

CHAPTER 220

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

SENATE BILL 20-029

BY SENATOR(S) Fields and Moreno, Bridges, Crowder, Danielson, Fenberg, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Lee, Pettersen, Priola, Story, Tate, Winter, Zenzinger, Garcia;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Coleman and Duran, Benavidez, Bird, Buckner, Buentello, Cutter, Esgar, Froelich, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Lontine, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Weissman, Woodrow, Young.

AN ACT**CONCERNING A ONE-TIME BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENT TO COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

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

(a) Colorado is in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis. As the state makes difficult choices about the budget and how to support Colorado's recovery now and into the future, it is critical to provide support to families who are facing some of the greatest barriers to economic security.

(b) Families enrolled in the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program who are experiencing extreme poverty need additional money as soon as possible to help weather the immediate effects of the economic crisis. The additional barriers that these families will face in meeting basic needs now, and as the state begins to recover, make it even more critical to prioritize a way to provide cash assistance to these families as soon as possible.

(c) During this time of economic crisis for families and Colorado, the Colorado long-term works reserve should be used to provide critical cash assistance to families experiencing extreme poverty. The best way to do this is to provide immediate, one-time cash assistance to families who receive basic cash assistance under the TANF program. This one-time payment will help families make ends meet during the current economic crisis and will help make up for the fact that basic cash

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.

assistance has not been adjusted for inflation since the program was created in 1996 and has not kept up with the cost of living in Colorado.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **add** (1)(d) and (1)(e) as follows:

26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs rules - repeal. (1) Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant. (d) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION TO THE CONTRARY, ANY ASSISTANCE UNIT THAT RECEIVES A BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENT FROM THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM ON OR AT ANY TIME WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d) SHALL RECEIVE A ONE-TIME FIVE-HUNDRED DOLLAR SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT OF BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT AN ASSISTANCE UNIT RECEIVES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. TO THE EXTENT ALLOWABLE UNDER FEDERAL LAW, THIS ONE-TIME SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT IS NOT INCOME FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANY PUBLICLY FUNDED PROGRAM. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE NO MORE THAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d) PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-2-721 (2.5). IF THE ONE-TIME SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT TO EACH ASSISTANCE UNIT EXCEEDS TEN MILLION DOLLARS, THE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT MUST BE DISTRIBUTED EVENLY TO EACH ASSISTANCE UNIT.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

(e) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL REVIEW THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COLORADO LONG-TERM WORKS RESERVE CREATED IN SECTION 26-2-721.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-721, **add** (2.5) as follows:

26-2-721. Colorado long-term works reserve - creation - use - repeal. (2.5)(a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THE MONEY IN THE RESERVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING SECTION 26-2-709 (1)(d).

(b) THIS SUBSECTION (2.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

SECTION 4. Appropriation. For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, \$8,424,500 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from federal temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds. To implement this act, the office of self sufficiency may use the appropriation for Colorado works program county block grants.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: July 2, 2020