

**First Extraordinary Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 20B-0052.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

SENATE BILL 20B-002

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Gonzales and Holbert, Ginal, Moreno, Rodriguez

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Exum and Tipper, Bird, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hooton, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Michaelson
Jenet, Mullica, Weissman, Woodrow

Senate Committees

Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE**
102 **FACING A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP DUE TO THE COVID-19**
103 **PANDEMIC, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE**
104 **EMERGENCY DIRECT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM; AND**
105 **TRANSFERRING MONEY TO THE EMERGENCY DIRECT ASSISTANCE**
106 **GRANT PROGRAM FUND, AND TO THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**
107 **GRANT FUND, AND TO THE EVICTION LEGAL DEFENSE FUND FOR**
108 **THIS ASSISTANCE; AND 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

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.

<http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the state treasurer to transfer \$44.5 million from the general fund to the housing development grant fund for the purpose of providing emergency housing assistance to individuals and households who have experienced financial need due to the COVID-19 pandemic or second-order effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The money must be used by June 30, 2021.

The bill also creates the emergency direct assistance grant program (program) in the division of housing (division) within the department of local affairs (department) to provide grants to individuals who have experienced financial need due to the COVID-19 pandemic or second-order effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and are ineligible for certain other types of assistance. The bill allows the division to promulgate rules and requires the department to submit a report to legislative committees of reference with jurisdiction over local government and to the governor concerning the program.

The bill creates the emergency direct assistance grant program fund (fund) and directs the state treasurer to transfer \$5 million from the general fund to the fund for the program. The division must use the money by June 30, 2021.

The program is repealed, effective June 30, 2022.

The bill requires the state treasurer to transfer \$500,000 from the general fund to the eviction legal defense fund for the purpose of providing legal representation to indigent tenants to resolve civil legal matters arising on and after March 1, 2020, concerning an eviction or impending eviction related to the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The state court administrator must use the money by June 30, 2021.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-721, **amend**
3 (1.7)(b); and **add** (1.7)(a.5) and (1.7)(g.5) as follows:

4 **24-32-721. Colorado affordable housing construction grants**
5 **and loans - housing development grant fund - creation - housing**
6 **assistance for persons with behavioral, mental health, or substance**
7 **use disorders - cash fund - appropriation - report to general assembly**
8 **- rules - definitions - repeal.** (1.7) (a.5) WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE

1 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (1.7)(a.5), THE STATE TREASURER
2 SHALL TRANSFER FIFTY-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND
3 TO THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT GRANT FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF
4 PROVIDING HOUSING ASSISTANCE AS SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1.7).
5 MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1.7)(a.5) SHALL
6 BE ACCOUNTED FOR SEPARATELY. THE DIVISION MAY USE UP TO THREE
7 PERCENT OF THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
8 (1.7)(a.5) FOR THE COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THIS SUBSECTION (1.7).

9 (b) The general assembly shall appropriate the money transferred
10 to the fund pursuant to this subsection (1.7) to the division for use in
11 providing individuals and households who, on or after March 1, 2020,
12 have experienced financial need due to the COVID-19 pandemic or
13 second-order effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with rental assistance,
14 residential mortgage assistance, HOUSING ASSISTANCE THAT PROVIDES
15 FUTURE HOUSING STABILITY, and guidance on how to access additional
16 housing services. The division must use the money TRANSFERRED TO THE
17 FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION by December
18 30, 2020, for the purposes specified in this subsection (1.7). THE DIVISION
19 MUST USE THE MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO
20 SUBSECTION (1.7)(a.5) OF THIS SECTION BY JUNE 30, 2021, FOR THE
21 PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1.7).

22 (g.5) HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION
23 (1.7) MAY INCLUDE PAYMENT OF ARREARS, INCLUDING OVERDUE RENT
24 PAYMENTS AND MORTGAGE PAYMENTS.

