

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 18-1224.01 Megan Waples x4348

HOUSE BILL 18-1401

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Winter and Jackson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Transportation & Energy
Appropriations

Senate Committees

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.**

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.

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) SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO OFFER
27 REDUCED FARES FOR LOW-INCOME TRANSIT RIDERS THROUGH OFFSETTING

1 **FARES.** ■

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

4 **32-9-119. Additional powers of district.** (1) In addition to any
5 other powers granted to the district in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 9, the district
6 has the following powers:

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

9 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2018-19 state fiscal year,
10 \$80,000 is appropriated to the department of transportation for use by the
11 transit and rail division. This appropriation is from the general fund. To
12 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation to assist the
13 regional transportation district with the establishment and implementation
14 of a program to offer reduced fares for low-income riders.

15 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
18 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
23 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.