

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 21-0130.01 Christy Chase x2008

**SENATE BILL 21-158**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Danielson and Pettersen,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Titone and Duran,**

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**Senate Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE**  
102              **CORPS PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
103              **PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT TO EXPAND THE**  
104              **AVAILABILITY OF GERIATRIC CARE PROVIDERS IN SHORTAGE**  
105              **AREAS IN THE STATE.**

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**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 modifies the Colorado health service corps program administered by the primary care office (office) in the department of

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.

public health and environment, which program includes a loan repayment program, as follows:

- Allows geriatric advanced practice providers, which include advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants with geriatric training or experience, to participate in the loan repayment program on the condition of committing to provide geriatric care to older adults in health professional shortage areas for a specified period; and
- Requires the general assembly to annually and continuously appropriate money from the general fund to the office for the 2021-22 through the 2025-26 fiscal years to help repay loans for geriatric advanced practice providers.

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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 determines that:

4 (a) Colorado currently has approximately 840,000 residents over  
5 65 years of age, and that number is expected to grow to 1.2 million by  
6 2030, a 43% increase in that population in 10 years;

7 (b) Additionally, the statewide population of residents over 75  
8 years of age is approximately 327,000 and is expected to grow to 559,000  
9 by 2030, a nearly 71% increase in that population in 10 years;

10 (c) Colorado is estimated to have 125,000 residents afflicted with  
11 dementia by 2030, including an estimated 25,000 residing in rural areas  
12 of the state;

13 (d) Geriatric specialists, including advanced practice providers  
14 with geriatric training or experience, provide a patient-centered, holistic  
15 approach to care and are highly trained to care for patients with dementia  
16 and their families;

17 (e) Each geriatric specialist is typically able to care for  
18 approximately 700 patients in an urban setting and fewer patients in a

1 rural setting;

2 (f) Currently, the number of Colorado health-care providers with  
3 training in geriatrics is far short of the number of providers needed, and  
4 the number is expected to be drastically short of the 2030 projected need  
5 for geriatric-trained health-care providers;

6 (g) Advanced practice providers, including advanced practice  
7 registered nurses and physician assistants, who have additional training  
8 or experience in geriatrics, are critical to address the shortage in geriatric  
9 specialists and to provide the level of care required for the state's growing  
10 aging population;

11 (h) According to reliable sources such as the Colorado department  
12 of public health and environment's 2015 report, *Healthy Aging in*  
13 *Colorado*, rural areas of the state are woefully ill-equipped to support  
14 aging populations, with rural counties in the southern and eastern parts of  
15 the state bearing a higher proportion of the burden of inadequate  
16 resources;

17 (i) Nearly 50% of Coloradans 75 years of age or older live in rural  
18 areas of the state, yet only about 10% of geriatric specialists reside in or  
19 serve rural areas;

20 (j) In America, 24% of veterans live in rural areas, and those  
21 veterans are significantly older than veterans living in urban areas, are  
22 likely to have complex care needs and multiple chronic conditions, and  
23 have far less access to geriatric care than their urban counterparts;

24 (k) Older adults who are healthy or have minimal health issues are  
25 inclined to live at home and age in place rather than in a nursing home or  
26 other group living situation, and medical experts advise that people age  
27 better at home;

1 (l) Older adults who are able to live at home instead of in a group  
2 setting are less susceptible to the spread of disease, such as COVID-19,  
3 thus prolonging their lives and avoiding lengthy hospital stays; and

4 (m) It is critical for the state to take specific, targeted action to  
5 increase the number of geriatric specialists providing geriatric care to the  
6 growing older adult populations in rural and other provider shortage areas  
7 of the state by allowing geriatric advanced practice providers to  
8 participate in the state's loan repayment program through which providers  
9 who commit to providing care in shortage areas of the state for specified  
10 periods receive education loan repayment assistance.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-501, **amend**  
12 (1) and (2) as follows:

13 **25-1.5-501. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
14 hereby finds that there are areas of Colorado that suffer from a lack of  
15 health-care professionals, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, or  
16 behavioral health-care providers to serve, and a lack of nursing or other  
17 health-care professional faculty to train health-care professionals to meet,  
18 the medical and behavioral health-care needs of communities. The  
19 general assembly further finds that the state needs to implement  
20 incentives to encourage health-care professionals, GERIATRIC ADVANCED  
21 PRACTICE PROVIDERS, and behavioral health-care providers to practice in  
22 these underserved areas and to encourage nursing faculty and other  
23 health-care professional faculty to teach health-care professionals.