25 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-32-721.5 as
26 follows:

27 **24-32-721.5. Emergency direct assistance grant program -**

1 **created - purposes of grants - rules - applications - fund created -**
2 **report - definition - repeal.** (1) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE
3 DIVISION THE EMERGENCY DIRECT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM,
4 REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "GRANT PROGRAM", TO PROVIDE
5 GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED FINANCIAL NEED DUE
6 TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OR SECOND-ORDER EFFECTS OF THE
7 COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND WHO MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN
8 OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE, SUCH AS:

9 (a) UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO
10 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACT", ARTICLES 70 TO 82 OF TITLE 8;

11 (b) FOOD ASSISTANCE; OR

12 (c) FEDERAL STIMULUS PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL
13 "CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT," ALSO
14 KNOWN AS THE "CARES ACT", PUB.L. 116-36, AS AMENDED.

15 (2) THE DIVISION SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM AND,
16 SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING, SHALL CONTRACT WITH NONPROFIT
17 ORGANIZATIONS TO AWARD GRANTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.
18 SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING, GRANTS SHALL BE PAID OUT OF THE
19 FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (3) THE DIVISION SHALL IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM IN
21 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE
22 24, THE DIVISION MAY PROMULGATE SUCH RULES AS ARE REQUIRED IN THIS
23 SECTION AND SUCH ADDITIONAL RULES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO
24 IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING RULES SPECIFYING THE TIME
25 FRAMES FOR APPLYING FOR GRANTS, THE FORM OF THE GRANT PROGRAM
26 APPLICATION, AND THE TIME FRAMES FOR DISTRIBUTING GRANT MONEY.

27 (4) TO RECEIVE A GRANT, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST APPLY TO A

1 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH THE DIVISION HAS CONTRACTED
2 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (5) (a) THE EMERGENCY DIRECT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
4 FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND", IS HEREBY CREATED
5 IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY CREDITED TO THE
6 FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER
7 MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER
8 TO THE FUND.

9 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
10 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
11 FUND TO THE FUND.

12 (c) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (5)(e) OF THIS SECTION,
13 ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND
14 AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE FUND AND DOES NOT
15 REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

16 (d) THE MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO
17 THE DIVISION TO EXPEND FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

18 (e) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED
19 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON JUNE 30, 2022, TO THE
20 GENERAL FUND.

21 (6) DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
22 SEVENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
23 DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE LOCAL
24 GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
25 TRANSPORTATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE, OR ANY
26 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, UNDER THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR
27 ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART)

1 GOVERNMENT ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2, CONCERNING THE
2 ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM.

3 (7) (a) WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
4 SECTION, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER FIVE MILLION DOLLARS
5 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
6 SECTION.

7 (b) THE DIVISION MUST USE THE MONEY BY JUNE 30, 2021, FOR
8 THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

9 (c) THE DIVISION MAY USE UP TO THREE PERCENT OF THE MONEY
10 TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7) TO PAY THE COSTS OF
11 ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM.

12 (8) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "COVID-19" MEANS THE
13 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 CAUSED BY THE SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY
14 SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS 2, ALSO KNOWN AS SARS-CoV-2.

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

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-40-127, **add**
17 (5)(c) and (8) as follows:

18 **13-40-127. Eviction legal assistance - fund - rules - report -**
19 **definitions - repeal.** (5) (c) ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED
20 MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR REMAINS
21 IN THE FUND AND DOES NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER
22 FUND.

23 (8) (a) WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
24 SUBSECTION (8), THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ONE MILLION
25 DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND. ON OR BEFORE
26 JANUARY 1, 2021, THE ADMINISTRATOR SHALL GRANT THE MONEY
27 TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (8)(a) TO QUALIFYING

1 ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY AWARDED GRANTS FROM
2 THE FUND IN THE 2020-21 STATE FISCAL YEAR.

3 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (8) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1,
4 2022.

5 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2020-21 state fiscal
6 year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the judicial department. This
7 appropriation is from the pandemic subaccount of the eviction legal
8 defense fund created in section 13-40-127 (7)(a), C.R.S. To implement
9 this act, the department may use this appropriation for the eviction legal
10 defense grant program.

11 (2) For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, \$16,751 is appropriated to
12 the office of the governor for use by the office of information technology.
13 This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the transfer
14 from the general fund to the housing development grant fund within the
15 department of local affairs. To implement this act, the office may use this
16 appropriation to provide information technology services for the
17 department of local affairs.

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