

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0576.03 Kristen Forrestal x4217

SENATE BILL 21-181

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Coram,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Herod,

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING STATE AGENCIES ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES IN**
102 **COLORADO.**

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 renames the existing "health disparities grant program" to the "health disparities and community grant program" (program) and expands the program to authorize the office of health equity (office) to:

- Award grants from money currently transferred from the prevention, early detection, and treatment fund to the health disparities grant program fund (fund) for the purpose of

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.

positively affecting social determinants of health to reduce the risk of future disease and exacerbating health disparities in underrepresented populations; and

- Award grants from any additional money appropriated by the general assembly to the fund to community organizations to reduce health disparities in underrepresented communities through policy and systems changes regarding the social determinants of health.

On or before January 1, 2022, and continuing every 2 years thereafter, the office is required to issue a report concerning health disparities in Colorado by race and ethnicity that includes an assessment of the impact of social determinants of health on health disparities and recommended strategies to begin to address such inequities with the collaboration of the health equity commission and other stakeholders.

On or before July 1, 2022, the office is required to facilitate a state agency work group to develop an equity strategic plan. Specific state agencies are required to participate in the state agency work group to ensure coordination in equity-related work across state agencies to address social determinants of health in each agency's respective area.

The bill adds additional state agency executive directors to the health equity commission.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-22-117, **amend**
3 (2)(d)(III) and (2)(f)(I) as follows:

4 **24-22-117. Tobacco tax cash fund - accounts - creation -**
5 **legislative declaration.** (2) There are hereby created in the state treasury
6 the following funds:

7 (d) (III) For fiscal year 2005-06, and each fiscal year thereafter,
8 fifteen percent of the ~~moneys~~ MONEY transferred to the prevention, early
9 detection, and treatment fund shall be transferred to the health disparities
10 grant program fund created in ~~paragraph (f) of this subsection (2)~~
11 SUBSECTION (2)(f) OF THIS SECTION for the health disparities AND
12 COMMUNITY grant program in part 22 of article 4 of title 25. ~~C.R.S.~~

13 (f) (I) The health disparities grant program fund to be

1 administered by the department of public health and environment.
2 ~~Moneys shall~~ MONEY MUST be transferred to the health disparities grant
3 program fund as described in ~~subparagraph (H) of paragraph (d) of this~~
4 ~~subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(d)(III) OF THIS SECTION. THE HEALTH
5 DISPARITIES GRANT PROGRAM FUND ALSO CONSISTS OF ANY OTHER MONEY
6 APPROPRIATED TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES GRANT PROGRAM FUND BY
7 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. All interest and income derived from the
8 deposit and investment of ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the health disparities grant
9 program fund ~~shall~~ MUST be credited to the health disparities grant
10 program fund. ~~except that all interest and income derived from the deposit~~
11 ~~and investment of moneys in the health disparities grant program fund~~
12 ~~during the 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 fiscal years shall be~~
13 ~~credited to the general fund.~~ Any unexpended or unencumbered ~~moneys~~
14 MONEY remaining in the health disparities grant program fund at the end
15 of the fiscal year ~~shall~~ MUST remain in the fund and shall not be credited
16 to the general fund or any other fund. The ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the health
17 disparities grant program fund ~~shall~~ MUST be annually appropriated by the
18 general assembly to the department of public health and environment for
19 allocation by the department of public health and environment consistent
20 with the provisions of ~~paragraph (d) of this subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION
21 (2)(d) OF THIS SECTION.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2201, **amend**
23 (2) as follows:

24 **25-4-2201. Legislative declaration.** (2) Therefore, the general
25 assembly hereby declares that it is in the best interests of the state to
26 establish a health disparities AND COMMUNITY grant program to provide
27 prevention, early detection, and treatment of cancer and cardiovascular

1 and pulmonary diseases to underrepresented populations.

2 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2202, **add** (3.3)
3 as follows:

4 **25-4-2202. Definitions.** As used in this part 22, unless the context
5 otherwise requires:

6 (3.3) "EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN" MEANS A STRATEGIC PLAN THAT
7 IDENTIFIES FOR CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES THE PRIORITIES, OBSTACLES,
8 GOALS, AND TIMELINES NECESSARY TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED HEALTH
9 DISPARITIES IN EACH AGENCY'S RESPECTIVE AREA OF WORK AND
10 INFLUENCE.

11 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2203, **amend**
12 (1), (2) introductory portion, (2)(b), and (3) as follows:

13 **25-4-2203. Health disparities and community grant program**
14 **- rules.** (1) There is hereby created in the department the health
15 disparities AND COMMUNITY grant program, referred to in this section as
16 the "grant program", to provide financial support for statewide initiatives
17 that address prevention, early detection, and treatment of cancer and
18 cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases in underrepresented populations;
19 AND TO POSITIVELY AFFECT SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH TO REDUCE
20 THE RISK OF FUTURE DISEASE AND EXACERBATING HEALTH DISPARITIES IN
21 UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS. The office shall administer the grant
22 program. The state board shall award grants to selected entities from
23 ~~moneys~~ MONEY transferred to the health disparities grant program fund
24 created in section 24-22-117 (2)(f). ~~C.R.S.~~

25 (2) The state board shall adopt rules that specify ~~but are not~~
26 ~~necessarily limited to~~, the following:

27 (b) Grant application contents, including: ~~but not limited to~~

1 (I) FOR MONEY ALLOCATED TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES GRANT
2 PROGRAM FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-22-117 (2)(d)(III), how the
3 program meets at least one of the program criteria specified in section
4 25-20.5-302 (1), WHICH MAY INCLUDE POPULATION-BASED PREVENTION
5 WORK FOCUSED ON INFLUENCING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH TO
6 ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY FOR UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS; AND

