

CHAPTER 479

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

SENATE BILL 24-153

BY SENATOR(S) Danielson, Buckner, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Ginal, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Priola, Sullivan, Winter F., Zenzinger;
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Vigil and Ortiz, Amabile, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, English, Epps, Froelich, Hamrick, Hernandez, Herod, Jodeh, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lukens, Mabrey, Marshall, McCormick, McLachlan, Parenti, Ricks, Rutinel, Sirota, Snyder, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Weissman, Willford, Young, McCluskie.

AN ACT

CONCERNING FREE AUDIO NEWS SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE PRINT-DISABLED, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-90-105.5, **amend** (5); and **add** (6) as follows:

24-90-105.5. Literacy support services for persons who are blind or print-disabled - authority of state librarian - fund. (5) The general assembly ~~hereby~~ recognizes the importance of privately operated reading services to enable ~~those persons who cannot effectively read newspapers or other printed documents~~ ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED to gain access to ~~such~~ otherwise inaccessible print materials. The state librarian ~~shall have~~ HAS the authority to administer ~~funds~~ MONEY in the reading services for the blind cash fund, which is ~~hereby~~ created IN THE STATE TREASURY, for the support of ~~said~~ privately operated reading services. The fund ~~shall consist~~ CONSISTS of any public or private ~~moneys~~ MONEY transferred, appropriated, or otherwise credited ~~thereto~~ TO THE FUND. All ~~moneys~~ MONEY credited to the fund and all interest earned on the investment of ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund ~~shall be~~ IS a part of the fund and ~~shall~~ MUST not be transferred or credited to the general fund or to any other fund except as directed by the general assembly acting by bill. The general assembly shall make annual appropriations from the reading services for the blind cash fund to the state librarian to carry out the purposes of this ~~subsection (5)~~ SECTION.

(6) THE SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH PROVIDERS OF ON-DEMAND NEWS AND

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.

INFORMATION SERVICES TO COLORADANS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED MUST BE EXPANDED TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF COLORADANS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED TO USE THE ON-DEMAND AND INFORMATION SERVICES, AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COLORADANS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED WHO ARE AWARE OF SUCH SERVICES. THE ON-DEMAND NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES MUST BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE AN ENLARGED ARRAY OF INFORMATION AND LITERACY SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT A VARIETY OF COMMUNICATION-RELATED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND BLINDNESS-RELATED SERVICES, INTRODUCTORY TRAINING, AND METHODS TO FIND AND USE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN OR NEAR COMMUNITIES WHERE A PERSON LIVES. THE EXPANDED SERVICES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

(a) INFORMATION SHARING, MARKETING OF EXPANDED SERVICES, AND OTHER METHODS FOR INFORMING PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE SERVICES;

(b) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR USERS TO RESOLVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SERVICES OR THE DEVICES THAT MIGHT BE USED TO ACCESS THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH THESE SERVICES; AND

(c) THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNICATION-RELATED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$200,000 is appropriated to the department of education for use by library programs. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for reading services for the blind.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: June 7, 2024