

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0905.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 21-1270

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Exum and Caraveo,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields,

House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN**
102 **SERVICES FOR SERVICES RELATED TO THE COLORADO**
103 **EMPLOYMENT FIRST PROGRAM WITHIN THE SUPPLEMENTAL**
104 **ASSISTANCE NUTRITION PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION**
105 **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 appropriates money to the department of human services (department) in order to seek a 50% match from the federal government

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.

for the Colorado employment first program within the supplemental assistance nutrition program. The bill requires the department to direct county departments and any third-party partners to prioritize any state or federal money received to fund employment support and job retention services and to support work-based learning opportunities for Colorado employment first participants. Any remaining money may be used to initiate and enhance current and additional state- or county-initiated third-party partnerships.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 26-2-307** as
3 follows:

4 **26-2-307. Colorado employment first - supplemental nutrition**
5 **assistance program - federal match - legislative declaration -**
6 **definition - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

7 (I) THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THAT SPREAD THROUGH COLORADO
8 BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY 2020 HAS LED TO EXTENSIVE JOB LOSS
9 THROUGHOUT THE STATE;

10 (II) PERSISTENT UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOSS OF INCOME AS A
11 RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS LED MANY COLORADANS TO
12 RELY ON CRITICAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS, SUCH AS THE
13 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WHICH HELPS
14 STRUGGLING FAMILIES PAY FOR FOOD;

15 (III) IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY FOOD
16 ASSISTANCE FOR COLORADANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, THE SUPPLEMENTAL
17 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES RESOURCES DEDICATED
18 TO EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING SERVICES, KNOWN AS THE
19 COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST PROGRAM; AND

20 (IV) THE COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST PROGRAM PROMOTES
21 LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND INDEPENDENCE BY PREPARING

1 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS FOR
2 MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT THROUGH WORK-RELATED EDUCATION AND
3 TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

4 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT
5 INVESTING STATE DOLLARS INTO THE COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST
6 PROGRAM WILL ENHANCE THE PROGRAM'S ABILITY TO HELP
7 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ACHIEVE
8 ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY DRAWING DOWN A FIFTY PERCENT
9 FEDERAL MATCH FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
10 PROGRAM, WHICH IS A FLEXIBLE SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR WORKFORCE
11 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.

12 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
13 REQUIRES, "COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST" MEANS THE EMPLOYMENT
14 AND TRAINING PROGRAM WITHIN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
15 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

16 (3) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DIRECT COUNTY
17 DEPARTMENTS AND ANY THIRD-PARTY PARTNERS TO PRIORITIZE THE
18 MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION
19 AND THE FEDERAL MATCH TO FUND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND JOB
20 RETENTION SERVICES PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-83-404 (5)(b) AND TO
21 SUPPORT WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO
22 EMPLOYMENT FIRST PARTICIPANTS.

23 (b) ANY REMAINING MONEY MAY BE USED TO INITIATE AND
24 ENHANCE CURRENT AND ADDITIONAL STATE- OR COUNTY-INITIATED
25 THIRD-PARTY PARTNERSHIPS, WHICH MUST INCLUDE ALLOWING
26 THIRD-PARTY PARTNERS TO RECEIVE AND USE STATE MONEY AND ANY
27 MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH THE FEDERAL MATCH IN ORDER TO PROVIDE

1 COLORADO EMPLOYMENT FIRST SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS.

2 (c) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, OR ANY
3 THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR THAT RECEIVES STATE OR FEDERAL MONEY
4 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY USE UP TO TEN PERCENT OF THE MONEY
5 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION.

6 (4) FOR THE 2020-21 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE
8 GENERAL FUND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED
9 IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. IF ANY UNEXPENDED OR
10 UNENCUMBERED MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR REMAINS
11 AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND
12 THE MONEY FOR THE SAME PURPOSES IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT
13 FURTHER APPROPRIATION.

14 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023.

15 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2020-21 state fiscal year,
16 \$3,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use
17 by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from the general
18 fund. The office shall use this appropriation for the purposes described in
19 section 26-2-307 (3), C.R.S. Any money appropriated in this section not
20 expended prior to July 1, 2021, is further appropriated to the office for the
21 2021-22 state fiscal year for the same purpose.

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