

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 22-0817.02 Kristen Forrestal x4217

SENATE BILL 22-181

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Simpson,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter and Van Beber,

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN TO**
102 **ADDRESS ISSUES REGARDING THE DELIVERY OF BEHAVIORAL**
103 **HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN THIS STATE.**

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 requires the behavioral health administration (BHA) in the department of human services (department) to create and implement a behavioral health-care provider workforce plan on or before September 1, 2022.

The plan is required to:

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.

- Include recruitment methods to increase and diversify the behavioral health-care provider workforce;
- Require the BHA to partner with the department of higher education to better prepare the future behavioral health-care provider workforce for public sector service, to develop paid job shadowing and internship opportunities, and to develop partnerships with learning facilities and training centers;
- Include strategies for the BHA to work with community colleges and other institutions of higher education to recruit residents of health professional shortage areas, with the goal of educating these individuals in behavioral health-care fields so that they will return to practice in areas of need;
- In collaboration with institutions of higher education, including the community college system, create a new program to help behavioral health-care providers advance in their respective fields;
- Require the BHA to expand the peer support professional workforce; and
- Through an interagency agreement with other state agencies, raise awareness among health-care providers concerning opportunities to invest in and strengthen their behavioral health-care staff.

The bill requires the division of professions and occupations in the department of regulatory agencies (DORA) to make recommendations to expand the portability of existing credentialing requirements and behavioral health-care practice through telehealth.

The bill requires the BHA to:

- In collaboration with DORA, establish workforce standards that strengthen the behavioral health-care provider workforce and increase opportunities for unlicensed behavioral health-care providers;
- Work with other state agencies to reduce the administrative burden across agencies to ensure behavioral health-care providers have additional time to focus on patient care;
- Collaborate with other state agencies on behavioral health-care issues;
- Use the learning management system to develop and implement a comprehensive, collaborative, and cross-system training certification and training curriculum of evidence-based treatment and evidence-based criminal justice approaches for behavioral health-care providers working in programs to obtain a criminal justice treatment provider endorsement; and

- Develop methods to strengthen Colorado's current behavioral health-care provider workforce.

The department is required to provide an overview of the BHA's progress toward addressing the behavioral health-care provider workforce shortage during the hearings held prior to the regular session of the general assembly under the "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act".

From the behavioral and mental health cash fund, the general assembly shall appropriate:

- \$52 million to the BHA for the purposes outlined in the bill; and
- \$20 million to the Colorado health services corps fund to provide student loan repayment for behavioral health-care providers and candidates for licensure and to award scholarships to addiction counselors.

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, to ensure Colorado has a high-quality,
4 trained, culturally responsive, and diverse behavioral health-care provider
5 workforce that delivers improved access to behavioral health-care
6 services, it is the intent of the general assembly to direct the behavioral
7 health administration to create and implement a plan to expand,
8 strengthen, and invest in the behavioral health-care provider workforce
9 that outlines how to:

10 (a) Promote and recruit new and existing behavioral health-care
11 providers in Colorado;

12 (b) Create opportunities for behavioral health-care providers to
13 advance in their field;

14 (c) Increase the number of peer support professionals across the
15 state;

16 (d) Support rural communities in developing the skills of their
17 residents;

1 (e) Offer student loan forgiveness programs and student
2 scholarships;

3 (f) Expand telehealth options; and

4 (g) Increase flexibility concerning credentialing and licensing
5 reciprocity among states.

6 (2) The general assembly further finds that the plan implemented
7 by the behavioral health administration must be based on the work of the
8 behavioral health workforce development workgroup as reflected in the
9 December 2021 "Stakeholder Recommendations to Address the
10 Behavioral Workforce Shortage" and the final report of the behavioral
11 health transformational task force.

