DESCRIBES THE FOLLOWING:

(a) THE WORK AND STUDY OF THE TASK FORCE;

(b) THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE ISSUES AND TOPICS CONSIDERED BY THE TASK FORCE AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION; AND

(c) LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND EXPECTED RELATED COSTS BASED ON THE TASK FORCE'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

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First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

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LLS NO. 25-0932.01 Alana Rosen x2606 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Tuition Waiver & Colorado National Guard Members

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING TUITION WAIVERS FOR MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill changes the tuition assistance program for members of the Colorado National Guard (member) to a tuition waiver program (program). The bill allows a member, upon being accepted for enrollment at a designated institution of higher education (institution), to pursue studies that lead to a postgraduate degree, a bachelor's degree, an associate degree, or a certificate of completion with

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all tuition waived. For an eligible member, the tuition waiver must not exceed more than 65 credit hours at a designated 2-year institution of higher education and no more than 130 hours at a designated 4-year institution of higher education. The department of military and veterans affairs (department) shall administer the program.

To determine the amount of money to distribute to an institution to waive a member's tuition, the department shall apply a base amount of $4,500 per member plus a 20% increase of the base per each additional factor that applies to an institution. The additional factors are:

- 90% of the students enrolled in the institution are Colorado residents;
- The institution's endowment is less than its annual appropriation from the general assembly;
- Less than 10% of the enrolled students live in housing owned by the institution;
- The institution is located in rural Colorado; and
- Full-time student enrollment is less than 10,000 students.

In order to qualify for the program, a member must:

- Be accepted by an institution;
- Be in good standing with the Colorado National Guard; and
- Complete a Colorado application for state financial aid or a free application for federal student aid.

Each institution shall determine if a member enrolled with the institution remains in satisfactory academic standing in accordance with the academic policies of the institution and is making progress toward the completion of the requirements of the education program in which the member is enrolled. If the institution finds that the member is not in satisfactory academic standing in accordance with the academic policies of the institution or is not making progress toward the completion of a degree, the member must reimburse the institution for the amount of the tuition waived for that academic term.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-7.4-302, **amend** (1), (6), (7), and (9)(a); **repeal** (5); **repeal and reenact, with amendments,** (2) and (3); and **add** (9)(c) as follows:

23-7.4-302. Tuition waiver for members of the National Guard - rules - fund - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (1) The general assembly recognizes its responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of a strong, well-trained, and high-spirited National Guard. The encouragement of membership in the guard through the granting of ~~reduced or~~ free tuition at certain institutions of postsecondary education simultaneously expresses a commitment to a part of this responsibility and supports existing institutions, carrying out a policy of maintaining reasonable access to quality education as broadly in this state as possible. The general assembly ~~hereby~~ finds and declares that the establishment of a tuition ~~assistance~~ WAIVER program will encourage enlistments, enhance the knowledge and skills of the National Guard, and retain membership in the National Guard.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS:

(I) ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY;

(II) COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY;

(III) COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY - GLOBAL CAMPUS;

(IV) COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY - PUEBLO;

(V) COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY;

(VI) METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER;

(VII) FORT LEWIS COLLEGE;

(VIII) WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY;

(IX) UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO;

(X) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER;

(XI) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER;

(XII) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT COLORADO SPRINGS;

(XIII) UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER;

(XIV) COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES;

(XV) COMMUNITY COLLEGES THAT ARE GOVERNED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION;

(XVI) AN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE; AND

(XVII) A LOCAL DISTRICT COLLEGE.

(b) "MEMBER" MEANS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR OFFICER OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD.

(c) "RURAL COLORADO" MEANS A COLORADO COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PEOPLE.

