

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0296.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 22-1259

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE COLORADO WORKS 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 allows the state board of human services (state board) to utilize eligibility processes from other public assistance or entitlement programs when promulgating rules for redetermining and verifying eligibility for the Colorado works program (works program).

When determining income requirements for the works program, the bill requires the department of human services (state department) to use an income conversion ratio for converting weekly and biweekly income to a monthly amount using the lowest ratio or methodology that

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.

results in the lowest monthly income amount allowable under federal law.

Current law prohibits a person convicted of a drug-related felony offense from being eligible for assistance under the works program unless the person is determined by a county department of human or social services to have taken action toward rehabilitation. The bill removes the ban on eligibility.

The bill requires the state board to promulgate rules establishing statewide standards and procedures that require counties to offer an extension:

- Beyond the 60-month lifetime maximum for all households that demonstrate good cause, which includes an applicant or participant who is a child-only case, the head of a single parent household and has a child under one year of age, experiencing hardship, or addressing family or medical needs; and
- From work requirements to all households that demonstrate good cause, which includes for an applicant or participant who is the head of a single-parent household and has a child under one year of age, experiencing hardship, or addressing family or medical needs.

The bill requires the state department to annually review and promulgate rules as necessary to update the standard of need to ensure the standard of need is equitable, promotes economic mobility and self-sufficiency, and reflects the current economic status of the state.

The bill requires the state department to disregard any earned income for at least the first 6 months an applicant or participant is employed while enrolled in the works program. The bill requires that the state department determine the amount of earned income that must be disregarded after the first 6 months and ensure a gradual step down of the amount of earned income disregarded and that the appropriate work supports are made available to the applicant or participant.

Current law requires the state department to ensure the amount of a basic cash assistance grant that an applicant or participant receives is equal to or exceeds 102% of the need standard for a participant in a similarly sized household on January 1, 2008. By the 2027-28 state fiscal year, and each state fiscal year thereafter, the bill requires the amount of the basic cash assistance grant to equal or exceed 50% of the federal poverty guidelines established by the federal department of health and human services for a similarly sized household for that fiscal year.

No later than January 1, 2023, the bill requires the state department to begin phasing in the increase in basic cash assistance that is equal to or exceeds 50% of the federal poverty guidelines.

The bill requires a county department to attempt to contact each participant using each method of communication provided by the participant in order to conduct exit and follow-up interviews upon case

closure. The bill expands the purpose of the exit and follow-up interviews to include evaluating the participant's experience with the works program, how well the program met the participant's needs and assisted the participant in meeting the participant's goals, and informing the state department of any changes to rules that are needed to improve the participant's experience.

The bill requires the state department to monitor impacts to counties' workload in the works program and consult with counties regarding additional need for money to administer the works program.

Beginning January 2023, and each January thereafter, the state department is required to submit a report to the general assembly on the effectiveness of the works program.

Current law requires the state board to promulgate rules that require a percentage reduction in the basic cash assistance grant upon the imposition of a sanction affecting the grant, with the percentage to be specified in the rules but not to be less than 25%. The bill requires the percentage not to exceed one dollar.

No later than September 30, 2022, the bill requires the state department to develop an outreach and engagement plan to promote access to the works program for eligible persons.

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) "Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" (TANF), known
5 as the "Colorado Works Program" (works program), provides financial
6 assistance and work supports to families living far below the federal
7 poverty level. The works program should promote family safety, stability,
8 and self-sufficiency by assisting with job preparation and supporting
9 career goals and employment. As of fiscal year 2021-22, a parent with
10 two children must make less than \$421 per month in income to qualify for
11 a basic cash assistance grant under the works program. The COVID-19
12 pandemic brought unprecedented hardships and changes to both families
13 and the works program. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, families
14 enrolled in the works program were facing the greatest barriers to

1 financial security and well-being.

2 (b) Families enrolled in the works program are eligible to receive
3 cash assistance to help meet the family's ongoing basic needs, such as
4 diapers, food, bus passes, and school supplies. Cash assistance payments
5 were not adequate at the start of the works program in 1996 and since
6 payments have not adjusted for inflation, cash assistance has eroded even
7 further and failed to keep up with the cost of living in Colorado. In 1996,
8 the amount of Colorado's cash assistance was 32.9% of the federal
9 poverty level, but by 2021 it had fallen to 27.8% with the maximum
10 amount of cash assistance for a parent with two children at \$508 per
11 month.