12 (3) (a) The general assembly further finds that:

13 (I) During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for behavioral
14 health-care services from qualified behavioral health-care providers
15 increased substantially;

16 (II) During this unprecedented time, Coloradans may have lost
17 access to or encountered decreased access to behavioral health-care and
18 mental health providers;

19 (III) Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, rates of psychological
20 distress have increased alongside symptoms of anxiety, depression, and
21 other behavioral and mental health disorders, including substance use
22 disorders; and

23 (IV) A plan to expand and strengthen the behavioral health-care
24 provider workforce in this state will increase the number of behavioral
25 health-care providers and aid in the control and alleviation of behavioral
26 health issues, including access to care, that were brought on and
27 exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 (b) The general assembly declares that:

2 (I) The creation and implementation of a behavioral health-care
3 provider workforce plan and the requirement for the behavioral health
4 administration to take other specific actions designed to expand access to
5 behavioral health care are intended to respond to the negative public
6 health impacts of COVID-19 on the behavioral health-care provider
7 workforce and on the people seeking behavioral health-care services,
8 especially on priority populations;

9 (II) The plan and other targeted actions required by part 3 of
10 article 60 of title 27, Colorado Revised Statutes, and the activities related
11 to the implementation of the plan are important government services;

12 (III) The federal government enacted the "American Rescue Plan
13 Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, referred to in this section as the "federal act",
14 to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in responding to
15 the negative public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

16 (IV) Expanding and strengthening the behavioral health-care
17 provider workforce through the implementation of this act is an
18 appropriate use of the money transferred to Colorado under the federal
19 act.

20 (4) The general assembly further finds that:

21 (a) Providing additional funding for scholarships and loan
22 repayment for behavioral health-care providers and licensure candidates
23 will increase the number of behavioral health-care providers necessary
24 to expand access to care by those who suffer from the negative impacts
25 brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic;

26 (b) Allowing the primary care office to more easily address the
27 growing behavioral health crisis is an important government service; and

1 (c) Increasing funding to the primary care office for loan
2 repayment and scholarships for behavioral health-care providers is an
3 appropriate use of the money transferred to Colorado under the federal
4 act.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 3 to article
6 60 of title 27, as follows:

7 PART 3

8 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER WORKFORCE

9 **27-60-301. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 3 UNLESS THE
10 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

11 (1) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION" OR "BHA" MEANS
12 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
13 27-60-203.

14 (2) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AIDE" OR "AIDE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL
15 WHO:

16 (a) ADDRESSES MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SUBSTANCE USE
17 DISORDERS TO PROMOTE HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND
18 COMMUNITIES;

19 (b) DEPENDENT ON THE LEVEL OF CERTIFICATION OF THE
20 INDIVIDUAL, MAY ACT AS A COMMUNITY EDUCATOR AND PROVIDE
21 EXPANDED SERVICES FOR MORE COMPLEX BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS;
22 AND

23 (c) IS FAMILIAR WITH STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES AND CAN
24 PROVIDE REFERRALS AND OTHER ADDITIONAL SERVICES.

25 (3) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER" MEANS A RECOVERY
26 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 27-80-126, A
27 RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES ORGANIZATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION

1 27-60-108, OR A LICENSED ORGANIZATION OR PROFESSIONAL THAT
2 PROVIDES DIAGNOSTIC, THERAPEUTIC, OR PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR
3 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONDITIONS. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS
4 INCLUDE A RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE FACILITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
5 26-6-102, AND A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER AS DEFINED IN
6 THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1395x (aa)(4).

7 (4) "COMMUNITY COLLEGE" MEANS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE
8 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 23-60-205 THAT IS GOVERNED BY THE STATE
9 BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION.

10 (5) "FUND" MEANS THE BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CASH
11 FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-230 (2)(a).

12 (6) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" MEANS A LOCAL
13 DISTRICT COLLEGE OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 71 OF TITLE 23 OR
14 AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

15 (7) "LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM" MEANS AN ONLINE
16 TRAINING CURRICULUM DEVELOPED FOR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS IN
17 RURAL AND METRO AREAS PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-60-112 (2)(b) TO
18 INCREASE COMPETENCIES IN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE
19 DISORDERS THAT WILL SUPPORT A HIGH-QUALITY, TRAINED, CULTURALLY
20 RESPONSIVE, AND DIVERSE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER
21 WORKFORCE.