24 (2) It is therefore the intent of the general assembly in enacting  
25 this part 5 to create a state health service corps program that uses state  
26 money, federal money, when permissible, and contributions from  
27 communities and private sources to help repay the outstanding education

1 loans that many health-care professionals, GERIATRIC ADVANCED  
2 PRACTICE PROVIDERS, behavioral health-care providers, candidates for  
3 licensure, nursing faculty, and health-care professional faculty hold. In  
4 exchange for repayment of loans incurred for the purpose of obtaining  
5 education in their chosen health care, GERIATRIC CARE, and behavioral  
6 health-care professions, the health-care professionals, GERIATRIC  
7 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, behavioral health-care providers, and  
8 candidates for licensure will commit to provide health care, GERIATRIC  
9 CARE, or behavioral health-care services, as applicable, in communities  
10 with underserved health care, GERIATRIC CARE, or behavioral health-care  
11 needs throughout the state, and the nursing and health-care professional  
12 faculty will commit to provide a specified period of service in a qualified  
13 faculty position.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-502, **amend**  
15 (1) and (13); and **add** (1.2), (4.3), (4.5), and (8.5) as follows:

16 **25-1.5-502. Definitions.** As used in this part 5, unless the context  
17 otherwise requires:

18 (1) ~~"Advisory council" means the Colorado health service corps~~  
19 ~~advisory council created pursuant to section 25-1.5-504~~ "ADVANCED  
20 PRACTICE PROVIDER" MEANS AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE,  
21 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-255-104 (1), OR A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  
22 LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 240 OF TITLE 12.

23 (1.2) "ADVISORY COUNCIL" MEANS THE COLORADO HEALTH  
24 SERVICE CORPS ADVISORY COUNCIL CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
25 25-1.5-504.

26 (4.3) "GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER" MEANS AN  
27 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER WHO SATISFIES ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1 (a) HAS COMPLETED A FORMAL POSTGRADUATE GERIATRICS  
2 TRAINING PROGRAM;

3 (b) HAS COMPLETED:

4 (I) FORMAL GERIATRICS TRAINING WITHIN THE ADVANCED  
5 PRACTICE PROVIDER TRAINING PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES DIDACTIC  
6 TEACHING OR TRAINING ABOUT GERIATRIC SYNDROMES AND THE  
7 IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION IN THE CARE OF  
8 OLDER ADULTS; AND

9 (II) POSTGRADUATE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE WITH AN EMPHASIS ON  
10 TIME SPENT PROVIDING GERIATRIC CARE; OR

11 (c) HAS COMPLETED GERIATRIC TRACK CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
12 WITHIN THE ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER TRAINING PROGRAM.

13 (4.5) "GERIATRIC CARE" MEANS HEALTH CARE THAT IS PROVIDED  
14 TO OLDER ADULTS, INCLUDING CARE PROVIDED IN OUTPATIENT,  
15 POST-ACUTE, OR HOME-BASED SETTINGS, THAT FOCUSES ON IDENTIFYING  
16 AND MANAGING GERIATRIC SYNDROMES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE  
17 OLDER ADULT'S PHYSICAL AND COGNITIVE FUNCTIONAL STATUS.  
18 "GERIATRIC CARE" DOES NOT INCLUDE HOSPICE-ONLY CARE.

19 (8.5) "OLDER ADULT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT LEAST  
20 SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

21 (13) "State-designated health professional shortage area" means  
22 an area of the state designated by the primary care office, in accordance  
23 with state-specific methodologies established by the state board by rule  
24 pursuant to section 25-1.5-404 (1)(a), as experiencing a shortage of  
25 health-care professionals, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, or  
26 behavioral health-care providers.

27 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-503, **amend**

1 (1)(a)(I)(B), (1)(a)(I)(C), (1)(a)(II), (1)(b), (1)(c), (2), and (6); and **add**  
2 (1)(a)(I)(D),      (1)(d)(IV), and (5)(c) as follows:

3 **25-1.5-503. Colorado health service corps - program - creation**  
4 **- conditions.** (1) (a) (I) The primary care office shall maintain and  
5 administer, subject to available appropriations, the Colorado health  
6 service corps. Subject to available appropriations, the Colorado health  
7 service corps shall provide loan repayment for certain eligible:

8 (B) Nursing faculty MEMBERS or health-care professional faculty  
9 members in qualified faculty positions; ~~and~~

10 (C) Behavioral health-care providers and candidates for licensure  
11 who provide behavioral health-care services; AND

12 (D) GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS.

