LLS NO. 18-1043.02 Kristen Forrestal x4217

INTRODUCED

HOUSEx BILL 18-1310

HOUSE BILL 18-1310

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields,

House Committees
Business Affairs and Labor
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT
CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES.

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 creates a pilot program in the division of local government (division) in the department of local affairs (department) to provide emergency employment support services to rural and economically disadvantaged counties in the state. The bill requires the division to contract with an entity to operate the pilot program to provide reimbursement for emergency employment support services provided 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.
eligible individuals in the eligible counties. In order to be eligible for services for which a service provider may be reimbursed under the pilot program, an individual must be 16 years or older, eligible to work in the United States, have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line, and be actively pursuing employment or job training. The division is required to promulgate rules to implement and set parameters for the operation of the pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-32-121 as follows:

24-32-121. Emergency employment support services pilot program - creation - study - definitions - appropriation - repeal.

(1) (a) There is hereby created in the Division the Emergency Employment Support Services Pilot Program, a three-year pilot program beginning September 1, 2018, to fund emergency employment support services to eligible individuals as they pertain to the individual's job training and employment goals.

(b) The Division shall select ten rural counties and a limited number of zip codes within Pueblo, Arapahoe, Denver, and Adams counties to participate in the pilot program. In selecting the rural counties and zip codes, the Division shall consider counties and zip codes within the counties specified in this subsection (1)(b) that have:

(I) The highest percentage of residents living at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty line;

(II) The highest percentage of residents without a high school diploma;

(III) The highest unemployment rates; and

(IV) The lowest median income as a percentage of the
STATE MEDIAN INCOME.

(c) The division shall develop a competitive request-for-proposal process to contract with an outside nonprofit entity to administer the pilot program. The administering entity selected to administer the pilot program shall develop formal memorandums of understanding with public agencies and private nonprofit organizations to provide employment, job training, and job retention services to eligible individuals.

(2) For the 2018-19 fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate six hundred eighty-seven thousand five hundred dollars to the division. The division is authorized to solicit, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of implementing and operating the pilot program. The division may use up to five percent of the appropriation annually for administrative costs related to the pilot program. The contracting entity may use up to fifteen percent of the appropriation annually to operate the pilot program. The remainder of the money may be used only for reimbursement made pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(3)(a) The administering entity shall develop a process to reimburse service providers up to four hundred dollars per year for each eligible individual that received assistance. The service providers must agree to:

(I) Submit reports as specified by the administering entity that outline the type of service provided, the reason for the services and basic demographics of the eligible individuals, and
THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION WHERE THE SERVICE WAS PROVIDED; AND

(II) PARTICIPATE IN A FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS PROCESS AT THE END
OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(b) (I) THE REIMBURSED MONEY MUST NOT BE USED FOR JOB
TRAINING OR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES THAT ARE CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY
ANOTHER SOURCE.

(II) THE REIMBURSED MONEY MAY BE USED FOR EMERGENCY
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH EMERGENCY NEEDS AS
THEY PERTAIN TO INDIVIDUALS' EMPLOYMENT OR JOB TRAINING GOALS.

THE REIMBURSED MONEY MAY ALSO BE USED FOR SERVICES TO ASSIST
WITH ONGOING JOB RETENTION FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF
EMPLOYMENT.

(c) IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES FOR WHICH A
SERVICE PROVIDER MAY BE REIMBURSED UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM, AN
INDIVIDUAL MUST:

(I) HAVE AN INCOME AT OR BELOW TWO HUNDRED PERCENT OF
THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE;

(II) BE AT LEAST SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE;

(III) BE ELIGIBLE TO WORK IN THE UNITED STATES; AND

(IV) BE ACTIVELY PURSUING EMPLOYMENT OR JOB TRAINING WITH
THE ASSISTANCE OF A PUBLIC AGENCY OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND THAT HAS A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
SECTION.

