

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 18-1224.01 Megan Waples x4348

HOUSE BILL 18-1401

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Winter and Jackson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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House Committees  
Transportation & Energy

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOW-INCOME FARE PROGRAM  
102 BY THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT, AND, IN  
103 CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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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 authorizes the regional transportation district (RTD) to create a program to offer reduced fares to low-income riders and directs the rail and transit division of the department of transportation to provide assistance and oversight. The bill makes an appropriation of \$80,000 to be used to establish and implement the program.

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.

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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 hereby finds and declares that:

4           (a) The regional transportation district (RTD) convened the pass  
5 program working group (working group) in March of 2017 to conduct a  
6 year-long effort to review and make recommendations to RTD staff on  
7 revisions to all pass programs.

8           (b) The guiding principles of the working group included brand  
9 loyalty, convenience, cost-effectiveness, equitable access, increased  
10 ridership, meeting strategic budget plan targets, revenue certainty, and  
11 simplifying rider-operator interaction.

12           (c) The working group included members of RTD staff and  
13 stakeholders representing schools, businesses, municipalities,  
14 neighborhood groups, and advocacy organizations.

15           (d) The working group completed its work and issued its  
16 recommendations in March of 2018.

17           (e) As part of its final report, the working group recommended  
18 creating a low-income fare program to offer a discount to those  
19 individuals who need it most. The working group recommended that the  
20 low-income fare program begin by offering a forty-percent discount to  
21 qualifying riders whose incomes are at or below one hundred eighty-five  
22 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Most of the working group  
23 supported raising the low-income discount to a fifty-percent discount for  
24 those living at or below one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal  
25 poverty guidelines and raising funds from new sources to support the  
26 program.

1 (f) RTD transportation services are provided to assist  
2 transit-dependent and lower-income individuals and families, to deliver  
3 reliable transit options, and to relieve traffic congestion. Furthermore,  
4 public transportation service should be provided at the lowest possible  
5 cost to make the metro area a more equitable place to live and work by  
6 ensuring that public transit is affordable and accessible to all.

7 (2) Now, therefore, it is the intent of the general assembly to  
8 authorize and support the creation of a low-income fare program by RTD.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 43-1-117.5, **amend**  
10 (3)(a)(IV) as follows:

11 **43-1-117.5. Transit and rail division - created - powers and**  
12 **duties.** (3) (a) The transit and rail division shall be responsible for the  
13 planning, development, operation, and integration of transit and rail,  
14 including, where appropriate, advanced guideway systems, into the  
15 statewide transportation system; shall, in coordination with other transit  
16 and rail providers, plan, promote, and implement investments in transit  
17 and rail services statewide; and shall have the following specific powers  
18 and duties:

19 (IV) To administer and expend state and federal funds that may  
20 be dedicated by law, by appropriation by the general assembly, or by the  
21 commission for:

22 (A) The construction, maintenance, and operation of interregional  
23 transit, advanced guideway, and passenger rail services; ~~and~~

24 (B) Transit projects including, but not limited to, facilities,  
25 equipment, services, and the provision of grants to transit operators; AND

26 (C) ASSISTING IN AND PROVIDING OVERSIGHT OF THE  
27 ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM TO OFFER

1 REDUCED FARES FOR LOW-INCOME RIDERS BY THE REGIONAL  
2 TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT CREATED IN ARTICLE 9 OF TITLE 32 THROUGH  
3 OFFSETTING FARES TO PROVIDE A FIFTY-PERCENT DISCOUNT FOR  
4 LOW-INCOME PASSES AND BY CONVENING REPRESENTATIVES OF  
5 MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND  
6 LOW-INCOME RIDERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS RELATED TO  
7 ESTABLISHING A LOW-INCOME FARE PROGRAM AND EXPLORING NEW  
8 REVENUE SOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE FIFTY-PERCENT DISCOUNT AS PART  
9 OF THAT PROGRAM.

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 32-9-119, **amend** (1)  
11 introductory portion; and **add** (1)(m.5) as follows:

12 **32-9-119. Additional powers of district.** (1) In addition to any  
13 other powers granted to the district in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 9, the district  
14 has the following powers:

15 (m.5) TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO OFFER  
16 REDUCED FARES FOR LOW-INCOME RIDERS;

17 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2018-19 state fiscal year,  
18 \$80,000 is appropriated to the department of transportation for use by the  
19 transit and rail division. This appropriation is from the general fund. To  
20 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation to assist the  
21 regional transportation district with the establishment and implementation  
22 of a program to offer reduced fares for low-income riders.

23 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
24 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
26 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a  
27 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the

1 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
2 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
3 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
4 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
5 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.