



Joint Budget Committee Staff

Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee Members
From: Kelly Shen, JBC Staff (303-866-5434)
Date: Thursday, March 20, 2025
Subject: [JBC Potential Legislation – Packet 15](#)

This packet includes bill drafts for the Committee’s consideration. Unless otherwise indicated by the JBC analyst, **these bills are seeking approval for introduction**. This includes:

- deciding on sponsors,
- allowing JBC staff permission to make technical changes including adding appropriation clauses, and
- indicating if the bill will run with the Long Bill package.

Each individual item has page numbers, but also a packet page number (P-XX) to help navigate the whole document.

Potential Legislation

Healthcare Policy and Financing

LLS 25-0977 Delay Continuous Eligibility (Kurtz)	P-1
LLS 25-0978 Repeal Reimbursement for Community Health Workers (Kurtz)	P-3
LLS 25-0979 Repeal Equine Therapy (Kurtz)	P-6

Education

LLS 25-0939 Social Studies Assessment (Bickel)	P-8
LLS 25-0940 Permissible CDE Uses of Sch Transformation Grants (Bickel)	P-11

Department of Corrections

LLS 25-0893 DOC Inmate Phone Costs.....	P-13
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First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/14/25

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

101 **CONCERNING THE DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTINUOUS**
102 **ELIGIBILITY COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN AND ELIGIBLE ADULTS**
103 **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.

*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, 25.5-5-335, **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.

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/15/25

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

101 **CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH**
102 **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.

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

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

4 **25-20.5-112. Voluntary competency-based community health**
5 **worker registry - requirements - rules - definition.** (1) As used in this
6 section, unless the context otherwise requires, "voluntary
7 competency-based community health worker registry" means the registry
8 in the department that lists individuals who have completed
9 state-approved training and credentialing requirements based on
10 competency statements that represent generalist entry-level core
11 competencies for unlicensed community health workers.

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

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

23 (4) The department shall promulgate rules pursuant to this article
24 20.5 as necessary to implement and administer the voluntary
25 competency-based community health worker registry.

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

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

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/14/25

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

101 **CONCERNING REPEALING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR THERAPY**
102 **USING EQUINE MOVEMENT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **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.

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/7/25

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LLS NO. 25-0939.01 Michael Dohr x4347

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Social Studies Assessment

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE**
102 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ADMINISTER A STATE ASSESSMENT**
103 **IN SOCIAL STUDIES.**

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 eliminates the requirement that the department of education administer a state assessment in social studies to elementary and secondary students.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1006.3, **amend**
3 (1)(a) introductory portion; and **repeal** (1)(a)(III) as follows:

4 **22-7-1006.3. State assessments - administration - rules -**
5 **definitions.** (1) (a) Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the department
6 of education, in collaboration with local education providers, shall
7 administer the state assessments in the instructional areas of English
8 language arts, mathematics, AND science, ~~and social studies~~, as adopted
9 by the state board pursuant to section 22-7-1006, as follows:

10 ~~(III) The department shall administer a state assessment in social~~
11 ~~studies to students enrolled in public elementary and middle schools~~
12 ~~throughout the state. The department shall select the specific grades in~~
13 ~~which to administer the state social studies assessment, ensuring that~~
14 ~~students take the state social studies assessment once in elementary~~
15 ~~school and once in middle school. The department shall administer the~~
16 ~~social studies assessment required by this subsection (1)(a)(III) in a~~
17 ~~representative sample of public schools each school year, ensuring that it~~
18 ~~administers the social studies assessment in each public school at least~~
19 ~~once every three years. A school district, for one or more of the schools~~
20 ~~of the school district that are not included in the representative sample, or~~
21 ~~a charter school that is not included in the representative sample, may~~
22 ~~request that the department administer the assessment in the district~~
23 ~~school or charter school. The department shall administer the social~~
24 ~~studies assessment in the requested school in the school year following~~
25 ~~the school year in which it receives the request.~~