(3) (a) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS, A PERSON WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD, UPON BEING ACCEPTED FOR ENROLLMENT AT A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MAY PURSUE STUDIES THAT LEAD TO A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE, A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE, OR A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION WITH ALL TUITION WAIVED. FOR AN ELIGIBLE MEMBER, THE TUITION WAIVER MUST NOT EXCEED MORE THAN SIXTY-FIVE CREDIT HOURS AT A DESIGNATED TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THIRTY CREDIT HOURS AT A DESIGNATED FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL ADMINISTER THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM.

(b) (I) TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO DISTRIBUTE TO DESIGNATED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO WAIVE A MEMBER'S TUITION, THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL APPLY A BASE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER MEMBER AT THE INSTITUTION PLUS A TWENTY PERCENT INCREASE OF THE BASE PER EACH ADDITIONAL FACTOR THAT APPLIES TO A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THE ADDITIONAL FACTORS ARE:

(A) NINETY PERCENT OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE COLORADO RESIDENTS;

(B) THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S ENDOWMENT IS LESS THAN ITS ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

(C) LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE ENROLLED STUDENTS LIVE IN HOUSING OWNED BY THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

(D) THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS LOCATED IN RURAL COLORADO; AND

(E) THE FULL-TIME STUDENT ENROLLMENT HEAD COUNT IS LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND STUDENTS.

(II) TO PREVENT HARDSHIP TO A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, IF THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE ELIGIBLE MEMBER ENROLLMENT IN THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM, THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING WITH A TUITION WAIVER MUST NOT EXCEED THE GREATER OF:

(A) A TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT INCREASE IN MEMBER ENROLLMENT IN A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMPARED TO THE MEMBER CALCULATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(III) OF THIS SECTION; OR

(B) MORE THAN FIVE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ENROLLED IN A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMPARED TO THE MEMBER CALCULATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(III) OF THIS SECTION.

(III) FOR EACH DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION,

THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL DETERMINE THE BASE MEMBER ENROLLMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II)(A) OR (3)(b)(II)(B) OF THIS SECTION BY CALCULATING THE AVERAGE FALL SEMESTER MEMBER ENROLLMENT AT THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE PREVIOUS THREE FALL SEMESTERS. THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, IN CONSULTATION WITH DESIGNATED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL ADOPT RULES TO DETERMINE HOW TO SELECT MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM IF A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN MEMBER ENROLLMENT IN THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM OCCURS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

(IV) THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL DETERMINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBER ENROLLMENT CAPS FOR EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE. THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION FOR TUITION WAIVERS. THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE FUNDS TO EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN WHICH A MEMBER IS ENROLLED.

(V) (A) IF ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM ARE INCREASED, THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS MAY INCREASE THE MEMBER CALCULATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO EACH DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROPORTIONATELY.

(B) IF ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM ARE REDUCED BY LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT COMPARED TO THE APPROPRIATION IN THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS MAY REDUCE THE MEMBER CALCULATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO EACH DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROPORTIONATELY.

(C) IF ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM ARE REDUCED BY MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT COMPARED TO THE APPROPRIATION IN THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM IS SUSPENDED AND THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE REMAINING TUITION WAIVER FUNDS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVE BASIS TO ELIGIBLE MEMBERS UNTIL THE TUITION WAIVER FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED.

(D) IF A NEW CALCULATION IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(b)(V)(A) OR (3)(b)(V)(B) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SHALL ADOPT RULES TO ESTABLISH THE NEW CALCULATION.

(c) IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION, A MEMBER MUST:

(I) BE ACCEPTED BY A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

(II) BE IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD; AND

(III) COMPLETE A COLORADO APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID OR A FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID.

