

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

**REREVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 24-0812.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**SENATE BILL 24-153**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

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**Senate Committees**

Business, Labor, & Technology  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs  
Appropriations

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 8, 2024

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101    **CONCERNING FREE AUDIO NEWS SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE**  
102        **PRINT-DISABLED, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**  
103        **APPROPRIATION.**

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HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
May 7, 2024

**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>.)*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 2, 2024

The bill authorizes the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado to expand its current offerings for blind and print-disabled Coloradans through the NFB-NEWSLINE and Project Literacy. The expansion includes providing an expanded array of information and literacy support services throughout the state, such as a variety of

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 1, 2024

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

communication-related assistive technologies and blindness-related services, introductory training, and methods to find and use additional resources in or near communities; adding a technical assistance line; and adding a full-time staff member.

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

2 **SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-90-105.5, amend**  
3 **(5); and add (6) as follows:**

4 **24-90-105.5. Literacy support services for persons who are**  
5 **blind or print-disabled - authority of state librarian - fund. (5) The**  
6 **general assembly hereby recognizes the importance of privately operated**  
7 **reading services to enable those persons who cannot effectively read**  
8 **newspapers or other printed documents ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED to**  
9 **gain access to such otherwise inaccessible print materials. The state**  
10 **librarian shall have HAS the authority to administer funds MONEY in the**  
11 **reading services for the blind cash fund, which is hereby created IN THE**  
12 **STATE TREASURY, for the support of said privately operated reading**  
13 **services. The fund shall consist CONSISTS of any public or private moneys**  
14 **MONEY transferred, appropriated, or otherwise credited thereto TO THE**  
15 **FUND. All moneys MONEY credited to the fund and all interest earned on**  
16 **the investment of moneys MONEY in the fund shall be IS a part of the fund**  
17 **and shall MUST not be transferred or credited to the general fund or to any**  
18 **other fund except as directed by the general assembly acting by bill. The**  
19 **general assembly shall make annual appropriations from the reading**  
20 **services for the blind cash fund to the state librarian to carry out the**  
21 **purposes of this subsection (5) SECTION.**

22 **(6) THE SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH PROVIDERS OF**  
23 **ON-DEMAND NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO COLORADANS WHO**

1 ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED MUST BE EXPANDED TO ENHANCE THE  
2 ABILITY OF COLORADANS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED TO USE THE  
3 ON-DEMAND AND INFORMATION SERVICES, AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER  
4 OF COLORADANS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED WHO ARE AWARE OF  
5 SUCH SERVICES. THE ON-DEMAND NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES  
6 MUST BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE AN ENLARGED ARRAY OF INFORMATION  
7 AND LITERACY SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, SUCH AS THE  
8 PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT A VARIETY OF  
9 COMMUNICATION-RELATED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND  
10 BLINDNESS-RELATED SERVICES, INTRODUCTORY TRAINING, AND METHODS  
11 TO FIND AND USE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN OR NEAR COMMUNITIES  
12 WHERE A PERSON LIVES. THE EXPANDED SERVICES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE  
13 NOT LIMITED TO:

14 (a) INFORMATION SHARING, MARKETING OF EXPANDED SERVICES,  
15 AND OTHER METHODS FOR INFORMING PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR  
16 PRINT-DISABLED ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE SERVICES;

17 (b) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR USERS TO RESOLVE TECHNICAL  
18 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SERVICES OR THE DEVICES THAT MIGHT BE USED TO  
19 ACCESS THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH THESE SERVICES; AND

20 (c) THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT  
21 COMMUNICATION-RELATED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

22 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,  
23 \$200,000 is appropriated to the department of education for use by library  
24 programs. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this  
25 act, the division may use this appropriation for reading services for the  
26 blind.

27 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,

1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
3 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
4 institutions.