7 (II) FOR ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES GRANT PROGRAM FUND CREATED
9 IN SECTION 24-22-117 (2)(f) THAT IS NOT ALLOCATED FROM THE
10 PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, AND TREATMENT FUND PURSUANT TO
11 SECTION 24-22-117 (2)(d)(III), THE CRITERIA THAT MUST BE MET FOR A
12 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION APPLICANT TO RECEIVE GRANT MONEY TO
13 REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES IN UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES
14 THROUGH POLICY AND SYSTEMS CHANGES REGARDING THE SOCIAL
15 DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH. THE CRITERIA MAY INCLUDE SPECIFICATIONS
16 CONCERNING HOW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS PLAN TO ACHIEVE
17 HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING, BUILDING THE CAPACITY
18 OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS, TECHNICAL TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE
19 WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE EVALUATION OF THE
20 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION'S IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY.

21 (3) The commission shall appoint a review committee to review
22 the applications received pursuant to this section and make
23 recommendations to the commission regarding the entities that may
24 receive grants and the amounts of the grants. The commission shall
25 finalize the recommendations for funding and provide them to the state
26 board. Within thirty days after receiving the commission's
27 recommendations, the state board shall award grants to the selected

1 entities, specifying the amount and duration of each award. ~~A grant~~
2 ~~awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed three years without~~
3 ~~renewal.~~

4 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2205, **amend**
5 (2)(a); and **add** (2.5) as follows:

6 **25-4-2205. Powers and duties of the office of health equity.**

7 (2) The office has the following powers, duties, and functions:

8 (a) Administering and coordinating the health disparities AND
9 COMMUNITY grant program created in section 25-4-2203;

10 (2.5) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2022, THE OFFICE SHALL
11 FACILITATE A STATE AGENCY WORK GROUP TO DEVELOP AN EQUITY
12 STRATEGIC PLAN. EACH STATE AGENCY WHOSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR
13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE SERVES ON THE COMMISSION SHALL
14 PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE AGENCY WORK GROUP. THE PURPOSE OF THE
15 STATE AGENCY WORK GROUP IS TO ENSURE COORDINATION IN
16 EQUITY-RELATED WORK ACROSS STATE AGENCIES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL
17 DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN EACH AGENCY'S RESPECTIVE AREA. PRIOR
18 TO FINALIZING THE EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN, THE WORK GROUP SHALL
19 SEEK INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING
20 COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY HEALTH DISPARITIES.

21 (b) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, AND CONTINUING EVERY TWO
22 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE SHALL DEVELOP AND ISSUE A REPORT
23 CONCERNING HEALTH DISPARITIES IN COLORADO BY RACE AND ETHNICITY
24 THAT INCLUDES AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL
25 DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ON HEALTH DISPARITIES AND RECOMMENDED
26 STRATEGIES TO BEGIN TO ADDRESS SUCH INEQUITIES. THE OFFICE SHALL
27 COLLABORATE WITH THE COMMISSION, COMMUNITY PARTNERS WORKING

1 ON HEALTH EQUITY ISSUES, LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES,
2 STAKEHOLDERS FROM AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, DATA ORGANIZATIONS,
3 AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS IN THE CREATION OF THE
4 REPORT. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT
5 THE IMPACT OF HEALTH DISPARITIES ON COLORADANS, EACH STATE
6 AGENCY SHALL USE THE REPORT IN THEIR STRATEGIC PLANNING
7 PROCESSES AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

8 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2206, **amend**
9 (2)(a) introductory portion, (2)(a)(V), (3)(b)(II), and (3)(d); and **add**
10 (2)(a)(VII), (2)(a)(VIII), (2)(a)(IX), (2)(a)(X), and (2)(a)(XI) as follows:

11 **25-4-2206. Health equity commission - creation - repeal.**

12 (2) (a) The commission consists of the following ~~fifteen~~ TWENTY
13 members, who are as follows:

14 (V) The executive director of the department of human services,
15 or ~~his or her~~ THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S designee; and

16 (VII) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
17 AND EMPLOYMENT, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

18 (VIII) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL
19 AFFAIRS, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

20 (IX) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
21 TRANSPORTATION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

22 (X) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
23 SAFETY, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE; AND

24 (XI) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
25 EDUCATION, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE.

26 (3) The commission has the following powers and duties:

27 (b) Advising the department through the office on:

1 (II) Aligning the department's health equity efforts and the health
2 disparities AND COMMUNITY grant program created in section 25-4-2203;

3 (d) Making recommendations to the office and the department on
4 the health disparities AND COMMUNITY grant program created in section
5 25-4-2203, regarding financial support for local and statewide initiatives
6 that address prevention, early detection, needs assessment, and treatment
7 of cancer, cardiovascular disease, including diabetes, and pulmonary
8 disease in minority populations.

9 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 25-20.5-305
10 as follows:

11 **25-20.5-305. Evaluation.** Commencing with the 2006-07 fiscal
12 year, and each fiscal year thereafter, the state board shall select a grant
13 recipient to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and the health
14 disparities AND COMMUNITY grant program established pursuant to part
15 22 of article 4 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 25. Costs for the evaluation shall be
16 adequately funded from the amount annually appropriated by the general
17 assembly to the division from the prevention, early detection, and
18 treatment fund.

19 **SECTION 8. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.