(5) ~~For each individual member of the Colorado National Guard who is a continuing student and who is receiving tuition assistance as provided in this section, the department of military and veterans affairs shall obtain certification from the designated institution of higher~~

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~~education prior to the payment to the institution attesting to the member's current satisfactory academic standing at the designated institution of higher education, as determined by military regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection (7) of this section, for each semester or quarter for which tuition assistance is requested. Tuition assistance shall not be granted without such certification.~~

(6) ~~Any member who leaves the Colorado National Guard in violation of the member's agreement under subsection (2) of this section during an academic term for which the member is receiving tuition assistance is required to repay to the department of military and veterans affairs the amount of tuition assistance granted for that academic term and any and all collection fees incurred by the department of military and veterans affairs. The repayment of tuition assistance shall be credited to the Colorado National Guard tuition fund. created in subsection (9) of this section.~~ EACH DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL DETERMINE IF A MEMBER ENROLLED WITH THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION REMAINS IN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC STANDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACADEMIC POLICIES OF THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND IS MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN WHICH THE MEMBER IS ENROLLED. IF THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FINDS THAT THE MEMBER IS NOT IN SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC STANDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACADEMIC POLICIES OF THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR IS NOT MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD THE COMPLETION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN WHICH THE MEMBER IS ENROLLED, THE MEMBER MUST REIMBURSE THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE TUITION WAIVED FOR THAT ACADEMIC TERM.

(7) The department of military and veterans affairs shall ~~promulgate military regulations for the administration of tuition assistance as provided in this section including, but not limited to, the following:~~ ADOPT RULES TO CERTIFY MEMBER ELIGIBILITY AT THE REQUEST OF A DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO COMMUNICATE MEMBER ELIGIBILITY TO THE DESIGNATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TO ADMINISTER THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM.

~~(a) Criteria for the eligibility of a member of the National Guard for tuition assistance. In establishing this criteria, the department of military and veterans affairs shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following:~~

~~(I) The member's past service and record, if any, in the National Guard;~~

~~(II) An evaluation of the member's commitment to future service in the National Guard;~~

~~(III) The member's military record, if any, including the member's achievements and whether the member has been honorably discharged;~~

~~(IV) The benefit to the National Guard by having such an individual as a member;~~

~~(V) Financial need, merit, or talent;~~

~~(b) Procedures to be followed by designated institutions of higher education in reporting the member's academic standing and in providing timely billing to the department of military and veterans affairs;~~

~~(c) A definition of satisfactory academic standing, including, but not limited to, consideration of the member's cumulative grade point average, credit hours completed, and progress toward a degree.~~

(9) (a) ~~There is created in the state treasury~~ The Colorado National Guard tuition fund ~~which~~ IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY AND is administered by the department of military and veterans affairs. ~~and which consists of all~~ THE TUITION FUND CONSISTS OF money that ~~may be~~ IS appropriated ~~thereto~~ by the general assembly or that is otherwise made available to it by the general assembly. ~~Money "otherwise made available" includes any repayment of tuition assistance made pursuant to subsection (6) of this section.~~ The money in the fund is continuously appropriated for the payment of tuition ~~assistance~~ WAIVERS as ~~provided~~ DESCRIBED in this section. Any ~~money not expended~~ UNEXPENDED OR UNENCUMBERED MONEY at the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year remains in the fund and ~~shall not be transferred to or revert~~ IS NOT TRANSFERRED TO OR REVERTED to the general fund. ~~of the state.~~ IF ANY MONEY REMAINS IN THE CASH FUND ON OCTOBER 1, 2025, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL, PRIOR TO THE REPEAL OF THE TUITION FUND, TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE TUITION FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.

(c) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2025.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Joint Budget Committee Staff

Memorandum

To:	Members of the Joint Budget Committee
From:	Andrew McLeer, JBC Staff (303-866-4959)
Date:	Friday, March 14, 2025
Subject:	Repeal of Natural Disaster Grant Fund

During figure setting for the Department of Public Health and Environment on February 27, 2025, the Committee approved the drafting of a bill to transfer the remaining balance of the Natural Disaster Grant Fund to the General Fund, estimated at $196,290. Staff is now recommending that this legislation also include the repeal of the Natural Disaster Grant Fund, as it will have no balance and has been inactive since 2015.

