

## CHAPTER 170

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**HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES**

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HOUSE BILL 26-1373

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brown and Sirota, Taggart, Gilchrist;  
also SENATOR(S) Amabile and Kirkmeyer, Bridges.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING REDUCING MONTHLY SUBSIDY REIMBURSEMENT PERCENTAGES FOR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDER CONTRACTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

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

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

**(1) Reimbursement.**

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

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

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

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, to implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of human services for adoption and relative guardianship assistance is decreased by \$2,199,750.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 4. 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.

Approved: May 27, 2026