

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-1035.01 Christy Chase x2008

HOUSE BILL 22-1394

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Esgar and Roberts, Will

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Winter and Donovan,

House Committees

Transportation & Local Government

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING FUNDING FOR JUST TRANSITION PROGRAMS TO ASSIST
102 COMMUNITIES WITH ECONOMIC TRANSITIONS.

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 transfers \$15 million from the general fund, with \$5 million allocated to the just transition cash fund and \$10 million allocated to the coal transition workforce assistance program account, and directs the department of labor and employment, through the just transition office, to expend the money for specified coal community and worker supports.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-83-504, **amend**
3 (4)(a), (4)(b)(II), (4)(b)(III), and (4)(b)(IV) as (4)(a) introductory portion
4 is **amended by House Bill 22-1193** as follows:

5 **8-83-504. Just transition cash fund - transfer from general**
6 **fund - transfer from account - definition - repeal.** (4) (a) (I) (A) On
7 June 30, 2021, the state treasurer shall transfer eight million dollars from
8 the general fund to the fund.

9 (B) ~~On the effective date of the introductory portion to this~~
10 ~~subsection (4)(a), as amended~~ MARCH 7, 2022, the state treasurer shall
11 transfer two million dollars from the account to the fund.

12 (C) ON JULY 1, 2022, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
13 FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND.

14 (II) Subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly, the
15 office shall expend the money transferred to the fund pursuant to this
16 subsection (4)(a) to implement the final just transition plan for Colorado
17 prepared as required by section 8-83-503 (4) and to provide supplemental
18 funding for existing state programs that the office identifies as the most
19 effective vehicles for targeted investment in coal transition communities.
20 In providing such supplemental funding, the office shall place a heavy
21 emphasis on investment in tier one transition communities and shall
22 support programs that:

23 ~~(I)~~ (A) Support targeted economic development;

24 ~~(II)~~ (B) Assist with regional capacity for coordination of economic
25 development programs and worker assistance programs;

26 ~~(III)~~ (C) Support infrastructure projects and workforce

1 development programs; or

2 ~~(IV)~~ (D) Are consistent with the goals and strategies outlined in
3 the final just transition plan.

4 (III) FOR PURPOSES OF THE MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND
5 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a)(I)(C) OF THIS SECTION, THE OFFICE
6 SHALL USE THE MONEY TO SUPPORT TARGETED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
7 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 8 (A) EXPANSION ASSISTANCE FOR EXISTING LOCAL BUSINESSES;
- 9 (B) EXPANDING PRIVATE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT; AND
- 10 (C) SITE SELECTOR AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ENGAGEMENTS.

11 (b) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (4)(a) of
12 this section, the office shall expend money transferred to the fund
13 pursuant to subsection (4)(a) of this section in accordance with the
14 following requirements and limitations:

15 (II) The office may provide for the transfer of money from the
16 fund to other state agencies only if the transfer is approved by the
17 director, the executive director of the department, the executive director
18 of the department of local affairs, and the ~~executive~~ director of the
19 Colorado office of economic development.

20 (III) (A) The office shall expend at least seventy percent of the
21 money TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS
22 (4)(a)(I)(A) AND (4)(a)(I)(B) OF THIS SECTION by the close of state fiscal
23 year 2021-22 and shall expend any remaining money by the close of state
24 fiscal year 2022-23.

25 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL EXPEND THE MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE
26 FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a)(I)(C) OF THIS SECTION BY THE
27 CLOSE OF STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26.

1 (IV) The department is authorized to use up to five percent of the
2 money IN THE FUND to fund operational support for the office's
3 expenditure of the money, including funding for the compensation of
4 existing office employees.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-83-504.5, **amend**
6 (1)(a) as (1) introductory portion, (1)(a) introductory portion, and
7 (1)(a)(V) are **amended by House Bill 22-1193** and as (1)(a)(VII) and
8 (1)(a)(VIII) are **added by House Bill 22-1193**; and **add** (1)(e) as follows:

9 **8-83-504.5. Additional coal transition workforce assistance**
10 **program funding - coal transition workforce assistance program**
11 **account.** (1) (a) (I) The coal transition workforce assistance program
12 account is hereby created in the fund.

13 (II) (A) On June 30, 2021, the state treasurer shall transfer seven
14 million dollars from the general fund to the account.

15 (B) ON JULY 1, 2022, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER TEN
16 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE ACCOUNT.

17 (III) Subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly, the
18 department shall expend money from the account for coal transition
19 workforce assistance programs ~~subject to the following requirements and~~
20 ~~limitations:~~

21 ~~(a) The money must be expended for programs that directly assist~~
22 ~~coal transition workers or their family members and other household~~
23 ~~members, including programs that:~~

24 ~~(†) (A) Establish or expand existing apprenticeship programs, the~~
25 ~~training capacity of such programs, and the placement of coal transition~~
26 ~~workers into such programs, prioritizing programs that are recognized as~~
27 ~~registered apprenticeship programs by the department or are~~

1 industry-recognized apprenticeship programs that satisfy United States
2 department of labor requirements for such programs;

3 ~~(H)~~ (B) Aid implementation of the final just transition plan;

4 ~~(H)~~ (C) Provide tuition reimbursement;

5 ~~(V)~~ (D) Provide job search assistance;

6 ~~(V)~~ (E) Provide individualized financial and transition planning;

7 ~~(V)~~ (F) Provide other services authorized by the federal
8 "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act", Pub.L. 113-128, such as
9 on-the-job training, subsidized employment, and other strategies that aid
10 in the implementation of individual transition plans;

11 ~~(V)~~ (G) Support family members or other household members
12 of coal transition workers; or

13 ~~(V)~~ (H) Test innovative coal transition work support programs
14 through a pilot program. The department is encouraged to limit any pilot
15 program to no more than forty total participants who are coal transition
16 workers, coal transition worker family members, coal transition worker
17 households, or a combination of coal transition workers, family members,
18 and households.

19 (IV) FOR PURPOSES OF THE MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE
20 ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II)(B) OF THIS SECTION, THE
21 OFFICE SHALL USE THE MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES THAT
22 DIRECTLY ASSIST COAL TRANSITION WORKERS, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS,
23 AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS, INCLUDING COAL TRANSITION
24 WORKERS, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, AND THEIR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS
25 WHO ARE MEMBERS OF A DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITY:

26 (A) TUITION ASSISTANCE AND APPRENTICESHIPS;

27 (B) EXPANDED CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE;

1 (C) CAREER PLANNING SERVICES;

2 (D) FINANCIAL COUNSELING; AND

3 (E) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

4 (e) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXPEND THE MONEY TRANSFERRED
5 TO THE ACCOUNT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a)(II)(B) OF THIS SECTION
6 BY THE CLOSE OF STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27.

7 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.