22 (8) "PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET
23 FORTH IN SECTION 27-60-108 (2)(b).

24 (9) "PLAN" MEANS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER
25 WORKFORCE PLAN CREATED BY THE BHA PURSUANT TO SECTION
26 27-60-302.

27 (10) "PRIORITY POPULATIONS" MEANS:

- 1 (a) PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS;
- 2 (b) PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM;
- 3 (c) PEOPLE OF COLOR;
- 4 (d) AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES;
- 5 (e) VETERANS;
- 6 (f) PEOPLE WHO ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, OR
- 7 QUEER OR QUESTIONING;
- 8 (g) OLDER ADULTS;
- 9 (h) CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; AND
- 10 (i) PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF
- 11 AND HARD OF HEARING, PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR DEAFBLIND, PEOPLE
- 12 WITH BRAIN INJURIES, PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL
- 13 DISABILITIES, AND PEOPLE WITH OTHER CO-OCCURRING DISABILITIES.

14 (11) "SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER" MEANS A CHRONIC RELAPSING
15 BRAIN DISEASE, CHARACTERIZED BY RECURRENT USE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS,
16 OR BOTH, CAUSING CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPAIRMENT, INCLUDING
17 HEALTH PROBLEMS, DISABILITY, AND FAILURE TO MEET MAJOR
18 RESPONSIBILITIES AT WORK, SCHOOL, OR HOME.

19 **27-60-302. Behavioral health-care provider workforce plan -**
20 **expansion - current workforce.** (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022,
21 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION SHALL CREATE AND BEGIN TO
22 IMPLEMENT A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER WORKFORCE PLAN TO
23 EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN COLORADO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
24 PROVIDER WORKFORCE TO SERVE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS. IN
25 CREATING THE PLAN, THE BHA SHALL CONSIDER THE STAKEHOLDER
26 RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ADDRESS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
27 WORKFORCE SHORTAGE PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN DECEMBER

1 2021.

2 (2) (a) THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

3 (I) THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RECRUITMENT
4 METHODS TO INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
5 PROVIDER WORKFORCE THROUGH IDENTIFYING THE CULTURAL BARRIERS
6 TO ENTERING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE FIELD AND INCORPORATING
7 THE APPROPRIATE STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THOSE BARRIERS; ==

8 (II) STRATEGIES TO AID PUBLICLY FUNDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
9 == PROVIDERS IN RETAINING WELL-TRAINED, CLINICAL BEHAVIORAL
10 HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS AT ALL LEVELS; AND

11 (III) REGULATORY CHANGES TO REDUCE BARRIERS.

12 (b) AS PART OF THE PLAN, THE BHA SHALL USE MONEY
13 APPROPRIATED TO THE BHA TO PARTNER WITH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS
14 LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING PRIORITY
15 POPULATIONS.

16 (3) (a) THE PLAN SHALL REQUIRE THE BHA TO PARTNER WITH THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO BETTER PREPARE THE FUTURE
18 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER WORKFORCE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR
19 SERVICE, TO DEVELOP PAID JOB SHADOWING AND INTERNSHIP
20 OPPORTUNITIES, AND TO DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS
21 THAT CAN OFFER SUCH OPPORTUNITIES.

22 (b) THE BHA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
23 SHALL PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR
24 THE PURPOSE OF MARKETING AND PROMOTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
25 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO STUDENTS AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF
26 STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE WITH A DEGREE IN A BEHAVIORAL
27 HEALTH-CARE FIELD OF STUDY.

1 (4) (a) THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE STRATEGIES FOR THE BHA TO
2 WORK WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
3 EDUCATION TO RECRUIT AND DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF RESIDENTS OF
4 RURAL COMMUNITIES AND RESIDENTS OF STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH
5 PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-1.5-402 (11),
6 WITH THE GOAL OF EDUCATING THESE RESIDENTS IN BEHAVIORAL
7 HEALTH-CARE FIELDS TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND
8 ADULTS SO THAT THE RESIDENTS RETURN AND PRACTICE IN THE RURAL
9 AREAS AND OTHER SHORTAGE AREAS.

