

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 20-0401.01 Shelby Ross x4510

SENATE BILL 20-029

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Moreno, Bridges, Crowder, Danielson, Fenberg, Garcia, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Lee, Pettersen, Priola, Story, Tate, Winter, Zenzinger

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman and Duran,

Senate Committees

Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A ONE-TIME BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENT TO**
102 **COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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>.)

For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020, the amount of basic cash assistance a Colorado works program recipient (recipient) receives must equal or exceed 100% of the amount of basic cash assistance in 2019 plus 10%.

Commencing July 1, 2021, the department must annually increase

*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.*

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
June 3, 2020

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
June 2, 2020

the amount of basic cash assistance a recipient receives by a cost of living adjustment equal to 1.5% or the federal social security administration's cost of living adjustment that year, whichever is greater.

The joint budget committee (JBC) must review the sustainability of the Colorado long-term works reserve to fund the cost of living adjustment, and, if the JBC deems necessary, identify additional sources of funding.

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

2
3 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly

4 finds and declares that:

5 (a) Colorado is in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis.

6 As the state makes difficult choices about the budget and how to support
7 Colorado's recovery now and into the future, it is critical to provide
8 support to families who are facing some of the greatest barriers to
9 economic security.

10 (b) Families enrolled in the temporary assistance for needy
11 families (TANF) program who are experiencing extreme poverty need
12 additional money as soon as possible to help weather the immediate
13 effects of the economic crisis. The additional barriers that these families
14 will face in meeting basic needs now, and as the state begins to recover,
15 make it even more critical to prioritize a way to provide cash assistance
16 to these families as soon as possible.

17 (c) During this time of economic crisis for families and Colorado,
18 the Colorado long-term works reserve should be used to provide critical
19 cash assistance to families experiencing extreme poverty. The best way
20 to do this is to provide immediate, one-time cash assistance to families
21 who receive basic cash assistance under the TANF program. This
22 one-time payment will help families make ends meet during the current

1 economic crisis and will help make up for the fact that basic cash
2 assistance has not been adjusted for inflation since the program was
3 created in 1996 and has not kept up with the cost of living in Colorado.

4

5 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, add (1)(d)
6 and (1)(e) as follows:

7 26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs rules - repeal.

8 (1) Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.

9 (d)(I) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION TO THE CONTRARY,

10 ANY ASSISTANCE UNIT THAT RECEIVES A BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE

11 PAYMENT FROM THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM ON OR AT ANY TIME

12 WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION

13 (1)(d) SHALL RECEIVE A ONE-TIME FIVE-HUNDRED DOLLAR SUPPLEMENTAL

14 PAYMENT IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT OF BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE

15 GRANT AN ASSISTANCE UNIT RECEIVES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. TO

16 THE EXTENT ALLOWABLE UNDER FEDERAL LAW, THIS ONE-TIME

17 SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT IS NOT INCOME FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANY

18 PUBLICLY FUNDED PROGRAM. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL

19 APPROPRIATE NO MORE THAN TEN MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE

20 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d) PURSUANT TO SECTION

21 26-2-721 (2.5). IF THE ONE-TIME SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT TO EACH

22 ASSISTANCE UNIT EXCEEDS TEN MILLION DOLLARS, THE SUPPLEMENTAL

23 PAYMENT MUST BE DISTRIBUTED EVENLY TO EACH ASSISTANCE UNIT.

24 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

25 (e) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE

26 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL REVIEW THE

27 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COLORADO LONG-TERM WORKS RESERVE

1 CREATED IN SECTION 26-2-721.

2 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-721, add (2.5)
3 as follows:

4 26-2-721. Colorado long-term works reserve - creation - use
5 - repeal. (2.5) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THE
6 MONEY IN THE RESERVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING SECTION
7 26-2-709 (1)(d).

8 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (2.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

9 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2020-21 state fiscal year,
10 \$8,424,500 is appropriated to the department of human services for use
11 by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from federal
12 temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds. To implement
13 this act, the office of self sufficiency may use the appropriation for
14 Colorado works program county block grants.

15 SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
16 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.