

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

REREVISED

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

LLS NO. 26-0856.01 Lindy Schaible x4215

HOUSE BILL 26-1374

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Taggart, Brown,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Bridges, Kirkmeyer

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING KINSHIP CARE FUNDING PROVISIONS.**

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 financial assistance and supports to county departments of human or social services (county departments) for non-certified kinship care homes. The bill also eliminates reimbursement to county departments for non-certified kinship care homes and removes the exemption for the kinship foster care and the non-certified kinship care rates from the state fiscal year close-out process.

The bill makes reimbursement to county departments for kinship

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
3rd Reading Unamended
April 16, 2026

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 15, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 3rd Reading
April 11, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 9, 2026

foster care subject to available appropriations and specifies that counties are not required to provide financial assistance and supports for non-certified kinship care homes.

Existing law requires the state department of human services to annually report to the joint budget committee on the implementation of non-certified kinship care homes. The bill changes the report's focus to certified kinship care homes. The bill removes consideration of maintaining financial support for a non-certified kinship care home from the reasons that may not be used to delay youth placement permanency planning.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6-904.5, **amend**
3 **(2) and (3); and add (8) as follows:**

4 **26-6-904.5. Kinship foster care homes - certification and**
5 **revocation of certification - financial assistance and supports -**
6 **training - interagency resource data - report - rules - repeal.**

7 (2) **CERTIFIED** kinship foster care homes are eligible for financial
8 reimbursement and supports at the same rate as foster care homes, as
9 established in rules ~~promulgated~~ **ADOPTED** by the state board of human
10 services. ~~Non-certified kinship care homes are eligible for financial~~
11 ~~assistance and supports at thirty percent of the foster care rate, based on~~
12 ~~the age of the child or youth receiving care. Beginning in state fiscal year~~
13 ~~2026-27, non-certified kinship care homes are eligible for financial~~
14 ~~assistance and support at fifty percent of the foster care rate, based on the~~
15 ~~age of the child or youth receiving care. Funding to cover financial~~
16 ~~assistance and supports comes from the revenue stream identified in~~
17 ~~subsection (3) of this section.~~

18 (3) (a) The state department shall, **SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE**
19 **APPROPRIATIONS**, reimburse the county departments ninety percent of the
20 amounts expended by county departments for **CERTIFIED** kinship foster

1 care and non-certified kinship care daily rates to support financial
2 assistance. The kinship foster care rate and non-certified kinship care rate
3 are exempt from the close-out process described in section 26-5-104 (3).

4 (b) For state fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26, the general
5 assembly may appropriate money from the Colorado long-term works
6 reserve, created in section 26-2-721, for the purposes of providing the
7 funding required by subsection (2) of this section.

8 (c) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE
9 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTS FOR NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE,
10 EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 475 OF THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY
11 ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 675, OR SECTIONS 19-3-208 AND 19-3-403 (3.6)(c)
12 AND (9).

13 (8) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE A STANDARDIZED
14 NOTICE FOR NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE PROVIDERS REGARDING THE
15 DISCONTINUATION OF NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE ASSISTANCE. THE
16 NOTICE MUST SPECIFY THE DATE NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE
17 ASSISTANCE ENDS AND PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE OPTION
18 FOR THE NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE PROVIDER TO BECOME A CERTIFIED
19 KINSHIP CARE PROVIDER, IF ELIGIBLE, INCLUDING THE OPTION FOR
20 PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION. EACH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR
21 SOCIAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE THE NOTICE, NO LATER THAN JUNE 15,
22 2026, TO ALL NON-CERTIFIED KINSHIP FOSTER CARE HOMES CURRENTLY
23 RECEIVING MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-702, **amend** (3)
25 introductory portion as follows:

26 **19-3-702. Permanency hearing.**

27 (3) At any permanency planning hearing, the court shall first

1 determine if the child or youth should be returned to the child's or youth's
2 parent, named guardian, or legal custodian and, if applicable, the date on
3 which the child or youth must be returned. If the child or youth cannot be
4 returned home, the court shall also determine whether reasonable efforts
5 have been made to find a safe and stable permanent home for the child or
6 youth. The court shall not delay permanency planning by considering the
7 placement of children or youth together as a sibling group or for purposes
8 of maintaining financial support for a CERTIFIED kinship foster care home,
9 ~~or a non-certified kinship care home~~; unless there are exceptional
10 circumstances approved by the court. At any permanency planning
11 hearing, the court shall make the following determinations, when
12 applicable:

13 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-403, **amend**
14 (3.6)(a)(IV) introductory portion and (3.6)(a)(IV)(B) as follows:

15 **19-3-403. Temporary custody - hearing - time limits -**
16 **restriction - rules.**

17 (3.6) (a) (IV) The court shall order a county department of human
18 ~~or social services~~ to exercise due diligence to contact all grandparents and
19 other adult relatives and identified kin within thirty days after the removal
20 of the child or youth and to inform them about placement possibilities for
21 the child or youth, unless the court determines there is good cause not to
22 contact or good cause to delay contacting the child's or youth's relatives
23 and kin, including, but not limited to, family or domestic violence.

24 (B) The notice must include information about providing care for
25 the child or youth while the family receives reunification services, with
26 the goal of returning the child or youth to the parent or legal guardian; the
27 relative's right to intervene in the proceedings with or without an attorney

1 following adjudication; and additional services and supports that are
2 available in out-of-home placements. The notice must also include
3 information regarding the state's entitlement plans, including, but not
4 limited to, child care assistance, supplemental nutritional assistance
5 programs, the relative guardianship assistance program, child-only
6 eligibility for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), and
7 adoption assistance, as well as other options for contact. Information
8 about family foster care certification, including how to ~~request a variance~~
9 ~~from certification standards that do not present a safety or health risk to~~
10 ~~the child or youth in the home~~ OBTAIN A PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION, and
11 supports that are available for relatives and kin and children or youth and
12 what background checks are required, as well as how relatives or kin may
13 request the court review decisions to deny placement based on
14 background checks and why certification as a kinship foster home may be
15 denied, must also be provided in the notice.

16 **SECTION 4. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
17 except that section 26-6-904.5 (2) and (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, as
18 amended in section 1 of this act, and section 2 of this act take effect on
19 July 1, 2026.

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