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-95.5-203, **amend**
27 (2)(a)(I)(C) as follows:

1 **22-95.5-203. Eligibility - application - use of grant money -**
2 **report.** (2) (a) A local education provider is eligible for the grant
3 program if the local education provider automatically enrolls each student
4 entering the ninth grade or higher in an advanced course based on any of
5 the following criteria:

6 (I) The student achieved a score that is equivalent to, or exceeds,
7 demonstrating proficiency on the state assessment that was administered
8 pursuant to section 22-7-1006.3 for the preceding academic year, referred
9 to in this section as an "eligible score", as follows:

10 (C) Students who achieve an eligible score in a subject related to
11 science ~~or social studies~~ must be automatically enrolled in advanced
12 courses in science; ~~or social studies~~; or

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

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/13/25

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LLS NO. 25-0940.01 Jacob Baus x2173

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Permissible CDE Uses of Sch Transformation Grants

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S PERMISSIBLE USE OF**
102 **MONEY THAT IS APPROPRIATED FOR THE SCHOOL**
103 **TRANSFORMATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

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 authorizes the department of education to expend money appropriated for school transformation grants:

- On costs incurred in administering the grant program; and
- To contract with a public or private entity to provide permissible grant uses to multiple school districts or charter

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schools that are eligible for a grant.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-13-105, **add** (6)
3 as follows:

4 **22-13-105. School transformation grants - application -**
5 **awards - report.** (6) (a) OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR
6 SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION GRANTS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND AN
7 AMOUNT THAT IS NECESSARY TO OFFSET THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS
8 INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM.

9 (b) OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FOR SCHOOL
10 TRANSFORMATION GRANTS, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND AN AMOUNT
11 THAT IS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE CONTRACTS WITH A
12 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY TO PROVIDE THE USES DESCRIBED IN
13 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION TO MULTIPLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR
14 CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION
15 GRANT. THE ENTITY SHALL USE RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES AND HAVE
16 A PROVEN RECORD OF SUCCESS WORKING WITH SCHOOLS UNDER SIMILAR
17 CIRCUMSTANCES. THE ENTITY MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT
18 AND THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS OR INSTITUTE, AS APPLICABLE.

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

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/21/25

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LLS NO. 25-0893.01 Michael Dohr x4347

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: DOC Inmate Phone Costs

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE AMOUNT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**
102 **COVERS FOR PENAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES, AND, IN**
103 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING 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. Under current law, beginning July 1, 2025, the department of corrections is required to cover 100% of all inmate phone call costs. The bill changes the amount the department of corrections is required to cover to 75% of all inmate phone call costs. The bill appropriates \$1,434,634 from the general fund to the department of

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corrections for inmate telephone calls.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-42-103, **amend**
3 (1.5) introductory portion and (1.5)(c) as follows:

4 **17-42-103. Policies concerning inmates' use of telephones -**
5 **excessive rates prohibited - transparency of communications services**
6 **in correctional facilities - report - definitions.** (1.5) In administering
7 the use of penal communications services pursuant to subsection (1) of
8 this section, access to penal communications services must not be limited
9 beyond what is necessary for routine facility operations. The department
10 shall provide penal communications services, excluding video calls or
11 electronic mail or messaging, ~~free of charge~~ to the person initiating and
12 the person receiving the penal communications service, and implement
13 the provision of ~~free~~ penal communication services, excluding video calls
14 or electronic mail or messaging, according to the following timeline:

15 (c) Beginning July 1, 2025, and thereafter, the department shall
16 cover ~~one hundred~~ SEVENTY-FIVE percent of all penal communication
17 costs.

18 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
19 \$1,434,634 is appropriated to the department of corrections for use by
20 institutions. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement
21 this act, the institutions may use this appropriation for inmate telephone
22 calls.

23 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for

- 1 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 2 institutions.