10 (b) THE STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE BHA IN SUBSECTION
11 (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT
12 PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO
13 PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
14 AND STATE-DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS, AS
15 DEFINED IN SECTION 25-1.5-402 (11), FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS. THE
16 BHA SHALL COORDINATE AND WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
17 COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS TO EXPAND AND INCREASE THE LOAN
18 REPAYMENTS MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-503.

19 (5) THE BHA, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY
20 COLLEGE SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE
21 WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 24-46.3101,
22 AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL CREATE A NEW
23 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES
24 TIERED ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
25 PROVIDERS AT ALL LEVELS, FROM ADVANCEMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS IN
26 ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HOLD A BACHELOR'S
27 DEGREE.

1 (6) THE BHA SHALL USE THE MONEY APPROPRIATED BY THE
2 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEER SUPPORT
3 PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE STATE TO ENSURE THAT A PERSON
4 STRUGGLING WITH A A MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER OR A SUBSTANCE USE
5 DISORDER WHO IS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE CAN CONNECT WITH A PEER
6 SUPPORT SPECIALIST WHO HAS HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCES LIVING WITH A
7 MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER OR A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER. THE PURPOSE
8 OF THE PEER SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL IS TO SERVE AS A PERSONAL GUIDE
9 TO OTHERS SEEKING TO INITIATE AND MAINTAIN RECOVERY BY WORKING
10 TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND OBSTACLES TO THEIR RECOVERY AND TO LINK
11 PEOPLE TO SERVICES AS THEY EXPERIENCE CARE AND RECOVERY AND
12 TRANSITION BACK INTO THEIR COMMUNITY.

13 (7) THE BHA SHALL INCLUDE IN THE PLAN THE
14 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS
15 AND OCCUPATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-20-103 (8).

16 (8)(a) THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE PROPOSALS TO WORK WITH LOCAL
17 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, THE P.O.S.T. BOARD CREATED IN SECTION
18 24-31-302, AND A PEACE OFFICER ORGANIZATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
19 24-32-3501, TO:

20 (I) CROSS-TRAIN CURRENT AND FORMER CERTIFIED PEACE
21 OFFICERS, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-2.5-102, IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH;

22 (II) HELP INCREASE CULTURAL COMPETENCIES IN LAW
23 ENFORCEMENT; AND

24 (III) REDUCE THE STIGMA OF RECEIVING MENTAL HEALTH
25 SERVICES.

26 (b) THE PROPOSALS IMPLEMENTED BY THE BHA PURSUANT TO
27 SUBSECTION (8)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE STUDENT LOAN

1 REPAYMENT PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CURRENT AND FORMER
2 CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICERS WHO HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF LAW
3 ENFORCEMENT EXPERIENCE AND ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING
4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR AT LEAST
5 FIVE YEARS.

6 (c) THE BHA MAY COORDINATE AND WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH
7 THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AS DEFINED SECTION 25-1.5-502,
8 TO EXPAND AND INCREASE THE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENTS MADE
9 PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-503.

10 (9) THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE STRATEGIES TO UTILIZE
11 COLORADO-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS TO EXPAND
12 TELEHEALTH CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO PRIORITIZE
13 TIMELY ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES AND ADDRESS
14 SERVICE GAPS.

15 (10) THROUGH AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT, THE BHA SHALL
16 CREATE A PLAN FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BHA, THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
18 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY
19 AND FINANCING, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF
20 EARLY CHILDHOOD, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
21 TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS AND BEHAVIORAL
22 HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF
23 OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST IN AND STRENGTHEN THEIR PROFESSIONAL
24 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE STAFF.