Joint Budget Committee Staff

Memorandum

To:	Members of the Joint Budget Committee
From:	Name, JBC Staff (303-866-2026)
Date:	March 14, 2025
Department:	Department of Regulatory Agencies
Subject:	Staff Comeback – Finalizing Appropriation Reductions and Bill Draft

This memo includes the following items:

- Explanation of adjustments to line item details for the Department of Regulatory Agencies
- A bill draft that requires a reduction in fee revenue to the Department of Regulatory Agencies

Staff Initiated Revenue Reductions

The JBC approved a staff initiated reduction of $11.0 million in cash revenue for the Department of Regulatory Agencies. In order to fulfill this reduction, an equivalent reduction in appropriations to the Department is necessary.

Adjusted Staff Recommendation

In collaboration with the Department, staff has reduced the overall recommended reduction to a total of approximately $10.0 million. This reduction includes common policy adjustments and assumptions based on currently pending legislation

New Information

After further discussion with the Department and consideration of current year spending levels, staff is adjusting the recommendation down to a $10.0 million reduction. The updated recommendation considers new information including figures for current year spending and depended understanding of the impact of reducing certain line items. In general, the adjustments to recommended appropriations are an attempt to prevent separations within the Department and reduce anticipated needs for supplemental appropriations.

The table below includes new recommended appropriations as well as the change from the Department's original figure setting presentation. This recommendation, combined with pending legislation that would move approximately $4.3 million into an enterprise, total an overall appropriation reduction of $10.6 million.

Staff Initiated Reduction Adjustments				
Impacted Line Items	Previous Recommendation	Adjusted Recommendation	Change from initial Rec.	Contributing Information
EDO and Admin Services				
Personal Services	$3,436,375	3,628,696	$192,321	Will prevent separations in the EDO
Temporary Employees Related to Authorized Leave	36,163	0	-36,163	New reduction based on Committee conversation
Consumer Outreach/Education	165,000	200,000	35,000	Statutory appropriation; revenue rarely matches spending authority
Division of Banking				
Personal Services	5,032,983	5,135,697	102,714	Prevents separations associated with recent legislation to "right size" department
Operating Expenses	570,266	611,050	40,784	Reflects half of Dept. request connected to current spending levels
Civil Rights Division				
Personal Services	3,437,690	3,676,487	238,797	Original cut presumed reversions from Federal funding; Revised recommendation includes 1% reduction from Department's R1 request
Operating Expenses	164,450	191,858	27,408	Reflects half of Dept. request connected to current spending levels
Division of Financial Services				
Operating Expenses	127,716	132,280	4,564	Reflects half of Dept. request connected to current spending levels
Division of Insurance				
Personal Services	12,511,561	12,705,039	193,478	Prevents separations
Operating Expenses	383,180	399,146	15,966	Reflects half of Dept. request connected to current spending levels
Colorado Reinsurance Program	515,122	765,122	250,000	Aligns with current year spending levels
Public Utilities Commission				
Personal Services	14,708,504	14,853,972	145,468	Ensures a tight margin exists
Operating Expenses	552,424	575,441	23,017	Reflects half of Dept. request connected to current spending levels
Division of Professions and Occupations				
Personal Services	19,599,971	19,829,219	229,248	Prevents separations
Division of Securities				
Personal Services	2,599,198	2,613,111	13,913	Ensures a tight margin exists
Operating Expenses	92,369	93,769	1,400	Reflects half of Dept. request connected to current spending levels

Bill Draft

Attached is a bill draft that includes the legislation to require a reduction in revenue. Based on conversation with the Department, the attached bill requires a $10.0 million reduction based on total revenue subject to TABOR collected in 2024-25. This is $1.0 million less than recommended by staff previously.

Notably, the Department does not support this legislation, arguing that implementation could be challenging due to the large number of fees assessed by the Department and what they consider to be difficulties in terms of defining the revenue being adjusted. Additionally, the Department notes that fee revenue is a function of anticipated expenditures minus existing fund balances. As staff builds a deeper understanding of the functions of the Department, this is an accurate description of how fees are set and revenue is acquired by the Department. Additionally, it is clear that the expenditures from each fund within the Department are typically below their annual appropriation.