13 (II) Under the Colorado health service corps, subject to the  
14 limitations specified in subsection (2) of this section, upon entering into  
15 a loan contract the state may either:

16 (A) Make payments on the education loans of the health-care  
17 professional, behavioral health-care provider, candidate for licensure,  
18 GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER, nursing faculty member, or  
19 health-care professional faculty member; or

20 (B) Agree to make an advance payment in a lump sum of all or  
21 part of the principal, interest, and related expenses of the education loans  
22 of health-care professionals, behavioral health-care providers, candidates  
23 for licensure, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, nursing faculty  
24 members, or health-care professional faculty members, subject to the  
25 limitations specified in subsection (2) of this section.

26     

27 (b) Repayment of loans under the Colorado health service corps

1 may be made using money in the Colorado health service corps fund. The  
2 primary care office is authorized to receive and expend gifts, grants, and  
3 donations or money appropriated by the general assembly for the purpose  
4 of implementing the Colorado health service corps. In administering the  
5 Colorado health service corps, the primary care office shall collaborate  
6 with appropriate partners as needed to maximize the federal money  
7 available to the state for state loan repayment programs through the  
8 federal department of health and human services. The selection of  
9 health-care professionals, behavioral health-care providers, candidates for  
10 licensure, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, nursing faculty  
11 members, and health-care professional faculty members for participation  
12 in the Colorado health service corps is exempt from the competitive  
13 bidding requirements of the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of  
14 title 24.

15 (c) The following providers are not eligible for loan repayment  
16 through the Colorado health service corps:

17 (I) Health-care professionals who are not practicing in primary  
18 care specialties or providing primary health services; ~~and~~

19 (II) Behavioral health-care providers and candidates for licensure  
20 who are not providing behavioral health-care services; AND

21 (III) GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS WHO ARE NOT  
22 PROVIDING GERIATRIC CARE.

23 (d) (IV) AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING A LOAN REPAYMENT  
24 THROUGH THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, A GERIATRIC  
25 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER MUST ENTER INTO A CONTRACT PURSUANT  
26 TO WHICH THE GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER AGREES TO  
27 PROVIDE GERIATRIC CARE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS IN A COMMUNITY



1 THAT IS LOCATED IN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA. THE  
2 GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER, THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE,  
3 AND THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYER WITH WHICH THE GERIATRIC ADVANCED  
4 PRACTICE PROVIDER IS PRACTICING MUST BE PARTIES TO THE CONTRACT.

5 (2) Subject to available appropriations, the primary care office  
6 shall annually select health-care professionals, behavioral health-care  
7 providers, candidates for licensure, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE  
8 PROVIDERS, nursing faculty members, and health-care professional  
9 members from the list provided by the advisory council pursuant to  
10 section 25-1.5-504 (5)(a) to participate in the Colorado health service  
11 corps.

12 (5)(c) FOR A GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER APPLYING  
13 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, THE  
14 ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL DEVELOP THE CRITERIA TO BE USED, AND SHALL  
15 APPLY THOSE CRITERIA, IN SELECTING GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE  
16 PROVIDER APPLICANTS AND SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER THE APPLICANT IS  
17 WILLING TO SERVE AS A PRECEPTOR FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS  
18 AND OTHER PROVIDERS SEEKING TRAINING IN GERIATRIC CARE.

19 (6) A contract for loan repayment entered into pursuant to this part  
20 5 must not include terms that are more favorable to health-care  
21 professionals, behavioral health-care providers, or candidates for  
22 licensure, OR GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS than the most  
23 favorable terms that the secretary of the federal department of health and  
24 human services is authorized to grant under the national health services  
25 corps program. In addition, each contract must include penalties for  
26 breach of contract that are at least as stringent as those available to the  
27 secretary of the federal department of health and human services. In the

1 event of a breach of contract for a loan repayment entered into pursuant  
2 to this part 5, the primary care office shall enforce the contract and collect  
3 any damages or other penalties owed.