12 (c) Families can often face a "cliff effect" when the family
13 receives more income through employment or a raise and then abruptly
14 has its public assistance reduced or discontinued. Too often families are
15 left without supports right when they begin to get their feet underneath
16 them. Reducing the "cliff effect" will incentivize work, help parents stay
17 employed, and create a smoother off-ramp toward employment,
18 self-sufficiency, and economic security.

19 (d) Families can be better supported in the works program by
20 reducing punitive sanctions and overly burdensome work requirements.
21 While sanctions and work requirements are required by the federal
22 government, states have some discretion on how to administer those
23 requirements. Colorado has made some strides in easing these
24 requirements and can do more to be responsive to families' circumstances
25 and needs. Sanctions, or financial penalties that are issued when a
26 participant does not meet the work requirements of the works program,
27 are disproportionately applied to certain families, including families of

1 color, do not achieve the intended outcome of connecting families to
2 sustainable employment, and increase the administrative burden on case
3 managers and counties. Moreover, families who receive sanctions face
4 the most significant barriers to employment and economic security, such
5 as a child being hospitalized, domestic violence, lack of a vehicle, or less
6 work experience.

7 (e) Colorado receives federal TANF funds each year and the state
8 is permitted to retain a certain amount of unexpended funds for future use
9 in the event of an economic downturn or caseload growth. Colorado has
10 two sets of TANF reserves: A state TANF long-term reserve and a TANF
11 reserve in each county. Although there was severe economic downturn,
12 including historic unemployment, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the
13 amount of money in the reserves actually increased in Colorado. The
14 beginning fiscal year 2021-22 balance of all county TANF reserves was
15 \$61.2 million and the balance in the state TANF long-term reserve, which
16 has a mandatory floor of \$33 million, was \$76.2 million. In total, there
17 was more than \$137 million in TANF reserves in Colorado at the end of
18 the 2020-21 fiscal year.

19 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that Colorado must
20 prioritize strategies and investments to remove barriers to employment
21 and economic security for families and children experiencing extreme
22 poverty in the state. Colorado should ensure a basic cash assistance
23 amount sufficient enough to lift families out of extreme poverty and
24 ensure that it keeps with the rising cost of living; make improvements in
25 the way the works program serves families, including reducing the "cliff
26 effect"; elevate family voices in the works program; and improve
27 outreach and communication about the works program.

1 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-705, **amend**
2 (2)(a) and (2)(e) as follows:

3 **26-2-705. Works program - purposes.** (2) The purposes of the
4 works program are to:

5 (a) Assist participants ~~to terminate their dependence on~~
6 ~~government benefits~~ TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY, ECONOMIC MOBILITY,
7 AND FAMILY SAFETY AND STABILITY by promoting job preparation, work,
8 and marriage;

9 (e) Develop strategies and policies that focus on SUPPORTING
10 PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARTICIPANTS' EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER GOALS,
11 REMOVING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS, AND ensuring
12 that ~~participants are in work activities as soon as possible so that~~ the state
13 is able to meet ~~or exceed~~ work participation rates specified in the federal
14 law; and

15 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-706, **amend** (3)
16 and (4); and **add** (2)(c) as follows:

17 **26-2-706. Target populations.** (2) (c) IN DETERMINING THE
18 INCOME REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS
19 SECTION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE AN INCOME CONVERSION
20 RATIO FOR CONVERTING WEEKLY AND BIWEEKLY INCOME TO A MONTHLY
21 AMOUNT USING THE LOWEST RATIO OR METHODOLOGY THAT RESULTS IN
22 THE LOWEST MONTHLY INCOME AMOUNT ALLOWABLE UNDER FEDERAL
23 LAW.