25 **27-60-303. Behavioral health administration - additional**
26 **duties - collaboration with other agencies. (1) THE BHA SHALL:**

27 (a) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY

1 AGENCIES, ESTABLISH WORKFORCE STANDARDS THAT STRENGTHEN THE
2 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER WORKFORCE, INCLUDING
3 TELEHEALTH PROVIDERS, AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEER
4 SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AIDES. IF
5 PRACTICABLE, THE STANDARDS MUST BE ALIGNED WITH NATIONAL
6 STANDARDS AND ADDRESS HEALTH EQUITY; RURAL, FRONTIER, AND
7 URBAN NEEDS; PEDIATRIC CARE; SPECIALTY CARE; AND CARE FOR
8 INDIVIDUALS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS.

9 (b) PROVIDE AND FUND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING AND
10 CERTIFICATION WITH STATE, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL
11 CREDENTIALING ENTITIES;

12 (c) WORK WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO REDUCE THE
13 ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ACROSS AGENCIES TO ENSURE BEHAVIORAL
14 HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS HAVE ADDITIONAL TIME TO FOCUS ON PATIENT
15 CARE;

16 (d) COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
17 ENVIRONMENT TO:

18 (I) FURTHER DEVELOP CURRENT ASSESSMENTS THAT EXIST IN
19 RULES PROMULGATED BY THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH PURSUANT TO
20 SECTION 25-1.5-404 (1)(a) THAT MEASURE COMMUNITY-LEVEL
21 SHORTAGES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS WHO PROVIDE
22 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS; AND

23 (II) EXPAND THE COLORADO HEALTH SERVICE CORPS CREATED IN
24 SECTION 25-1.5-503 TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
25 SERVICES IN COMMUNITIES WHERE WORKFORCE SHORTAGES EXIST BY
26 PROVIDING LOANS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS TO PRACTICE IN
27 THESE COMMUNITIES AND TO WORK WITH PRIORITY POPULATIONS; AND

1 (e) COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
2 THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL
3 EDUCATION CREATED IN SECTION 23-60-104, THE DEPARTMENT OF
4 EDUCATION, THE STATE WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CREATED
5 IN SECTION 24-46.3-101, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT,
6 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING, AS
7 APPLICABLE, TO:

8 (I) UPDATE CAREER PATHWAYS TO ALIGN WITH POSTSECONDARY
9 DEGREE PROGRAMS, WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS, AND
10 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS TO ENSURE THAT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
11 EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE LABOR
12 MARKET IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES
13 ACROSS THE CARE CONTINUUM FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS;

14 (II) PREPARE STUDENTS AND CURRENT WORKERS IN THE
15 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE FIELD WITH THE SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS
16 THEY NEED FOR JOBS AND CAREERS, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT'S WORK-BASED LEARNING
18 PROGRAMS, TO ASSIST WITH IDENTIFYING INDUSTRY-RELEVANT SKILLS,
19 CERTIFICATIONS, AND CREDENTIALS IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
20 FIELD;

21 (III) SECURE FEDERAL FUNDING THAT SUPPORTS TRAINING,
22 EDUCATION, AND APPRENTICESHIPS IN BEHAVIORAL
23 HEALTH-CARE-RELATED OCCUPATIONS;

24 (IV) ENHANCE AND EXPAND THE DIRECT-CARE WORKFORCE TO
25 PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH,
26 AND ADULTS ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE
27 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING;

1 (V) ADDRESS LICENSING AND CREDENTIALING PORTABILITY
2 ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE ABILITY OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS TO
3 ACCESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES;

4 (VI) EXPLORE THE REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE MET FOR
5 CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST AND CERTIFIED ADDICTION TECHNICIAN
6 CLASSES TO BE TAUGHT REMOTELY; AND

7 (VII) EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF REMOTE SUPERVISORY
8 OBSERVATION FOR EACH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE FIELD.

