

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0847.01 Christy Chase x2008

HOUSE BILL 22-1299

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Young,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker,

House Committees
Finance

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION
102 OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CASH FUND IN THE 2022-23
103 STATE FISCAL YEAR TO FACILITATE FEE RELIEF FOR MENTAL
104 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS REGULATED BY BOARDS IN THE
105 DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

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 directs the state treasurer to transfer \$3,698,586 from the general fund to the division of professions and occupations cash fund for

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.

use beginning in the 2022-23 state fiscal year and until fully expended to fund the expenses of the state board of psychologist examiners, the state board of social work examiners, the state board of marriage and family therapist examiners, the state board of licensed professional counselor examiners, the state board of unlicensed psychotherapists, and the state board of addiction counselor examiners in order to facilitate fee relief for mental health professionals regulated by those boards.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) The global pandemic has caused tremendous strain on the
5 health-care system and, in particular, on frontline health-care providers;

6 (b) Mental health professionals have been especially hard hit as
7 they are the primary providers of care during a time when the pandemic
8 has resulted in a significant increase in the number of adults who report
9 symptoms of stress, anxiety, depression, and insomnia;

10 (c) One in five adults experiences a mental health condition each
11 year, but only forty percent receive services as there are not enough
12 providers to keep up with the demands for mental health services;

13 (d) The increased demands for mental health services impose
14 tremendous strains on the health-care system and on mental health
15 professionals trying to meet the demands; and

16 (e) Due to these tremendous challenges, many of these critical
17 mental health professionals are leaving the field or struggling to remain
18 in their jobs, given the stressful work environments.

19 (2) In recognition of the incredible services these critical mental
20 health professionals have delivered throughout the pandemic and of the
21 selfless sacrifices they have made, it is the intent of the general assembly
22 to provide licensure and certification fee relief for psychologists, social

1 workers, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors,
2 psychotherapists, and addiction counselors.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-105, **add** (7)
4 as follows:

5 **12-20-105. Fee adjustments - division of professions and**
6 **occupations cash fund created - legal defense account created -**
7 **general fund transfer - definition - repeal.** (7) (a) ON JULY 1, 2022,
8 THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED
9 NINETY-EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX DOLLARS FROM THE
10 GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CASH
11 FUND. THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7)(a)
12 IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
13 THE DIVISION SHALL USE THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS
14 SUBSECTION (7)(a) BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND
15 UNTIL THE AMOUNT IS FULLY EXPENDED TO FUND THE COSTS OF THE STATE
16 BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
17 EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
18 EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
19 EXAMINERS, THE STATE BOARD OF UNLICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPISTS, AND
20 THE STATE BOARD OF ADDICTION COUNSELOR EXAMINERS IN
21 ADMINISTERING ARTICLE 245 OF THIS TITLE 12.

22 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

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