24 (3) A person convicted of a drug-related felony offense under the
25 laws of this state, any other state, or the federal government on or after
26 June 3, 1997, ~~shall not be~~ IS eligible for assistance under the works
27 program. ~~unless such person is determined by the county department to~~

1 ~~have taken action toward rehabilitation such as, but not limited to,~~
2 ~~participation in a drug treatment program.~~

3 (4) The state board shall promulgate rules to simplify the
4 requirements relating to determination and verification of eligibility
5 criteria. ELIGIBILITY PROCESSES FROM OTHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR
6 ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS MAY BE USED WHEN REDETERMINING AND
7 VERIFYING ELIGIBILITY. WHEN POSSIBLE, THE STATE BOARD IS STRONGLY
8 ENCOURAGED TO ALIGN REDETERMINATION AND VERIFICATION TIMELINES
9 WITH OTHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS. Nothing in
10 this subsection (4) ~~shall authorize~~ AUTHORIZES the state board to amend
11 or delete eligibility criteria for participation in the works program that the
12 board is not otherwise authorized to amend or delete.

13 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-706.5, **add** (4)
14 as follows:

15 **26-2-706.5. Restrictions on length of participation - rules.**

16 (4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES:

17 (a) ESTABLISHING STATEWIDE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES THAT
18 REQUIRE COUNTIES TO OFFER EXTENSIONS BEYOND THE SIXTY-MONTH
19 LIFETIME MAXIMUM FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOOD
20 CAUSE, WHICH INCLUDES AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT WHO IS:

21 (I) A CHILD-ONLY CASE;

22 (II) THE HEAD OF A SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLD UNIT AND HAS A
23 CHILD UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE;

24 (III) EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP, AS DEFINED IN RULES
25 PROMULGATED BY THE STATE BOARD; OR

26 (IV) ADDRESSING FAMILY OR MEDICAL NEEDS, INCLUDING THE
27 ARRIVAL OF A NEW CHILD, MILITARY FAMILY NEEDS, OR A PERSONAL OR

1 FAMILY MEMBER'S SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITION, INCLUDING THE EFFECTS
2 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT; AND

3 (b) TO ADDRESS HOW THE STATE WILL MONITOR EXTENSIONS IN
4 RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FEDERAL LAW.

5 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-708, **add** (5.3)
6 as follows:

7 **26-2-708. Assistance - assessment - individual responsibility**
8 **contract - waivers for domestic violence - rules.** (5.3) (a) THE STATE
9 BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES:

10 (I) ESTABLISHING STATEWIDE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES THAT
11 REQUIRE COUNTIES TO OFFER AN EXEMPTION FROM WORK REQUIREMENTS
12 TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOOD CAUSE, WHICH INCLUDES
13 AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT WHO IS:

14 (A) THE HEAD OF A SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLD UNIT AND HAS A
15 CHILD UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE;

16 (B) EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP, AS DEFINED IN RULES PROMULGATED
17 BY THE STATE BOARD; OR

18 (C) ADDRESSING FAMILY OR MEDICAL NEEDS, INCLUDING THE
19 ARRIVAL OF A NEW CHILD, MILITARY FAMILY NEEDS, OR A PERSONAL OR
20 FAMILY MEMBER'S SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITION, INCLUDING THE EFFECTS
21 OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT; AND

22 (II) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO TANF SERVICES FOR THOSE
23 EXEMPTED WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

24 (b) WHEN PROMULGATING RULES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
25 (5.3), THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL
26 LAW IN RELATION TO THE CALCULATION OF THE STATE'S WORK
27 PARTICIPATION RATES SPECIFIED IN THE FEDERAL LAW.

1 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **amend**
2 (1)(a) introductory portion, (1)(a)(III), (1)(b), and (1.3) as follows:

3 **26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules - repeal.**

4 (1) **Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.** (a) The state
5 department shall promulgate rules determining the standard of need for
6 eligibility for a basic cash assistance grant, whether an applicant or
7 participant meets the standard of need, and the amount of the basic cash
8 assistance grant. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW AND
9 PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY TO UPDATE THE STANDARD OF NEED
10 TO ENSURE THE STANDARD OF NEED IS EQUITABLE, PROMOTES ECONOMIC
11 MOBILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND REFLECTS THE CURRENT ECONOMIC
12 SITUATIONS IN THE STATE. In addition to any other rules necessary for the
13 implementation of this part 7, the state department's rules shall:

14 (III) Establish the calculation for determining the amount of an
15 eligible applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance grant, which
16 calculation ~~shall~~ MUST include an earned income disregard ~~which shall be~~
17 THAT IS applied to the gross countable earned income of an applicant or
18 participant who is employed AND A GRADUAL STEP DOWN OF THE AMOUNT
19 OF INCOME DISREGARDED FOLLOWING THE INITIAL EARNED INCOME
20 DISREGARD. The INITIAL earned income disregard ~~shall~~ AND GRADUAL
21 STEP DOWN MUST promote work and self-sufficiency, BE RESPONSIVE TO
22 FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES AND NEED, and ~~shall~~ benefit the applicant or
23 participant by reducing the unintended economic consequences of
24 becoming employed. ANY EARNED INCOME MUST BE DISREGARDED FOR
25 AT LEAST THE FIRST SIX MONTHS AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT IS
26 EMPLOYED WHILE ENROLLED IN THE WORKS PROGRAM. THE STATE
27 DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF EARNED INCOME THAT

1 MUST BE DISREGARDED AFTER THE FIRST SIX MONTHS AND SHALL ENSURE
2 A GRADUAL STEP DOWN OF THE AMOUNT OF EARNED INCOME
3 DISREGARDED AND THAT THE APPROPRIATE WORK SUPPORTS ARE MADE
4 AVAILABLE TO THE APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT. The rules promulgated by
5 the state department pursuant to this ~~subparagraph (H)~~ shall SUBSECTION
6 (1)(a)(III) MUST not establish an earned income disregard that results in
7 an applicant or participant having fewer financial resources available to
8 ~~him or her~~ THE APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT than a similarly situated
9 applicant or participant would have had under the earned income
10 disregard pursuant to section 26-2-709 as it existed on July 1, 2009; and

11 (b) (I) In establishing the calculation for determining the amount
12 of an eligible applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance grant, the
13 state department shall ensure that the amount of the basic cash assistance
14 grant that a participant or applicant receives BY THE 2027-28 STATE
15 FISCAL YEAR, AND EACH STATE FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, is equal to or
16 exceeds ~~one hundred two percent of the need standard for a participant in~~
17 ~~a similarly sized household on January 1, 2008. The state department is~~
18 ~~encouraged to establish a calculation for determining the amount of a~~
19 ~~basic cash assistance grant that results in a basic cash assistance grant that~~
20 ~~is equal to or exceeds one hundred twelve percent of the need standard for~~
21 ~~a participant in~~ FIFTY PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES
22 ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
23 SERVICES FOR a similarly sized household ~~on January 1, 2008~~ FOR THAT
24 FISCAL YEAR. NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2023, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
25 SHALL BEGIN PHASING IN THE INCREASE TO THE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE
26 GRANT AS FOLLOWS:

27 (A) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2023, THE AMOUNT OF THE BASIC

1 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT AN APPLICANT RECEIVES MUST BE EQUAL
2 TO OR EXCEED THIRTY-TWO PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY
3 GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
4 HUMAN SERVICES FOR A SIMILARLY SIZED HOUSEHOLD FOR THAT FISCAL
5 YEAR.

6 (B) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2024, THE AMOUNT OF THE BASIC
7 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT RECEIVES
8 MUST BE EQUAL TO OR EXCEED THIRTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL
9 POVERTY GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF
10 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR A SIMILARLY SIZED HOUSEHOLD FOR
11 THAT FISCAL YEAR.

12 (C) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2025, THE AMOUNT OF THE BASIC
13 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT RECEIVES
14 MUST BE EQUAL TO OR EXCEED FORTY-ONE PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL
15 POVERTY GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF
16 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR A SIMILARLY SIZED HOUSEHOLD FOR
17 THAT FISCAL YEAR.

18 (D) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2026, THE AMOUNT OF THE BASIC
19 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT RECEIVES
20 MUST BE EQUAL TO OR EXCEED FORTY-SIX PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL
21 POVERTY GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF
22 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR A SIMILARLY SIZED HOUSEHOLD FOR
23 THAT FISCAL YEAR.

