

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

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0855.03 Lindy Schaible x4215

HOUSE BILL 26-1373

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Brown and Sirota, Taggart,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Kirkmeyer, Bridges

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REDUCING MONTHLY SUBSIDY REIMBURSEMENT**
102 **PERCENTAGES FOR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDER**
103 **CONTRACTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN**
104 **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 specifies monthly subsidy payment reimbursement limits for the adoption assistance program and the relative guardianship assistance program that apply to contracts that

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.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 15, 2026

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 11, 2026

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 9, 2026

take effect July 1, 2026, or later.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-5-104, **amend**
3 (1)(b) as follows:

4 **26-5-104. Funding of child welfare services provider contracts**
5 **- funding mechanism review - fund - report - rules - definitions.**

6 (1) **Reimbursement.**

7 (b) (I) The state department shall reimburse the county
8 departments ninety percent of the amounts expended by county
9 departments for adoption and relative guardianship assistance and is
10 authorized to make an expenditure in excess of appropriations pursuant
11 to section 24-75-109 (1)(b). The adoption and relative guardianship
12 assistance programs are exempt from the close-out process described in
13 subsection (7) of this section and the capped allocation described in
14 subsection (3) of this section. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS SUBSECTION
15 (1)(b)(I), THE REIMBURSEMENT RATES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTIONS
16 (1)(b)(II) AND (1)(b)(III) OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO NEGOTIATIONS AND
17 CONTRACTS THAT TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2026, OR LATER.

18 (II) FOR THE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, MONTHLY SUBSIDY
19 PAYMENTS MUST NOT EXCEED:

20 (A) FIFTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO ARE
21 UNDER NINE YEARS OLD;

22 (B) FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO
23 ARE NINE YEARS OLD OR OLDER BUT UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OLD; AND

24 (C) SIXTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO ARE
25 FOURTEEN YEARS OLD OR OLDER.

1 (III) FOR THE RELATIVE GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
2 MONTHLY SUBSIDY PAYMENTS MUST NOT EXCEED:

3 (A) SIXTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO ARE
4 UNDER NINE YEARS OLD;

5 (B) SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO
6 ARE NINE YEARS OLD OR OLDER BUT UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OLD; AND

7 (C) SEVENTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO
8 ARE FOURTEEN YEARS OLD OR OLDER.

9 (IV) (A) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026, SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN
10 SECTION 26-7-102 (10), ARE NOT REIMBURSABLE EXCEPT FOR
11 NONRECURRING ADOPTION EXPENSES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-7-106
12 (2)(c).

13 (B) CONTRACTS MUST NOT BE RENEGOTIATED SOLELY BECAUSE OF
14 THE REIMBURSEMENT CHANGE IN SUBSECTION (1)(b)(IV)(A) OF THIS
15 SECTION.

16 (C) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE A STANDARDIZED
17 NOTICE FOR FAMILIES CURRENTLY RECEIVING SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN
18 SECTION 26-7-102 (10), THAT DESCRIBES THE REIMBURSEMENT CHANGE
19 IN SUBSECTION (1)(b)(IV)(A) OF THIS SECTION. THE STANDARDIZED
20 NOTICE MUST ALLOW A COUNTY TO ADD INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THEIR
21 JURISDICTION. EACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE NOTICE,
22 NO LATER THAN JUNE 15, 2026, TO ALL FAMILIES CURRENTLY RECEIVING
23 SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-7-102 (10).

24 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

25 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, to implement this
26 act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general
27 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of

1 human services for adoption and relative guardianship assistance is
2 decreased by \$2,199,750.

3 (2) The cash funds appropriation made in the annual general
4 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of
5 human services for adoption and relative guardianship assistance is
6 decreased by \$407,295. This appropriation is from local funds and is
7 subject to the "(I)" notation as defined in the annual general appropriation
8 act for the same fiscal year.

9 (3) The federal funds anticipated to be received for the 2026-27
10 state fiscal year by the department of human services for adoption and
11 relative guardianship will decrease by \$1,339,336. This figure is subject
12 to the "(I)" notation as defined in the general appropriation act for the
13 same fiscal year.

14 (4) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of
15 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27
16 state fiscal year if:

17 (a) The amount of the general fund appropriation made in the
18 annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
19 department of human services for adoption and relative guardianship
20 assistance is less than the amount of the adjustment required in subsection
21 (1) of this section; or

22 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
23 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of human
24 services for adoption and relative guardianship assistance.

25 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
26 except that section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
27 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which

1 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
2 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever
3 is later.

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