

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0999.01 Nicole Myers x4326

SENATE BILL 22-211

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Hinrichsen,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Valdez A.,

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REPURPOSING OF THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS INTO A
102 SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE
103 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

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>.)

In 2001, the state began operating an academic model juvenile facility on the parcel of real property formerly known as the Lowry bombing range and currently referred to as the Ridge View campus. The juvenile facility, known as the Ridge View Youth Services Center, operated for 20 years at the Ridge View campus until the state closed the

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.

facility in 2021. The bill requires that the Ridge View campus be repurposed and converted into the Ridge View Supportive Residential Community to provide transitional housing, a continuum of behavioral health service treatment, medical care, vocational training, and skill development for its residents and the general public.

The department of human services (department) is required to transfer ownership of all or part of the Ridge View campus to the department of personnel for use by the division of housing (division) for the purposes of repurposing the Ridge View campus. The division, in collaboration with the behavioral health administration and the department of human services, is required to develop a feasible master plan for the redevelopment and operations of the Ridge View campus and is required to enter into one or more contracts with private contractors to establish the Ridge View Supportive Residential Community at the Ridge View campus.

The Ridge View Supportive Residential Community is required to provide the following services and programs:

- A transitional housing program for individual adults with case management, care coordination, and vocational and housing placement assistance;
- A continuum of behavioral health services and treatment, informed by American Society of Addiction Medicine standards, available to people coming from the transitional housing program and to the general public; and
- A federally qualified health clinic at which people have access to medical treatments that help facilitate recovery, including medical and dental care and a continuum of behavioral health services. The health clinic and all behavioral health services and treatment are required to be accessible to people receiving other treatment at the Ridge View Supportive Residential Community, people residing in the transitional housing, and the general public.

The bill specifies eligibility criteria for the programs and services that will be offered at the Ridge View Supportive Residential Community and specifies how individuals may be referred to the community.

For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, the bill requires the general assembly to appropriate money from the economic recovery and relief cash fund to the division for the repurposing of the Ridge View campus and authorizes the division to use up to 10% of the amount appropriated for its administrative costs in connection with the repurposing of the Ridge View campus. The bill requires the division to comply with specified reporting requirements.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-703, **add** (7.5)
2 as follows:

3 **24-32-703. Definitions.** As used in this part 7, unless the context
4 otherwise requires:

5 (7.5) "RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS" MEANS THE REAL PROPERTY
6 FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE LOWRY BOMBING RANGE THAT WAS
7 REDEVELOPED BY THE STATE IN 2001 AND THAT HOUSED THE RIDGE VIEW
8 YOUTH SERVICES CENTER UNTIL 2021.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-32-726 as
10 follows:

11 **24-32-726. Ridge View Supportive Residential Community at**
12 **the Ridge View campus - report - legislative declaration.**

13 (1) **Legislative declaration.** (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS,
14 DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

15 (I) AS THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
16 DEVELOPMENT STATED AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE "AMERICAN RESCUE
17 PLAN ACT OF 2021", THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS EXACERBATED OUR
18 NATION'S ALREADY SEVERE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS;

19 (II) TODAY, ONE IN FIVE RENTERS IS BEHIND ON RENT AND JUST
20 OVER TEN MILLION HOME OWNERS ARE BEHIND ON MORTGAGE PAYMENTS;

21 (III) PEOPLE OF COLOR FACE EVEN GREATER HARDSHIPS AND ARE
22 MORE LIKELY TO HAVE DEFERRED OR MISSED PAYMENTS, PUTTING THEM
23 AT A GREATER RISK OF EVICTION AND FORECLOSURE;

24 (IV) AT THE SAME TIME, OUR NATION'S HOMELESSNESS CRISIS HAS
25 WORSENERED DURING THE PANDEMIC, AS PEOPLE EXPERIENCING
26 HOMELESSNESS ARE HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO COVID-19 TRANSMISSION,
27 ILLNESS, AND SEVERITY DUE TO THEIR USE OF CONGREGATE SHELTERS AND

1 THEIR HIGH PREVALENCE OF UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS;

2 (V) COLORADO IS NO EXCEPTION, AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
3 HAS HIT LOW- AND EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
4 WHO WERE ALREADY SEVERELY COST-BURDENED, INCREASING THEIR RISK
5 OF EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR INABILITY TO RESOLVE THEIR
6 HOMELESSNESS;

7 (VI) IN THE DENVER METRO AREA ALONE, SHELTERS SAW A
8 NINETY-NINE PERCENT INCREASE IN PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
9 FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM JANUARY 2020 TO JANUARY 2021; AND

10 (VII) THE NUMBER OF DEATHS DUE TO OVERDOSE AMONG PEOPLE
11 EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
12 INCREASED BY THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT FROM 2020 TO 2021.