24 (E) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2027, THE AMOUNT OF THE BASIC
25 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT RECEIVES
26 MUST BE EQUAL TO OR EXCEED FIFTY PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY
27 GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND

1 HUMAN SERVICES FOR A SIMILARLY SIZED HOUSEHOLD FOR THAT FISCAL
2 YEAR.

3 (II) ANY MONEY THE STATE RECEIVES FROM THE FEDERAL
4 GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING FUNDS AVAILABLE SPECIFICALLY FOR OR IN
5 TANF RESERVES, MUST BE USED FIRST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
6 SUBSECTION (1)(b).

7 (III) THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW
8 THE BALANCE OF THE COLORADO LONG-TERM WORKS RESERVE AND THE
9 COUNTY TANF RESERVE, AND, IF THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE
10 DETERMINES THE BALANCE OF THE RESERVES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO
11 SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE INCREASE IN THE BASIC CASH
12 ASSISTANCE GRANT AND THE EARNED INCOME DISREGARD, THE JOINT
13 BUDGET COMMITTEE IS ENCOURAGED TO APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE
14 STATE GENERAL FUND TO ENSURE THAT COUNTIES COLLECTIVELY ARE NOT
15 REQUIRED TO SPEND BEYOND THE ACTUAL SPENDING LEVELS SET FORTH
16 IN SECTION 26-2-714 (6)(c).

17 (1.3) **Redetermination of eligibility for persons receiving cash**
18 **assistance.** The STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES THAT REQUIRE
19 county ~~department shall~~ DEPARTMENTS TO perform ~~an annual~~ A
20 redetermination of eligibility for all assistance units receiving cash
21 assistance. ELIGIBILITY PROCESSES FROM OTHER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR
22 ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS MAY BE USED WHEN REDETERMINING
23 ELIGIBILITY. WHEN POSSIBLE, THE STATE BOARD IS STRONGLY
24 ENCOURAGED TO ALIGN REDETERMINATION TIMELINES WITH OTHER
25 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS.

26 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 26-2-709.5
27 as follows:

1 **26-2-709.5. Exit interviews and follow-up interviews of**
2 **participants.** (1) In order to follow the legislative intent declared in
3 section 26-2-702 (1)(a), a county department ~~is strongly encouraged to~~
4 SHALL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT EACH PARTICIPANT USING EACH METHOD OF
5 COMMUNICATION PROVIDED BY THE PARTICIPANT IN ORDER TO conduct
6 exit and follow-up interviews upon case closure, either in person or by
7 telephone, ~~with all participants of the Colorado works program,~~ including
8 participants who are or have been receiving short-term assistance
9 payments pursuant to section 26-2-706.6. The interviews shall be
10 CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE for the
11 purpose of:

12 (a) EVALUATING THE PARTICIPANT'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE WORKS
13 PROGRAM;

14 (b) EVALUATING HOW WELL THE WORKS PROGRAM MET THE
15 PARTICIPANT'S NEEDS AND ASSISTED THE PARTICIPANT IN MEETING THE
16 PARTICIPANT'S GOALS;

17 (c) INFORMING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ANY CHANGES TO
18 RULES THAT ARE NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE PARTICIPANT'S EXPERIENCE;
19 AND

20 (d) Providing information to the participant and offering
21 assistance with applications for or continuance of assistance under
22 medicaid, food stamps, the Colorado child care assistance program, the
23 earned income tax credit, or other programs such as welfare-to-work or
24 other county benefits or services.

25 (2) ~~Repealed.~~ THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR IMPACTS
26 TO COUNTIES' WORKLOAD IN THE WORKS PROGRAM AND CONSULT WITH
27 COUNTIES REGARDING ADDITIONAL NEED FOR MONEY TO ADMINISTER THE

1 WORKS PROGRAM. IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH
2 COUNTIES, IDENTIFIES ADDITIONAL NEED FOR FUNDING TO ADMINISTER
3 THE WORKS PROGRAM, THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS STRONGLY
4 ENCOURAGED TO REQUEST STATE GENERAL FUND MONEY OR, IF THE
5 BALANCE OF THE STATE TANF RESERVE IS GREATER THAN THE
6 MANDATORY FLOOR, APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL STATE TANF MONEY TO
7 FUND COUNTIES' ADMINISTRATION OF THE WORKS PROGRAM.

