

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 19-1011.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 19-230

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Moreno,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE COLORADO REFUGEE SERVICES PROGRAM.**

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 codifies the existing Colorado refugee services program (program) that is administered by the state department of human services (department) pursuant to a 1994 executive order. The executive order designates the department as the state agency responsible for the development, review, and administration of Colorado's refugee services plan (state plan), in accordance with Title IV of the federal "Immigration and Nationality Act", as amended by the federal "Refugee Act of 1980". The program receives federal grant money.

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

The bill establishes the program in the department and designates the department as the agency responsible for the development, review, and administration of the state plan. The program must be administered in accordance with the state plan and must include certain services and assistance for refugees. The program may provide additional services and assistance to support refugee resettlement and integration. The general assembly is permitted to appropriate money to the department for the administration of the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) More than 68.5 million people have been displaced as a result
5 of ongoing crisis, war, and conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo;
6 Syria; Afghanistan; Burma, also known as Myanmar; Yemen; Iraq; and
7 other countries;

8 (b) The global refugee crisis has forced a historic number of
9 individuals and families who have experienced persecution to flee their
10 homes and seek safety elsewhere;

11 (c) Refugees approved for resettlement by the United States
12 government have been rigorously vetted and lawfully admitted to the
13 United States under the federal "Refugee Act of 1980", Pub.L. 96-212,
14 and more than 60,000 refugees have made Colorado their home since
15 1980;

16 (d) After escaping war and persecution and fleeing their homes to
17 live in peace and improve their lives, refugees integrate into the United
18 States and contribute to the communities that welcome them;

19 (e) Refugees make vital contributions to Colorado's economy,
20 supplying a reliable, diverse, and taxpaying workforce that contributes to
21 our state's continued economic vibrancy;

1 (f) The Colorado refugee services program and its partners
2 provide vital services and support to help refugees realize their potential,
3 achieve integration, and participate fully in the social and economic life
4 of Colorado's communities; and

5 (g) This act affirms Colorado's commitment to welcoming
6 refugees and ensures the long-term preservation of the refugee
7 resettlement program to support refugee integration into Colorado
8 communities.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-138 as
10 follows:

11 **26-2-138. Refugee services program - state plan - rules -**
12 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
13 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

14 (a) "FEDERAL ACT" MEANS TITLE IV OF THE FEDERAL
15 "IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT", 8 U.S.C. SEC. 1521 ET SEQ., AS
16 AMENDED, INCLUDING ANY FEDERAL RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE
17 FEDERAL ACT.

18 (b) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO REFUGEE SERVICES
19 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS
20 SECTION.

21 (c) "STATE PLAN" MEANS COLORADO'S REFUGEE SERVICES PLAN,
22 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

23 (2) (a) THE COLORADO REFUGEE SERVICES PROGRAM IS
24 ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE PROGRAM MUST BE
25 ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE
26 STATE DEPARTMENT AND APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF REFUGEE
27 RESETTLEMENT WITHIN THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND

1 HUMAN SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL ACT.

2 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS THE SINGLE STATE AGENCY
3 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW, AND ADMINISTRATION OF
4 THE STATE PLAN.

5 (3) THE PROGRAM MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING, IN
6 ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL ACT AND THE STATE PLAN:

7 (a) REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE;

8 (b) REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE;

9 (c) REFUGEE SOCIAL SERVICES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT
10 LIMITED TO EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, EMPLOYABILITY ASSESSMENTS,
11 ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SKILLS
12 RECERTIFICATION, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES RELATED TO
13 EMPLOYMENT; AND

14 (d) ANY OTHER SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE CONSISTENT WITH THE
15 FEDERAL ACT.

16 (4) THE PROGRAM MAY PROVIDE OTHER SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE
17 TO SUPPORT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION.

18 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES, IN ACCORDANCE
19 WITH ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 24, TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

20 (6) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE
21 STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.

22 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
23 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
24 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
25 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
26 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
27 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act

1 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
2 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
3 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
4 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.