While staff acknowledges that the Department has demonstrated fiscal responsibility in their fee setting, it is also true that requiring revenue reduction is the only way to reduce the Department's impact on the availability of General Fund. Considering the budget shortfalls and the ongoing requests for other departments to reduce spending, it is not unreasonable to ask for similar reductions in DORA. Additionally, while the Department has consistently demonstrated their willingness to match revenue to expenditures, creating a statutory requirement to reduce revenue by a certain date could provide confidence for future budget planning.

Based on new information and deeper understanding, staff does acknowledge that requiring this level of revenue reduction could result in programming difficulties for the Department, however it is unclear which specific programs and efforts would be impacted. Because of the Department's *many* regulatory programs required in statute (over 50 in the Division of Professions and Occupations alone), specific impacts are hard to identify. Similarly, DORA is in many ways a self-funded entity separate from other Departments and is focused on upholding only that regulatory programming that is currently in statute. Staff agrees that the proposed revenue reduction would present difficulties in fully upholding current programming. However, by spreading the reductions in revenue out over three fiscal years, it gives the Department time to make renewed recommendations about sun setting programs that the General Assembly has voted to extend in recent years and to realize other cost saving measures, including statewide common policy reductions. Already, these reductions total approximately $1.5 million. Additionally, HB 25-1154 is currently progressing through the legislature and would move an estimated $4.9 million in revenue out from under the TABOR cap. Assuming the success of these measures, these reductions alone represent nearly two-thirds of staff's recommended reduction. Staff believes that there is ample time before FY 2027-28 for the Department to find $3.6 million in reductions to expenditures, as required by the drafted legislation.

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT 3/11/25

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0916.01 Clare Haffner x6137 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Department of Regulatory Agencies Fee Adjustments
DEADLINES: File by: 3/24/2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING REQUIRING THE ADJUSTMENT OF FEES IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The department of regulatory agencies (department) consists of several divisions, which divisions charge certain fees to cover the direct and indirect costs of each division's respective functions.

The bill requires each division that imposes fees to adjust the fees for the 2025-26 state fiscal year through the 2027-28 state fiscal year so

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

that the department's total revenue amount for the 2027-28 state fiscal year is at least $10 million less than the sum of the department's total revenue amount for the 2025-26 state fiscal year, plus inflation costs and any new revenue that results from legislation passed through the 2027-28 state fiscal year.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-34-113 as follows:

24-34-113. Fee adjustments - revenue reduction - repeal. (1) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, A DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT THAT IMPOSES AND COLLECTS FEES AND ASSESSMENTS PURSUANT TO TITLE 10, 11, 12, OR 40 SHALL ADJUST THE FEE AND ASSESSMENT AMOUNTS SO THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR IS AT LEAST TEN MILLION DOLLARS LESS THAN THE SUM OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TOTAL REVENUE THAT IS SUBJECT TO SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION FROM THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR, PLUS COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INFLATION AND ANY NEW REVENUE THAT RESULTS FROM LEGISLATION PASSED THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR.

(2) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-1-108, **add** (14) as follows:

10-1-108. Duties of commissioner - reports - publications - fees - disposition of funds - adoption of rules - examinations and investigations - repeal. (14) (a) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT OF EACH FEE COLLECTED BY THE DIVISION

PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE 10 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (14) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 11-44-101.7, **add** (9) as follows:

11-44-101.7. Powers of the financial services board - repeal. (9) (a) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH FEES AND ASSESSMENTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(f) OF THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 11-51-707, **add** (3)(d) as follows:

11-51-707. Collection of fees - division of securities cash fund created - repeal. (3) (d) (I) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE DIVISION SHALL SET THE AMOUNT OF EACH FEE THAT IT IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO COLLECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (3)(d) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 11-102-401, **add** (3) as follows:

11-102-401. Assessments - repeal. (3) (a) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE BANKING BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH FEES AND ASSESSMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-10-215, **add** (2)(d) as follows:

12-10-215. Fee adjustments - cash fund created - repeal. (2) (d) (I) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE DIVISION SHALL PROPOSE AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF EACH FEE THAT IT IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO COLLECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(d) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-15-108 as follows:

12-15-108. Fee adjustments - repeal. (1) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE DIVISION SHALL PRESCRIBE THE FEES DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 12-15-104 (3) AND 12-15-106 (6) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(2) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-105, **add** (2)(c) as follows:

12-20-105. Fee adjustments - division of professions and occupations cash fund created - legal defense account created - general fund transfer - definition - repeal. (2) (c) (I) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE DIRECTOR SHALL PROPOSE AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF EACH FEE THAT EACH REGULATOR IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO COLLECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-2-112, **add** (3) as follows:

40-2-112. Computation of fees - repeal. (3) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION IN THIS SECTION, FOR

THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES SHALL FIX THE AMOUNT OF EACH FEE THAT IT IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO COLLECT PURSUANT TO THIS TITLE 40 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-10.1-111, **add** (5) as follows:

40-10.1-111. Filing, issuance, and annual fees - fee setting by the commission - repeal. (5) (a) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-28 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT OF FEES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-34-113 (1).

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2029.

SECTION 11. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/16/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0967.01 Jason Gelender x4330 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Property Tax Deferral Program Administration

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REPEALING THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE TREASURER TO CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE STATE TREASURER. <{***This is a broad title that would allow amendments to modify the current "just get rid of contracting authority" approach. A much tighter title can be drafted if that's the committee's preference.***}>

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. Effective July 1, 2025, the bill repeals the authority of the state treasurer to contract with a third party to administer the property tax deferral program on behalf of the state treasurer.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-3.5-101, **repeal** (2.5) as follows:

39-3.5-101. Definitions. As used in this article 3.5, unless the context otherwise requires:

(2.5) ~~"State treasurer" includes a third-party administrator that enters into a contract with the state treasurer to administer the property tax deferral program created in this article 3.5 in accordance with section 39-3.5-103.5 (2).~~

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-3.5-103.5, **repeal** (2) as follows:

39-3.5-103.5. State treasurer - program administration - rules. (2) ~~The state treasurer may contract with a third party to administer the property tax deferral program on behalf of the state treasurer.~~

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 39-3.5-108 as follows:

39-3.5-108. Notice to taxpayer regarding duty to claim deferral annually. As soon as practicable after January 1, the state treasurer shall send a deferral notice to any taxpayer who has claimed a deferral of property taxes in the previous calendar year. The deferral notice must be substantially in the following form:

To: (name of taxpayer)

If you want to defer the collection of ad valorem property taxes on your homestead for the assessment year ending on December 31, __, you must file a claim for deferral not later than April 1, ___, with (state treasurer). ~~or the name of third-party administrator, if applicable).~~ Forms for filing the claims are available at (website and mailing address for state treasurer). ~~or third-party administrator, if applicable).~~

If you fail to file your claim for deferral on or before April 1, __, your real property taxes will be due and payable in accordance with the schedule set out in the tax notice you separately received from your county treasurer.

If you change your permanent address at any time during the assessment year ending on December 31, ___, you must notify the state treasurer promptly.

SECTION 4. Effective date. This act takes effect July 1, 2025.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/15/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0998.01 Michael Dohr x4347 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Repeal Inclusive Higher Ed Act
DEADLINES: File by: 3/10/2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF THE "INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT".

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill repeals the "Inclusive Higher Education Act".

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

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** article 80 of title 23.

SECTION 2. Effective date. This act takes effect July 1, 2025.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/16/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-1001.01 Alana Rosen x2606 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: FY 2024-25 Supplemental Approps & Student Fin Aid

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING EXEMPTING 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FROM ANNUAL APPROPRIATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill exempts 2024-25 state fiscal year supplemental appropriations for student financial aid from annual appropriation requirements for student financial assistance.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-3.3-103, **add** (23) as follows:

23-3.3-103. Annual appropriations - repeal. (23) (a) SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE 3.3, DOES NOT APPLY TO SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ENACTED DURING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR.