9 (2)(a) THE BHA SHALL USE THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
10 TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE, COLLABORATIVE, AND CROSS-SYSTEM
11 TRAINING CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING CURRICULUM OF
12 EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT AND EVIDENCE-BASED CRIMINAL JUSTICE
13 APPROACHES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS WORKING IN
14 PROGRAMS TO OBTAIN A CRIMINAL JUSTICE TREATMENT PROVIDER
15 ENDORSEMENT. THE CURRICULUM SHALL INCLUDE:

16 (I) TRAINING TO ENSURE CROSS-SYSTEM ALIGNMENT AROUND A
17 PROACTIVE, COORDINATED, AND PRERELEASE CARE PLAN FOR
18 INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN JAIL, PRISON, AND COMMUNITY
19 CORRECTIONS FACILITIES;

20 (II) SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND SKILLS-BUILDING IN CULTURAL
21 COMPETENCIES AND OTHERWISE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE APPROACHES
22 TO SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OR WERE IN
23 THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; AND

24 (III) SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF
25 CRIME VICTIMS AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER'S ROLE IN
26 PREVENTING HARM OR INCREASING RISK TO IDENTIFIED CRIME VICTIMS.

27 (b) FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION,

1 THE BHA SHALL ADD RELEVANT CONTENT TO THE CURRICULUM
2 DEVELOPED IN THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND SHALL ENSURE
3 THAT THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IS ACCESSIBLE AND
4 PROMOTED TO ALL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES IN THE STATE.

5 (3) THE BHA SHALL DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN
6 COLORADO'S CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER
7 WORKFORCE. THE STRATEGIES SHALL INCLUDE:

8 (a) USING THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO INCREASE THE
9 CAPACITY OF PROVIDERS TO SUPPORT A CULTURALLY COMPETENT
10 LICENSED AND UNLICENSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER
11 WORKFORCE TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS.
12 THIS INCLUDES BUILDING FROM THE STANDARDS AND STATEWIDE CORE
13 COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT
14 SYSTEM AND OFFERING ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
15 OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS TO
16 TREAT COMPLEX NEEDS ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF CARE. IF
17 PRACTICABLE, THE STANDARDS SHALL ALIGN WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS
18 AND SHALL ADDRESS HEALTH EQUITY; RURAL, FRONTIER, AND URBAN
19 NEEDS; PEDIATRIC CARE; SPECIALTY CARE; AND CARE FOR PERSONS WITH
20 COMPLEX NEEDS. THE BHA SHALL USE THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT
21 SYSTEM TO CREATE COURSE WORK TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE
22 COMPETENCIES IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE.

23 (b) DEVELOPING METHODS SUPPORTED BY THE BHA, THE
24 DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
25 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY
26 AND FINANCING, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT FOR
27 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS TO ADDRESS BURNOUT, TRAINING

1 AND SUPERVISION, AND CAREER PATHWAYS FOR PROFESSIONAL
2 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS.

3 **27-60-304. Reports.** (1) IN 2023 AND 2024, THE STATE
4 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL INCLUDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE
5 BHA'S PROGRESS TOWARD ADDRESSING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
6 PROVIDER WORKFORCE SHORTAGE DURING THE HEARINGS HELD PRIOR TO
7 THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER THE "STATE
8 MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT
9 (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2.

10 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY
11 1, 2024, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO
12 THE BHA. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF
13 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAREER PATHWAY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION,
14 INCLUDING AN ACCOUNTING OF HOW MONEY WAS USED TO EXPAND OR
15 SUPPORT TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND CERTIFICATIONS IN THE
16 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAREER PATHWAY TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT IN
17 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SECTOR.

18 (3) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BHA, AND ANY PERSON WHO
19 RECEIVES MONEY FROM THE BHA SHALL COMPLY WITH THE COMPLIANCE,
20 REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
21 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND
22 BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
23 24-75-226 (5).

24 **27-60-305. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 3 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
25 SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.

26 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-103, **add** (8)
27 as follows:

1 **12-20-103. Division of professions and occupations - creation**
2 **- duties of division and department head - office space - per diem for**
3 **board or commission members - review of functions - repeal. (8) ON**
4 OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022, THE DIVISION SHALL:

5 (a) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXPAND THE PORTABILITY OF
6 EXISTING CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS THROUGH STATUTORY
7 CHANGES, INCLUDING THE ADOPTION OF INTERSTATE COMPACTS IN ORDER
8 TO FACILITATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE
9 PROVIDERS THE USE OF TELEHEALTH TO PRACTICE IN MULTIPLE
10 JURISDICTIONS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL INCLUDE PROPOSALS FOR
11 INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL
12 HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN RURAL, FRONTIER, AND OTHER
13 UNDER-REPRESENTED AREAS OF THE STATE.

