

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0036.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 20-122

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan, Danielson, Garcia

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A MOBILE VETERAN SUPPORT UNIT GRANT
102 PROGRAM.

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 establishes the mobile veteran support unit grant program (grant program) to provide one-time grants to nonprofit organizations to establish mobile veteran support units. A mobile veteran support unit acts as an initial point of contact for veterans to obtain health and well-being services, including mental health services, dental health services, telehealth services, military benefit assistance, and housing assistance.

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.

The department of public health and environment (department) administers the grant program. The department must consult with the Colorado board of veterans affairs when adopting grant program rules.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-1-130 as
3 follows:

4 **25-1-130. Mobile veteran support unit grant program - report**
5 **- rules - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
6 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE MOBILE VETERAN SUPPORT
8 UNIT GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (b) "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO SERVED IN THE ACTIVE
10 MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES, REGARDLESS
11 OF THE PERSON'S DISCHARGE STATUS.

12 (2) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE MOBILE
13 VETERAN SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ONE-TIME GRANTS
14 TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO ESTABLISH MOBILE VETERAN SUPPORT
15 UNITS THAT ENSURE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF VETERANS OF THE
16 UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO LIVE IN RURAL COLORADO OR WHO
17 ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

18 (b) A MOBILE VETERAN SUPPORT UNIT ESTABLISHED WITH THE
19 ASSISTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD SHOULD SEEK TO BUILD TRUST WITH THE
20 VETERANS IT SERVES AND MUST ACT AS AN INITIAL POINT OF CONTACT FOR
21 VETERANS TO OBTAIN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SERVICES. SUCH SERVICES
22 MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

23 (I) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;

24 (II) DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES;

- 1 (III) HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED THROUGH TELEHEALTH;
2 (IV) MILITARY BENEFIT ASSISTANCE; AND
3 (V) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

4 (c) IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT, A NONPROFIT
5 ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO
6 VETERANS, INCLUDING VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, AND
7 MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS
8 AWARE OF THE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING HEALTH
9 SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

10 (3) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT
11 PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ACCEPT AND REVIEW GRANT
12 APPLICATIONS AND, ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2021, SELECT GRANT
13 RECIPIENTS AND AWARD ONE-TIME GRANTS TO SELECTED APPLICANTS.

14 (b) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COLORADO
15 BOARD OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CREATED IN SECTION 28-5-702, SHALL
16 PROMULGATE RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM,
17 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

18 (I) PROCEDURES BY WHICH ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
19 MAY APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE GRANTS FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM,
20 INCLUDING APPLICATION DEADLINES; AND

21 (II) PROCEDURES FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS TO REPORT TO THE
22 DEPARTMENT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE USE OF A GRANT AWARD.

23 (c) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
24 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
25 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

26 (4) A RECIPIENT OF A ONE-TIME GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
27 IS NOT DISQUALIFIED FROM RECEIVING A GRANT PURSUANT TO THE

1 VETERANS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 28-5-712.

2 (5) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE
3 COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE
4 DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION DESCRIBING THE GRANTS
5 AWARDED THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR.

6 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2022.

7 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
8 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
9 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
10 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
11 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
12 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
13 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
14 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
15 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.