

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

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Chair of Committee

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May 4, 2024  
Date

Committee on Finance.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB24-1349 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend reengrossed bill, page 3, line 9, after "FUNDING" insert "AND  
2 MENTAL HEALTH".

3

4 Page 4, after line 17, insert:

5           "(e) ADDITIONALLY, INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING TRAUMA DUE TO  
6 GUN AND OTHER TYPES OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING MILITARY VETERANS  
7 AND AT-RISK YOUTH, NEED SUPPORT TO ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH  
8 SERVICES IN ORDER TO RECOVER FROM THEIR TRAUMA AND RECLAIM  
9 THEIR HEALTH. CURRENTLY, THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO ACCESS  
10 TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN COLORADO.

11           (f) EVEN BEFORE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, COLORADO RANKED  
12 IN THE BOTTOM HALF OF ALL STATES WITH REGARD TO THE PREVALENCE  
13 OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE STATE RELATIVE TO ACCESS TO CARE. SINCE  
14 THE PANDEMIC BEGAN, THE COLORADO CRISIS SERVICES HOTLINE HAS  
15 RECEIVED THIRTY PERCENT MORE CALLS AND TEXTS THAN IN PREVIOUS  
16 YEARS, AND THE PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT CHILDREN'S  
17 HOSPITAL IN COLORADO HAS TREATED TEN PERCENT MORE CHILDREN  
18 EXPERIENCING THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE. IN 2021, ONE-THIRD OF COLORADO  
19 YOUTH REPORTED EXPERIENCING FEELINGS OF SADNESS AND  
20 HOPELESSNESS FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWO WEEKS OR MORE.

21           (g) IN COLORADO, A GUN SUICIDE DEATH OCCURS EVERY THIRTEEN  
22 HOURS. DURING AN AVERAGE YEAR, SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN  
23 PEOPLE DIE BY GUN SUICIDE AND SEVENTY-THREE PERCENT OF ALL GUN  
24 DEATHS IN COLORADO ARE SUICIDES. COLORADO HAS THE TENTH HIGHEST  
25 RATE OF GUN SUICIDE IN THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO THE UNITED  
26 STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THE VETERAN SUICIDE RATE  
27 IN COLORADO IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN BOTH THE NATIONAL

1 AVERAGE AND THE NATIONAL GENERAL POPULATION SUICIDE RATE. THE  
2 COLORADO BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS REPORTED THAT CURRENT  
3 RESOURCES ARE INADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEARLY FOUR  
4 HUNDRED THOUSAND VETERANS IN COLORADO, AND COLORADO IS  
5 EXPECTED TO EXPERIENCE A THIRTY-NINE PERCENT INCREASE IN SERVICE  
6 NEEDS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

7 (h) IN COLORADO, OVER HALF OF ALL GUN DEATHS AMONG  
8 CHILDREN AND TEENS ARE SUICIDES. ACCORDING TO THE COLORADO  
9 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, SUICIDE IS THE  
10 LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS, PERSONS  
11 AGED TEN TO TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OLD. BLACK CHILDREN AND BLACK  
12 TEENS ARE FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR WHITE PEERS TO DIE BY  
13 GUN."

14 Reletter succeeding paragraphs accordingly.

15 Page 12, line 15, strike "NINE" and substitute "SIX AND ONE-HALF" and  
16 strike "GROSS" and substitute "NET".

17 Page 19, line 1, strike "\$54,000,000" and substitute "\$39,000,000".

18 Page 19, line 2, strike "AT-RISK YOUTH" and substitute "MILITARY  
19 VETERANS".

20 Page 19, line 3, strike "MILITARY VETERANS" and substitute "AT-RISK  
21 YOUTH".

22 Page 19, line 6, strike "9%" and substitute "6.5%".

23 Page 20, line 3, strike "THIRTY-FIVE" and substitute "THIRTY".

24 Page 20, line 22, strike "SECTION." and substitute "SECTION; AND".

25 Page 20, strike lines 23 through 27.

26 Page 21, line 1, strike "(III)" and substitute "(II)" and strike "(2)(a)(II)"  
27 and substitute "(2)(a)(I)".

28 Page 21, line 2, strike "TEN" and substitute "NINE".

29 Page 21, line 4, strike "24-75-230 (2)(a); AND" and substitute "24-75-230  
30 (2)(a)".

- 1 Page 21, strike lines 5 through 10.
- 2 Page 22, line 4, strike "AND (2)(a)(IV)".
- 3 Page 22, line 10, strike "AND (2)(a)(IV)".
- 4 Page 23, strike lines 5 and 6 and substitute:
- 5 **"SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1811,  
6 **amend (2)** as follows:".
- 7 Page 23, line 8, strike "(1) The school security disbursement program  
8 cash fund,".
- 9 Page 23, strike lines 9 through 20.
- 10 Page 24, line 4, strike "39-37-301 (2)(a)(III)," and substitute "39-37-301  
11 (2)(a)(II),".
- 12 Page 24, line 20, strike "39-37-301 (2)(a)(III)." and substitute "39-37-301  
13 (2)(a)(II).".
- 14 Page 24, line 21, strike "FIVE" and substitute "SIX".
- 15 Page 24, line 22, strike "39-37-301 (2)(a)(III)" and substitute "39-37-301  
16 (2)(a)(II),".
- 17 Page 24, line 24, strike "FOR THE PURPOSE OF".
- 18 Page 24, strike lines 25 through 27 and substitute "IN COORDINATION  
19 WITH THE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, CREATED IN SECTION 28-5-701  
20 (1), FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING AND EXPANDING THE VETERANS  
21 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
22 28-5-714.".
- 23 Page 25, line 2, strike "FIVE" and substitute "THREE".
- 24 Page 25, line 3, strike "39-37-301 (2)(a)(III)" and substitute "39-37-301  
25 (2)(a)(II),".
- 26 Page 25, line 4, strike "IN".
- 27 Page 25, strike lines 5 through 8 and substitute "FOR THE PURPOSE OF

1 CONTINUING AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS  
2 RESPONSE SYSTEM SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ACCORDANCE  
3 WITH ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE 27."

4 Page 25, line 16, strike "39-37-301 (2)(a)(III)," and substitute "39-37-301  
5 (2)(a)(II),".

6 Page 25, line 26, strike "39-37-301 (2)(a)(III)" and substitute "39-37-301  
7 (2)(a)(II),".

8 Page 26, line 1, strike "24-75-230 (3.7)" and substitute "24-75-230 (3.5)".

9 Page 1, line 110, strike "AT-RISK YOUTH" and substitute "**MILITARY**  
10 **VETERANS**".

11 Page 1, line 111, strike "**MILITARY VETERANS**," and substitute "**AT-RISK**  
12 **YOUTH**".

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