8 (3) BEGINNING JANUARY 2023, AND EACH JANUARY THEREAFTER,
9 THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN
11 SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
12 COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AS PART OF ITS "STATE
13 MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT
14 (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT" PRESENTATION REQUIRED BY SECTION
15 2-7-203, ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WORKS PROGRAM. THE STATE
16 DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUEST A COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE ANY
17 INFORMATION AND DATA THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO DEVELOP THE
18 REPORT, INCLUDING INFORMATION AND DATA FROM EXIT INTERVIEWS
19 CONDUCTED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)
20 OF THIS SECTION. ANY DATA USED MUST PROTECT PERSONAL IDENTIFYING
21 INFORMATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND THE PARTICIPANTS' FAMILY
22 MEMBERS. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

23 (a) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN THE
24 WORKS PROGRAM IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR, DISAGGREGATED BY
25 CASE TYPE, RACE, AND ETHNICITY;

26 (b) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS WHO EXITED AND
27 RE-ENROLLED IN THE WORKS PROGRAM ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THE

1 PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR, DISAGGREGATED BY CASE TYPE, RACE, AND
2 ETHNICITY;

3 (c) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INSTANCES A PARTICIPANT EXITED AND
4 RE-ENROLLED IN THE WORKS PROGRAM ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THE
5 PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR, DISAGGREGATED BY CASE TYPE, RACE, AND
6 ETHNICITY;

7 (d) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MONTHS EACH PARTICIPANT REMAINED
8 ENROLLED IN THE WORKS PROGRAM IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR,
9 DISAGGREGATED BY CASE TYPE, RACE, AND ETHNICITY; AND

10 (e) DATA GATHERED THROUGH SURVEYS AND EXIT INTERVIEWS
11 WITH PARTICIPANTS IN THE WORKS PROGRAM REGARDING PARTICIPANTS'
12 EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROGRAM, BELIEFS ABOUT THE GOALS OF THE
13 PROGRAM, PERCEPTIONS OF HOW PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM
14 CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILY GOALS, REASONS FOR LEAVING THE
15 PROGRAM, AND CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND WAGE RATE.

16 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-711, **amend**
17 (1)(a) introductory portion, (1)(a)(II), and (1)(a)(III) as follows:

18 **26-2-711. Works program - sanctions against participants -**
19 **rules.** (1) (a) The state board shall promulgate rules for the imposition of
20 sanctions affecting the basic cash assistance grant as described in section
21 26-2-709 (1). The rules ~~shall~~ MUST require:

22 (II) A ~~percentage~~ reduction in the basic CASH assistance grant
23 upon the first imposition of a sanction affecting ~~such~~ A basic CASH
24 assistance grant, with the ~~percentage~~ AMOUNT to be specified in the rules
25 but not ~~less than twenty-five percent~~ TO EXCEED ONE DOLLAR;

26 (III) Specific reductions in the basic CASH assistance grant for
27 second and subsequent sanctions affecting the basic CASH assistance

1 grant;

2 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-725 as
3 follows:

4 **26-2-725. Outreach and engagement plan - family voice**
5 **participation.** (1) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, THE STATE
6 DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AN OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN TO
7 PROMOTE ACCESS TO THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE
8 PERSONS.

9 (2) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PARTNER WITH COUNTIES AND
10 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHEN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING THE
11 OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN AND SHALL INCORPORATE FEEDBACK
12 FROM CURRENT AND FORMER PARTICIPANTS TO ENSURE PARTICIPANTS ARE
13 INFLUENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PROCESS.

