

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 17-1027.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 17-292

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Lundberg, Lambert, Moreno

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rankin, Hamner, Young

Senate Committees
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
102 **WITH WAGES PROGRAM FOR QUALIFYING COLORADO WORKS**
103 **BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
104 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN 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 directs the department of human services (department) to work with counties and the Colorado work force development council to develop program and reporting

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

requirements for an employment opportunities with wages program (employment program). The department shall seek input from community-based organizations and businesses when creating the employment program.

The department is authorized and directed to contract with an independent entity to evaluate the employment program to annually assess its efficacy and effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Colorado works program. A final evaluation report must be completed on or before October 1, 2020.

The department is required to submit 3 annual reports to the joint budget committee and joint health and human services committee, beginning October 15, 2018.

The employment program is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-706.6, **add** (9)
3 as follows:

4 **26-2-706.6. Payments and services under Colorado works -**
5 **rules - repeal.** (9) **Colorado works subsidized employment.** (a) ON OR
6 BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2017, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN
7 COORDINATION WITH COUNTIES AND THE COLORADO WORK FORCE
8 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
9 THIS SUBSECTION (9), DEVELOP PROGRAM AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS,
10 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO GOALS, PARAMETERS, ALLOWABLE USES
11 OF FUNDING, AND AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR AN EMPLOYMENT
12 OPPORTUNITIES WITH WAGES PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION
13 (9) AS THE "EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM". THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL
14 SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES
15 WHEN CREATING THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

16 (b) THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO ASSIST
17 PARTICIPANTS IN ATTAINING LIVING-WAGE, PERMANENT JOBS BY FUNDING

1 EVIDENCE-BASED SUBSIDIZED WAGES OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING
2 SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT, APPRENTICESHIPS, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING,
3 TRANSITIONAL JOBS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS THAT DIRECTLY
4 SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS TIED TO A WAGE, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE
5 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PHASE. AN ENTITY, INCLUDING A COUNTY
6 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES, A WORKFORCE CENTER, OR
7 A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION, MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE
8 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. WHEN APPLYING FOR FUNDING FROM THE
9 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION MUST
10 DEMONSTRATE IN ITS PROPOSAL COLLABORATION WITH COUNTY
11 DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES OR WORKFORCE CENTERS,
12 AS WELL AS PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR
13 DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE COUNTY OR
14 COUNTIES IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION INTENDS TO
15 IMPLEMENT THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. ANY ORGANIZATION IN
16 COLORADO MAY APPLY FOR FUNDS FROM THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IF
17 IT MEETS THE PROGRAM PARAMETERS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO
18 SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF THIS SECTION. THE GOAL OF THE EMPLOYMENT
19 PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT ALL REGIONS OF THE STATE.

20 (c) PARTICIPANTS MAY BEGIN ENROLLING IN THE EMPLOYMENT
21 PROGRAM AS SOON AS IT IS DEVELOPED, BUT NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1,
22 2018. THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CEASES OPERATING ON JUNE 30, 2020.

23 (d) WAGES EARNED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE EMPLOYMENT
24 PROGRAM DO NOT COUNT AS INCOME FOR THE PURPOSES OF COLORADO
25 WORKS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT DETERMINATION, AS DEFINED
26 IN THIS SECTION.

27 (e) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY ANNUALLY USE UP TO THE

1 EQUIVALENT OF TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY
2 APPROPRIATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM TO CONTRACT WITH A
3 QUALIFIED, INDEPENDENT ENTITY TO EVALUATE THE EMPLOYMENT
4 PROGRAM. THE EVALUATION MUST INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE SUCCESS
5 OF PARTICIPANTS IN GAINING PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT AND ACHIEVING
6 NEW SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS. THE INDEPENDENT ENTITY SHALL ALSO
7 EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN FILLING JOBS
8 IN INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH WORKER SHORTAGES AND INCREASING THE
9 NUMBER OF COLORADO WORKS PARTICIPANTS FINDING NEW EMPLOYMENT
10 IN LIVING-WAGE JOBS. THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION MUST BE
11 DEVELOPED TOGETHER WITH THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM DESIGN AND
12 ANNUALLY ASSESS THE EFFICACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
13 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COLORADO
14 WORKS PROGRAM, THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES ACHIEVED,
15 AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL EFFORTS. THE FINAL
16 EVALUATION REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1,
17 2020.

18 (f) (I) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2018, AND ON OR BEFORE
19 OCTOBER 15, 2019, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL
20 REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO THE JOINT HEALTH AND
21 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE
22 ANNUAL REPORT MUST INCLUDE DETAILS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION
23 OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND OUTCOMES ACHIEVED THROUGH THE
24 INVESTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL
25 YEAR. THE FIRST INDEPENDENT EVALUATION COMPLETED PURSUANT TO
26 SUBSECTION (9)(e) OF THIS SECTION MUST ACCOMPANY THE ANNUAL
27 REPORT SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2019.

1 (II) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2020, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2 SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE FINAL INDEPENDENT
3 EVALUATION COMPLETED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(e) OF THIS
4 SECTION, TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO THE JOINT HEALTH
5 AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

6 (g) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
7 2021.

8 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2017-18 state fiscal year,
9 \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use
10 by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from federal
11 temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds. To implement
12 this act, the office may use the appropriation for a subsidized employment
13 program for qualifying Colorado works program basic cash assistance
14 recipients.

15 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
18 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
23 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.