

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0766.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

HOUSE BILL 26-1229

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Taggart and Feret,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH DISPARITIES AND**
102 **COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM TO CONSIDER THE**
103 **HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH.**

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>.)

The bill amends the definition of "social determinants of health" to acknowledge the human-animal bond as a life-enhancing resource that impacts the length and quality of human life. The change authorizes, but does not require, the health disparities and community grant program to direct funds to programs that support the human-animal bond.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2202, **amend**
3 (4.5); and **add** (3.8) and (4.2) as follows:

4 **25-4-2202. Definitions.**

5 As used in this part 22, unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (3.8) "HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND" MEANS THE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL AND A PET ANIMAL WITHIN THE
8 INDIVIDUAL'S CARE AND CUSTODY.

9 (4.2) "PET ANIMAL" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
10 35-80-102 (10).

11 (4.5) "Social determinants of health" means life-enhancing
12 resources, such as food, housing, economic and social relationships,
13 transportation, education, ~~and~~ health care, AND THE HUMAN-ANIMAL
14 BOND, whose distribution across populations effectively determines the
15 length and quality of life.

16 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
17 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
18 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
19 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
20 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
21 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
22 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
23 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
24 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
25 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.