

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.