(4) SERVICES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT INCLUDE:

(a) TRANSPORTATION;

(b) EMERGENCY CHILDCARE;
(c) EMERGENCY HOUSING;
(d) JOB TRAINING OR EDUCATION FEES;
(e) WORK TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT;
(f) FOOD AND NUTRITION;
(g) UTILITY AND INTERNET BILLS;
(h) PREPAID CELL PHONES;
(i) LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS;
(j) LEGAL SERVICES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT;
(k) INTERPRETATION EXPENSES;
(l) MEDICAL EXPENSES THAT IMPEDE AN INDIVIDUAL’S ABILITY TO OBTAIN JOB TRAINING OR EMPLOYMENT OR TO RETAIN EMPLOYMENT; AND
(m) OTHER EXPENSES AS THEY PERTAIN TO EMPLOYMENT OR JOB TRAINING BUT ARE NOT PROVIDED BY ANY OTHER FUNDING SOURCE.

(5) THE ADMINISTERING ENTITY SHALL REPORT TO THE DIVISION AT THE END OF THE PILOT PROGRAM:
(a) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SERVICE PROVIDERS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION;
(b) A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS BASED ON INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED WITH A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE SERVICE PROVIDERS CONCERNING THE EFFICACY OF THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND
(c) AN ACCOUNT OF THE PILOT PROGRAM’S EXPENDITURES.

(6) THE DIVISION SHALL DEVISE A FORMULA BASED ON EXISTING FUNDING FORMULAS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION, EMPLOYMENT, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF MONEY WITHIN THE PROGRAM AREA PURSUANT TO THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE FORMULA MUST ENSURE THAT EACH COUNTY AND ZIP CODE WITHIN A COUNTY IN THE PROGRAM AREA HAS ACCESS TO AN EQUITABLE
PROPORTION OF MONEY AVAILABLE FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM BASED ON
THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS THAT MAY ACCESS
SERVICES FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS. IF MONEY ALLOCATED TO A COUNTY
OR ZIP CODE WITHIN A SPECIFIED COUNTY IN THE PROGRAM AREA IS
UNDER-UTILIZED, THE DIVISION MAY REALLOCATE MONEY UP TO THREE
MONTHS PRIOR TO THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR TO A COUNTY OR ZIP CODE
WITHIN A SPECIFIED COUNTY THAT HAS A HIGHER NEED.

(7) THE DIVISION SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES
TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING PROCEDURES AND
GUIDELINES PERTAINING TO THE SELECTION OF AN ADMINISTERING ENTITY
TO OPERATE THE PILOT PROGRAM, THE MEMORANDUMS OF
UNDERSTANDING, FORMULAS FOR ALLOCATING AND REALLOCATING
MONEY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, AND ANY
ADDITIONAL PARAMETERS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.
THE DIVISION SHALL SOLICIT FEEDBACK FROM KEY STAKEHOLDERS WHEN
ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(8) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

(a) "ADMINISTERING ENTITY" MEANS THE NONPROFIT ENTITY
SELECTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION TO
ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(b) "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.

(c) "ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL THAT SATISFIES
THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS
SECTION.

(d) "FEDERAL POVERTY LINE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS
"POVERTY LINE", AS DEFINED IN 42 U.S.C. SEC. 9902 (2).
(e) "Pilot program" means the emergency employment support services pilot program created in this section.

(f) "Program area" means the counties and zip codes within specified counties selected for participation in the pilot program.

(g) "Service provider" means a public agency or private nonprofit organization that provides services to an eligible individual pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the administering entity.

(h) "Services" means services provided by service providers to eligible individuals, which services are eligible for reimbursement from the pilot program pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

(9) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2021. Before its repeal, the pilot program is scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, add (21)(a)(X) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal. (21) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, will repeal on September 1, 2021:

(X) The emergency employment services pilot program established in section 24-32-121.

SECTION 3. Effective date. This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

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