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (23) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/17/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0910.01 Megan McCall x4215 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Housing Dev Grant Fund Admin Costs

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING MODIFICATION OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIVISION OF HOUSING TO EXPEND MONEY FROM THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. Current law continuously appropriates to the division of housing (division) within the department of local affairs money from the housing development grant fund (fund) and allows the division to expend 3% of the money in the fund for the administrative costs of the division in administering the fund. Beginning in state fiscal

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Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

year 2025-26, the bill increases the percentage of money in the fund that the division may expend for administrative costs to 4% and makes expenditure of money from the fund for administrative costs subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-721, **amend** (1) and (3)(b); and **add** (3)(b.5) as follows:

24-32-721. Colorado affordable housing construction grants and loans - housing development grant fund - creation - housing assistance for persons with behavioral, mental health, or substance use disorders - cash fund - appropriation - report to general assembly - rules - definitions - repeal. (1) There is created in the state treasury the housing development grant fund, which fund is administered by the division and is referred to in this section as the "fund". The fund consists of money credited to the fund in accordance with section 39-26-123 (3)(b); money transferred to the fund in accordance with section 24-22-118 (2); money transferred to the fund from the ARPA refinance state money cash fund pursuant to section 24-75-226.5; money appropriated to the fund by the general assembly; all money transferred to the fund from the marijuana tax cash fund created in section 39-28.8-501 (1) and any other cash fund maintained by the state; all money transferred to the fund from the general fund and the revenue loss restoration cash fund created in section 24-75-227 (2) pursuant to subsections (6) and (7) of this section; all money collected by the division for purposes of this section from federal grants, from other contributions, gifts, grants, and donations received from any other organization, entity, or individual, public or private; and from any fees or interest earned on such money. The division is authorized and directed to solicit, accept, expend, and disburse all money collected for the fund from the sources specified in this subsection (1) for the purpose of making grants, loans, or other forms of assistance that may be awarded under section 24-32-721.7 and for program administration as provided in this section. All such money must be transmitted to the state treasurer to be credited to the fund. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b.5) OF THIS SECTION, the money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the division for the purposes of this section.

(3) (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the division, in its discretion, may transfer twenty percent of the balance of the money in the fund into the housing investment trust fund established in section 24-32-717 (1)(a), which balance is calculated as of July 1 of the state fiscal year in which the money is transferred. For any given state fiscal year BEFORE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26, no more than three percent of the money appropriated or transferred to the fund may be expended for the administrative costs of the division in administering the fund.

(b.5) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGINNING IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26, FOR ANY GIVEN STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE DIVISION MAY EXPEND UP TO FOUR PERCENT OF THE MONEY APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE DIVISION IN ADMINISTERING THE FUND.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/16/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0973.01 Shelby Ross x4510 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Repeal the Adult Dental Fund
DEADLINES: File by: 3/17/2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING REPEALING THE ADULT DENTAL FUND.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill repeals the adult dental fund (fund) which consists of money transferred to the fund from the unclaimed property trust fund. On June 30, 2025, the bill requires the state treasurer to transfer the unexpended and unencumbered balance of the fund to the unclaimed property trust fund.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-5-207, **add** (4)(d) as follows:

25.5-5-207. Adult dental benefit - adult dental fund - creation - legislative declaration - repeal. (4) (d) (I) ON JUNE 30, 2025, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER THE UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED BALANCE OF THE ADULT DENTAL FUND TO THE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY TRUST FUND CREATED IN SECTION 38-13-801.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-13-801, **repeal** (2)(d)(II) and (3)(a) as follows:

38-13-801. Unclaimed property trust fund - creation - payments - interest - appropriations - records - rules. (2) (d) The following amounts constitute fiscal year spending for purposes of section 20 of article X of the state constitution:

(II) ~~Any money that is credited to the adult dental fund created in section 25.5-5-207 (4) as required by subsection (3) of this section;~~

(3) (a) ~~After reserving the amounts described in subsection (3)(b) of this section, the state treasurer shall transmit to the adult dental fund created in section 25.5-5-207 (4) an amount of principal and interest in the trust fund sufficient to implement the adult dental benefit pursuant to section 25.5-5-202 (1)(w).~~

SECTION 3. Effective date. Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1, 2025, and the remainder of this act takes effect on passage.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/14/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0977.01 Chelsea Princell x4335 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Implementation of Continuous Eligibility Coverage

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN AND ELIGIBLE ADULTS RECEIVING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under current law, the department of health care policy and financing must implement continuous eligibility coverage requirements for children and eligible adults receiving medical assistance by January 1, 2026. The bill delays the date of implementation to January 1, 2028.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-5-335, **amend** (7)(e) as follows:

25.5-5-335. Continuous medical coverage for children and adults feasibility study - federal authorization - rules - report - definition. (7) (e) Upon approval of the federal authorization sought pursuant to this subsection (7), the state department shall implement the continuous eligibility coverage requirements pursuant to this subsection (7) by ~~January 1, 2026~~ JANUARY 1, 2028. In implementing the continuous eligibility requirements of this section, the state department shall take all necessary steps to relieve the obligation of the state department and counties to promptly evaluate information that does not affect eligibility for continuous coverage cases under this section, unless required for program administration or as approved by the federal authorization.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/15/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0978.01 Chelsea Princell x4335 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Reimbursement for Community Health Workers

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under current law, community health workers may be reimbursed through the Colorado medical assistance program as long as the community health worker appears on the voluntary competency-based community health worker registry verifying that the community health worker completed state-approved training and credentialing requirements.

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The bill eliminates reimbursement for community health workers under the Colorado medical assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-20.5-112, **amend** (2); and **repeal** (3) as follows:

25-20.5-112. Voluntary competency-based community health worker registry - requirements - rules - definition. (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "voluntary competency-based community health worker registry" means the registry in the department that lists individuals who have completed state-approved training and credentialing requirements based on competency statements that represent generalist entry-level core competencies for unlicensed community health workers.

(2) A community health worker must complete a state-approved training program that meets credentialing requirements based on competency statements that represent generalist entry-level core competencies for unlicensed community health workers and ~~must~~ MAY be listed on the department's voluntary competency-based community health worker registry. ~~in order to be reimbursed through the state medical assistance program for providing community health worker covered services to a medicaid member.~~

(3) ~~Participation in the voluntary competency-based community health worker registry is not required for community health workers who do not seek reimbursement through medicaid.~~

(4) The department shall promulgate rules pursuant to this article 20.5 as necessary to implement and administer the voluntary competency-based community health worker registry.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 25.5-5-334.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

DRAFT
3/14/25

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT

LLS NO. 25-0979.01 Shelby Ross x4510 **COMMITTEE BILL**

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Repeal Medicaid Reimbursement for Equine Therapy
DEADLINES: File by: 3/14/2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING REPEALING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR THERAPY USING EQUINE MOVEMENT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.

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/.)

Joint Budget Committee. Current law authorizes medicaid reimbursement for therapy using equine movement provided by a licensed physical therapist, a licensed occupational therapist, or a certified speech-language pathologist. The bill repeals this provision and reduces the appropriation to the department of health care policy and financing by

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$198,014.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 25.5-5-332.

SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2025 long bill. (1) To implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year to the department of health care policy and financing for medical and long-term care services for medicaid eligible individuals is decreased by $198,014.

(2) The decrease of the appropriations in subsection (1) of this section is based on the assumption that the anticipated amount of federal funds received for the 2025-26 state fiscal year by the department of health care policy and financing for medical and long-term care services for medicaid eligible individuals will decrease by $198,014.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.