14 (b) PROVIDE THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BEHAVIORAL
15 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 27-60-203 FOR
16 INCLUSION IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER WORKFORCE
17 PLAN CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-60-302.

18 (c) THIS SUBSECTION (8) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
19 2024.

20 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-506, **add**
21 (4)(d) as follows:

22 **25-1.5-506. Colorado health service corps fund - created -**
23 **acceptance of grants and donations - annual appropriation from**
24 **marijuana tax cash fund - repeal. (4) (d) (I)** IN ADDITION TO THE
25 APPROPRIATIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (4)(a) AND (4)(c) OF THIS
26 SECTION, FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
27 SHALL APPROPRIATE TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE BEHAVIORAL

1 AND MENTAL HEALTH CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-230 (2)(a)
2 TO THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN
3 SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION. IF ANY UNEXPENDED OR
4 UNENCUMBERED MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR A FISCAL YEAR REMAINS AT
5 THE END OF THAT FISCAL YEAR, THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE MAY EXPEND
6 THE MONEY FOR THE SAME PURPOSES IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WITHOUT
7 FURTHER APPROPRIATION.

8 (II) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT,
9 PRIMARY CARE OFFICE, AND ANY PERSON WHO RECEIVES MONEY FROM
10 THE PRIMARY CARE OFFICE, INCLUDING EACH RECIPIENT OF LOAN
11 REPAYMENTS OR A SCHOLARSHIP, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE COMPLIANCE,
12 REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
13 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND
14 BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
15 24-75-226 (5).

16 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY
17 1, 2025.

18 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-112, **amend**
19 (2)(b) as follows:

20 **27-60-112. Behavioral health-care workforce development**
21 **program - creation - rules - report.** (2) To implement the program, the
22 office shall:

23 (b) (I) Develop an online training curriculum for providers in
24 rural and metro areas to increase competencies in mental health and
25 substance use disorders that will support a high-quality, trained, culturally
26 responsive, and diverse behavioral health-care workforce;

27 (II) THE OFFICE SHALL:

1 (A) DEVELOP A PROCESS TO TRACK, STORE, AND CREATE REPORTS
2 CONCERNING THE TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION IN THE
3 CURRICULUM DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) OF THIS
4 SECTION AND TO TRACK PROVIDERS' COMPLETION OF IN-PERSON AND
5 VIRTUAL TRAINING OFFERED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b); AND

6 (B) COLLABORATE WITH CREDENTIALING ENTITIES TO TRACK PEER
7 SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS IN THE STATE.

8 **SECTION 6. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal
9 year, \$52,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services
10 for use by the behavioral health administration. This appropriation is
11 from the behavioral and mental health cash fund created in section
12 24-75-230 (2)(a), C.R.S. To implement this act, the behavioral health
13 administration may use this appropriation as follows:

14 (a) \$10,000,000 for the purposes specified in section 27-60-302
15 (2), C.R.S.;

16 (b) \$6,000,000 for the purposes specified in section 27-60-303
17 (3), C.R.S.;

18 (c) \$20,000,000 for the purposes specified in section 27-60-302
19 (5), C.R.S.;

20 (d) \$6,000,000 for the purposes specified in section 27-60-302
21 (6), C.R.S.;

22 (e) \$5,000,000 for the purposes specified in section 27-60-303,
23 C.R.S.; and

24 (f) \$5,000,000 for the purposes specified in section 27-60-112 (2),
25 C.R.S.

26 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$20,000,000 is appropriated
27 to the department of public health and environment for use by the

1 primary care office. This appropriation is from the behavioral and mental
2 health cash fund created in section 24-75-230 (2)(a), C.R.S. To
3 implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for the purposes
4 specified in section 25-1.5-506 (4)(a), C.R.S.

5 **SECTION 7. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2022.

6 **SECTION 8. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.