4 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-504, **amend**  
5 (2) introductory portion, (2)(n), (2)(o), and (5)(a); and **add** (2)(p) as  
6 follows:

7 **25-1.5-504. Colorado health service corps advisory council -**  
8 **creation - membership - duties.** (2) The advisory council consists of  
9 ~~fifteen~~ SIXTEEN members appointed by the governor as provided in this  
10 subsection (2). In appointing members of the advisory council, the  
11 governor shall ensure that the advisory council includes at least one  
12 representative from each of the following organizations OR PRACTICE  
13 AREAS:

14 (n) A membership organization representing substance use  
15 disorder service providers; ~~and~~

16 (o) A licensed or certified addiction counselor who has experience  
17 in rural health, safety net clinics, or health equity; AND

18 (p) A PHYSICIAN WHO PROVIDES GERIATRIC CARE OR A GERIATRIC  
19 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER.

20 (5) (a) The advisory council shall review applications received  
21 from health-care professionals, behavioral health-care providers,  
22 candidates for licensure, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS,  
23 nursing faculty members, and health-care professional faculty members  
24 to participate in the Colorado health service corps. Subject to available  
25 appropriations and federal requirements concerning eligibility for federal  
26 loan repayment matching funds, the advisory council shall annually select  
27 health-care professionals, behavioral health-care providers, candidates for

1 licensure, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, nursing faculty  
2 members, and health-care professional faculty members to participate in  
3 the Colorado health service corps and shall forward its list of selected  
4 participants to the primary care office.

5 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-505, **amend**  
6 (1) introductory portion, (1)(a), and (1)(d) as follows:

7 **25-1.5-505. Advisory council - report.** (1) On or before  
8 December 1, 2011, and on or before December 1 every two years  
9 thereafter, the primary care office, with assistance from the advisory  
10 council, shall submit to the governor, the health and human services  
11 committee of the senate, the ~~committees on~~ health AND insurance ~~and~~  
12 ~~environment~~ and ~~on~~ public AND BEHAVIORAL health ~~care~~ and human  
13 services COMMITTEES of the house of representatives, or any successor  
14 committees, a report that includes, at a minimum, the following  
15 information:

16 (a) A description of the health-care professionals, behavioral  
17 health-care providers, candidates for licensure, GERIATRIC ADVANCED  
18 PRACTICE PROVIDERS, nursing faculty members, and health-care  
19 professional faculty members participating in the Colorado health service  
20 corps program and the scholarship program;

21 (d) An analysis of the effects of the Colorado health service corps  
22 program and the scholarship program on addressing the health care,  
23 GERIATRIC CARE, and behavioral health-care needs of communities in  
24 Colorado;

25 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-506, **add** (5)  
26 as follows:

27 **25-1.5-506. Colorado health service corps fund - created -**

1 **acceptance of grants and donations - annual appropriation from**  
2 **marijuana tax cash fund and general fund - repeal.** (5) (a) FOR THE  
3 2021-22 THROUGH THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEARS, THE GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY SHALL CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATE THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS  
5 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND FOR USE IN PROVIDING LOAN  
6 REPAYMENTS FOR GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS:

7 (I) FOR THE 2021-22 STATE FISCAL YEAR, TWO HUNDRED  
8 TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS;

9 (II) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, FOUR HUNDRED  
10 THOUSAND DOLLARS;

11 (III) FOR THE 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR, FIVE HUNDRED  
12 SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS;

13 (IV) FOR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR, FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY  
14 THOUSAND DOLLARS; AND

15 (V) FOR THE 2025-26 STATE FISCAL YEAR, TWO HUNDRED  
16 SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

17 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30,  
18 2026.

19 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-404, **amend**  
20 (1)(a) as follows:

21 **25-1.5-404. Primary care office - powers and duties - rules.**

22 (1) The primary care office has, at a minimum, the following powers and  
23 duties:

24 (a) To assess the health-care PROFESSIONAL, GERIATRIC  
25 ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER, and behavioral health-care professional  
26 needs of areas throughout the state and create and administer  
27 state-designated health professional shortage areas in accordance with

1 state board rules adopted under this subsection (1)(a) establishing  
2 state-specific methodologies for designating areas experiencing a  
3 shortage of health-care professionals, GERIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE  
4 PROVIDERS, or behavioral health-care providers. The primary care office  
5 shall coordinate with the department of health care policy and financing  
6 in developing the health professional shortage area designation  
7 methodologies and in drafting rules under this subsection (1)(a).

8 **SECTION 9. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
9 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
10 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
11 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
12 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
13 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
14 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
15 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.