

CHAPTER 176

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

HOUSE BILL 22-1298

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Mullica, Bacon, Bernett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Cutter, Esgar, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Jodeh, Kennedy, Lindsay, Lontine, McCluskie, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Roberts, Valdez A., Valdez D., Weissman;
also SENATOR(S) Jaquez Lewis and Hinrichsen, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Kolker, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Sonnenberg, Winter, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

AN ACT

CONCERNING A TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CASH FUND IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR TO FACILITATE FEE RELIEF FOR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS REGULATED BY THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING.

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

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

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

(b) Nurses, nurse aides, and psychiatric technicians have been especially hard hit as they are the primary providers of direct care and services in hospitals, nursing care facilities, assisted living residences, and mental health facilities, all of which have experienced significant challenges throughout the pandemic, from above-capacity patient levels to frequent exposure to COVID-19; and

(c) Due to these tremendous challenges, many of these critical health-care providers are leaving the field or struggling to remain in their jobs, given the stressful work environments.

(2) In recognition of the incredible services these critical health-care providers have delivered throughout the pandemic and of the selfless sacrifices they have made, it is the intent of the general assembly to provide licensure and certification fee relief for nurses, nurse aides, and psychiatric technicians.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

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

12-20-105. Fee adjustments - division of professions and occupations cash fund created - legal defense account created - general fund transfer - definition - repeal. (7) (a) ON JULY 1, 2022, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ELEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS CASH FUND. THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7)(a) IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE DIVISION SHALL USE THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7)(a) BEGINNING IN THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND UNTIL THE AMOUNT IS FULLY EXPENDED TO FUND THE COSTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING IN ADMINISTERING ARTICLES 255 AND 295 OF THIS TITLE 12.

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

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

Approved: May 18, 2022