14 (3) AT A MINIMUM, THE OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN MUST
15 INCLUDE SPECIFIC STRATEGIES FOR:

16 (a) OUTREACH TO MONOLINGUAL, NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING
17 COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING A LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE
18 WEBSITE AND TRANSLATION OF OTHER MATERIALS THAT INCLUDE
19 INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKS PROGRAM IN THE SEVEN MOST COMMON
20 LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN EACH COUNTY OF THE STATE;

21 (b) OUTREACH THROUGH TELEVISION AND SOCIAL MEDIA;

22 (c) DEVELOPING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MESSAGING;

23 (d) SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS
24 AVAILABLE AND PARTICIPANTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE
25 WORKS PROGRAM;

26 (e) HOW TO APPEAL IF REDETERMINATION IS DENIED;

27 (f) CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS FOR APPLICANTS AND

1 PARTICIPANTS; AND

2 (g) OUTREACH IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS, INCLUDING BUT NOT
3 LIMITED TO SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE CENTERS, FOOD BANKS, LIBRARIES,
4 FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, HOME VISITING PROGRAMS,
5 MOBILE HOME PARKS, HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START CENTERS, AND
6 MOBILE SITES.

7 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

8 (a) REQUIRE THAT COUNTY STAFF WORKING WITH APPLICANTS AND
9 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING REGARDING THE
10 WORKS PROGRAM. THE TRAINING MUST INCLUDE TRAUMA-INFORMED
11 APPROACHES TO INTERACTING WITH PARTICIPANTS, CONSISTENCY IN
12 COMMUNICATING INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD CARE ACCESS AND
13 ASSISTANCE, THE ALIGNMENT OF A PARTICIPANT'S WORK REQUIREMENTS
14 WITH CHILD CARE ACCESS AND FAMILY MEDICAL NEEDS, THE FULL SCOPE
15 OF OPTIONS FOR THE PARTICIPANT TO MEET WORK AND EDUCATION
16 REQUIREMENTS IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PARTICIPANT'S GOALS, AND THE
17 AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR FAMILIES.

18 (b) STRONGLY ENCOURAGE COUNTIES TO ASSIGN EACH
19 PARTICIPANT A CASE WORKER, WHICH MAY INCLUDE A CASE WORKER WHO
20 WORKS WITH INDIVIDUALS IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER PUBLIC
21 ASSISTANCE OR ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS;

22 (c) DEVELOP TOOLKITS, MANUALS, AND OTHER MATERIALS FOR
23 COUNTY STAFF, APPLICANTS, AND PARTICIPANTS THAT INCLUDE
24 INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD CARE ACCESS AND ASSISTANCE, THE
25 ALIGNMENT OF A PARTICIPANT'S WORK REQUIREMENTS WITH CHILD CARE
26 ACCESS, THE FULL SCOPE OF OPTIONS FOR THE PARTICIPANT TO MEET
27 WORK AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE

1 PARTICIPANT'S GOALS, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR
2 FAMILIES;

3 (d) PARTNER WITH COUNTIES, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND
4 PARTICIPANTS TO DEVELOP CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MESSAGING AND
5 ENSURE THAT APPLICANTS AND PARTICIPANTS HAVE ACCESS TO
6 SUFFICIENT SUPPORTS AND COMMUNICATION IN THE SEVEN MOST COMMON
7 LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN EACH COUNTY OF THE STATE;

8 (e) ENSURE ADEQUATE AND MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATION BY,
9 FEEDBACK FROM, OR ENGAGEMENT WITH CURRENT AND FORMER
10 PARTICIPANTS WHEN MAKING DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
11 REGARDING THE WORKS PROGRAM, INCLUDING DURING ANY RULE-MAKING
12 OR REGULATORY PROCESS AND ANY ALLOCATION OR POLICY ADVISORY
13 COMMITTEES. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL
14 ENSURE THAT PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
15 (4)(e) ARE DIVERSE WITH REGARD TO RACE, ETHNICITY, AGE, ABILITY,
16 SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND GEOGRAPHY AND THAT
17 PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK HAS A GENUINE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE
18 SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO THE WORKS PROGRAM. THE STATE
19 DEPARTMENT MAY UTILIZE ANY ESTABLISHED COUNCILS AT THE STATE
20 AND LOCAL LEVEL THAT HAVE CURRENT AND FORMER PARTICIPANTS
21 REPRESENTED OR APPOINTED TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
22 THIS SUBSECTION (4)(e). TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE STATE
23 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER REIMBURSING PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED
24 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(e) FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES AND
25 ATTENDANT AND DEPENDENT CARE.

26 **SECTION 10. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.