13 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

14 (I) THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS, THAT FORMERLY OPERATED AS THE
15 RIDGE VIEW YOUTH SERVICES CENTER, IS NO LONGER BEING USED AS OF
16 JULY 1, 2021, AND THE STATE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPURPOSE THE
17 CAMPUS TO ENSURE THAT IT CONTINUES TO SUPPORT COLORADANS MOST
18 IN NEED;

19 (II) CONVERTING THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS INTO A
20 RECOVERY-ORIENTED COMMUNITY FOR INDIVIDUAL ADULTS WITHOUT
21 STABLE HOUSING WHO WISH TO FOCUS ON RECOVERY FROM A SUBSTANCE
22 USE DISORDER WILL PROVIDE LOW-BARRIER ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE
23 CARE AND TREATMENTS AND WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO RECOVER AND HEAL
24 IN A SAFE AND STABLE ENVIRONMENT;

25 (III) THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AT
26 THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS WILL INCLUDE MULTIPLE COMPONENTS TO
27 PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT ACROSS A CONTINUUM OF SUBSTANCE

1 USE RECOVERY TREATMENTS AND PROGRAMMING, AND THE GOAL WILL BE
2 TO HAVE INDIVIDUALS LEAVE THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL
3 COMMUNITY IN ACTIVE RECOVERY AND IMPROVED HEALTH SO THEY CAN
4 TRANSITION TO STABLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS, AS
5 WELL AS EMPLOYMENT WHERE POSSIBLE; AND

6 (IV) PROVIDING SUPPORT AND PROGRAMMING PURSUANT TO THIS
7 SECTION AT THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY IS
8 AN IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

9 (2) **Administration.** (a) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, THE RIDGE
10 VIEW CAMPUS IS DESIGNATED AS A SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY
11 FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS THAT SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE
12 RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY. THE PURPOSE OF
13 THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY IS TO PROVIDE
14 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, A CONTINUUM OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
15 AND TREATMENT, MEDICAL CARE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND SKILL
16 DEVELOPMENT FOR THE RESIDENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF ALL
18 OR PART OF THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
19 FOR USE BY THE DIVISION OF HOUSING FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.
20 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MAY RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF ANY
21 VACANT PORTION OF THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS THAT IS NOT REQUIRED FOR
22 THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION AND USE, OR ALLOW ANOTHER
23 STATE AGENCY TO USE, ANY SUCH PORTION OF THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS
24 FOR ANY OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSE.

25 (b) THE DIVISION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BEHAVIORAL
26 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, CREATED IN PART 2 OF ARTICLE 60 OF TITLE 27,
27 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL DEVELOP A FEASIBLE

1 MASTER PLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE RIDGE VIEW CAMPUS
2 INTO THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AND THE
3 OPERATION OF THE COMMUNITY AND SHALL ENTER INTO ONE OR MORE
4 CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE CONTRACTORS TO ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY.
5 THE CONTRACTOR OR CONTRACTORS SELECTED BY THE DIVISION MUST BE
6 EXPERIENCED IN PROVIDING STATEWIDE INTEGRATED HOUSING, HEALTH
7 CARE, RECOVERY TREATMENT, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR
8 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR SIMILAR POPULATIONS.

9 (c) THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY
10 SHALL PROVIDE FOOD AND ROOM AND BOARD TO EACH INDIVIDUAL WHILE
11 RESIDING AT THE COMMUNITY AT NO COST TO THE INDIVIDUAL.

12 (3) **Transitional housing program.** (a) THE RIDGE VIEW
13 SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SHALL PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL
14 HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUAL ADULTS FOR UP TO TWO YEARS WITH CASE
15 MANAGEMENT, CARE COORDINATION, AND VOCATIONAL AND HOUSING
16 PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE. IN ALIGNMENT WITH BEST PRACTICES, THE
17 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE CASE MANAGERS AND
18 PEER SUPPORTS AT AN AVERAGE RATIO OF ONE CASE MANAGER FOR EVERY
19 FIFTEEN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING RESIDENTS.

- 20 (b) THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM SHALL:
- 21 (I) FOCUS ON PERSON-CENTERED GOAL PLANNING AND CARE
22 COORDINATION;
 - 23 (II) CONNECT INDIVIDUALS TO PERMANENT HOUSING OPTIONS IN
24 THEIR COMMUNITY OF CHOICE;
 - 25 (III) PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SUCH AS VOCATIONAL
26 EDUCATION AND INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT; AND
 - 27 (IV) CONNECT INDIVIDUALS TO SAFETY-NET PROGRAMS FOR

1 WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE, SUCH AS SNAP, MEDICAID, SSI, SSDI, TANF,
2 AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS.

