



Legislative  
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*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**HB 20-1412**

**REVISED  
FISCAL NOTE**

(replaces fiscal note dated June 4, 2020)

**Drafting Number:** LLS 20-1256  
**Prime Sponsors:** Rep. Kennedy; Cutter  
 Sen. Story; Zenzinger  
**Date:** June 10, 2020  
**Bill Status:** Senate SVMA  
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**Bill Topic:** **COVID-19 UTILITY BILL PAYMENT-RELATED ASSISTANCE**

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill allocates \$10.0 million of CARES Act funding to the Colorado Energy Office to provide direct utility bill payment assistance to households facing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic through its nonprofit partner, Energy Outreach Colorado. It creates a state transfer and increases state expenditures in FY 2020-21.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required; expenditures are from a continuously appropriated cash fund.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20-1412**

		<b>FY 2020-21</b>	<b>FY 2021-22</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	Cash Funds	\$10.0 million	-
		<b>\$10.0 million</b>	
<b>Transfers</b>	General Fund*	(\$10.0 million)	-
	Cash Funds	\$10.0 million	
		<b>\$0</b>	
<b>TABOR Refund</b>		-	-

\* CARE subaccount of the General Fund.

## Summary of Legislation

This bill allocates \$10.0 million in federal CARES Act funding to the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to provide direct utility bill payment assistance to households facing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic through its nonprofit partner, Energy Outreach Colorado. Funding must be spent on or before December 29, 2020, and Energy Outreach Colorado is prohibited from using any of this funding for administrative purposes. On or before December 29, 2020, Energy Outreach Colorado must return any unexpended funds to the Colorado Energy Office, which will transmit the funds to the State Treasurer for credit to the Coronavirus Relief Account in the Energy Outreach Colorado Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund. The CEO is required to report on how direct utility bill payments were made in its annual reporting to the General Assembly and Office of the State Auditor.

## Background

In Colorado, direct bill assistance is overseen by two agencies: the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO).

The DHS oversees the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) which operates during the heating season in accordance with the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. LEAP applications are accepted from November through April. County offices and Goodwill deliver the direct service.

The CEO passes through funding to the Colorado-based nonprofit Energy Outreach Colorado, which provides direct bill payment assistance to low-income households when DHS is not accepting LEAP applications. These funds are expended in households outside of the heating season.

## State Transfer

In FY 2020-21, the bill transfers \$10.0 million from the CARE subaccount of the General Fund to the Coronavirus Relief Account in the Energy Outreach Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Fund.

## State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the Colorado Energy Office by \$10.0 million in FY 2020-21 only. This spending is from the continuously appropriated Energy Outreach Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Fund. Workload will also increase to complete the reporting required under the bill.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Colorado Energy Office      Human Services      Treasury