3 (4) **Substance use recovery treatment and services.** THE RIDGE
4 VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SHALL PROVIDE A
5 CONTINUUM OF CARE INFORMED BY AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ADDICTION
6 MEDICINE STANDARDS, WHICH SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE COMING
7 FROM THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM AND TO THE GENERAL
8 PUBLIC DEEMED TO BE IN MEDICAL NEED OF THE CARE.

9 (5) **Federally qualified health clinic.** THE RIDGE VIEW
10 SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SHALL PROVIDE A HEALTH CLINIC
11 AT WHICH PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENTS THAT HELP
12 FACILITATE RECOVERY, INCLUDING MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE AND A
13 CONTINUUM OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES. THE HEALTH CLINIC AND
14 ALL TREATMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CLINIC SHALL BE ACCESSIBLE
15 TO PEOPLE IN THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM AND TO MEMBERS OF
16 THE GENERAL PUBLIC DEEMED TO BE IN MEDICAL NEED OF THE
17 TREATMENT.

18 (6) **Eligibility.** (a) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RESIDE IN AND RECEIVE
19 SERVICES AT THE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST
20 BE:

21 (I) EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR BE AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING
22 HOMELESSNESS;

23 (II) CHOOSING TO FOCUS ON RECOVERY VOLUNTARILY; AND

24 (III) IN A POSITION WHERE IT IS MEDICALLY SAFE FOR THE
25 INDIVIDUAL TO BE IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.

26 (b) THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY
27 SHALL PRIORITIZE ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS BASED ON NEED, THE LENGTH

1 OF TIME THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, WITH
2 PRIORITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING HOMELESS FOR
3 THE LONGEST PERIOD, AND THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL
4 USES PUBLIC SYSTEMS, WITH PRIORITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE THE
5 MOST FREQUENT USERS OF SUCH SYSTEMS.

6 (7) **Referral coordination.** THE ORGANIZATION OR
7 ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADMINISTER THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE
8 RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SHALL WORK WITH LOCAL PROVIDERS ACROSS
9 THE STATE TO SET UP A REFERRAL SYSTEM FOR CLIENTS TO LIVE AT THE
10 COMMUNITY. THE REFERRAL SYSTEM SHALL EMPHASIZE THE CRITERIA
11 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, COORDINATE
12 TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE
13 RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, AND ASSIST INDIVIDUALS IN THE TRANSITION
14 BACK TO THE GENERAL COMMUNITY AFTER RESIDING AT THE RIDGE VIEW
15 SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY.

16 (8) **Source of money for repurposing the Ridge View campus.**
17 (a) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
18 APPROPRIATE FORTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE ECONOMIC
19 RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228 (2)(a)
20 TO THE DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. ANY MONEY
21 APPROPRIATED IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR THAT IS NOT
22 ENCUMBERED OR EXPENDED AT THE END OF THAT STATE FISCAL YEAR
23 REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE BY THE DIVISION IN SUBSEQUENT
24 STATE FISCAL YEARS WITHOUT FURTHER APPROPRIATION, SUBJECT TO THE
25 REQUIREMENTS FOR OBLIGATING AND EXPENDING MONEY RECEIVED
26 UNDER THE FEDERAL "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021", PUB.L.
27 117-2, AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 24-75-226 (4)(d).

1 (b) THE DIVISION MAY USE UP TO TEN PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT
2 APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION FOR ITS COSTS ASSOCIATED
3 WITH ADMINISTERING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING
4 THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

5 (9) **Reporting requirement.** (a) THE DIVISION SHALL COMPLY
6 WITH THE COMPLIANCE, REPORTING, RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM
7 EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE
8 PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE
9 WITH SECTION 24-75-226 (5).

10 (b) IN ADDITION TO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN
11 SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DIVISION SHALL PREPARE AN
12 ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING THE OPERATIONS OF THE RIDGE VIEW
13 SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING AN UPDATE ON THE
14 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION, THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAMS
15 REQUIRED BY SUBSECTIONS (3), (4), AND (5) OF THIS SECTION, THE
16 NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES AT THE RIDGE VIEW
17 SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, THE CONTRACTORS THAT THE
18 DIVISION SELECTED TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE THE RIDGE VIEW
19 SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b)
20 OF THIS SECTION, AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION DEEMED RELEVANT BY
21 THE DIVISION. THE DIVISION SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT TO THE
22 COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES THAT HAVE OVERSIGHT OVER LOCAL AFFAIRS. IN
24 ADDITION, THE DIVISION SHALL UPDATE ITS COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AS
25 A PART OF ITS PRESENTATION AT A HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO SECTION
26 2-7-203 (2)(a) OF THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE,
27 RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT",

1 REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION AND THE OPERATION
2 OF THE RIDGE VIEW SUPPORTIVE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY.
3 NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I),
4 THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS SUBSECTION
5 (9)(b) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

6 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 19-2.5-1521.

7 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.