

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 22-0522.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 22-005

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Cooke,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts,

Senate Committees

Judiciary
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE INCREASE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR LAW**
102 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PEACE OFFICER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES,**
103 **AND, IN CONNECTION 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>.)

The bill requires the department of law (department) to implement a pilot grant program (grant program) to support a law enforcement agency to retain and recruit qualified and trained P.O.S.T.-certified peace officers. The department may award grants to help fund retention programs, recruitment purposes, and to provide financial resources for

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.

law enforcement academy training, academy trainees, and continuing education opportunities. For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$5 million is appropriated from the general fund to the P.O.S.T. board cash fund to be spent in accordance with the purpose of the grant program and requires that no more than 2% of the appropriated funds be used for administrative purposes.

The bill establishes a P.O.S.T. board committee to review grant applications and advise the department on the grant program. The bill grants the attorney general the power to administer the requirements of the grant program. The grant program is repealed effective July 1, 2024.

Under current law, there is a peace officer behavioral health support and community partnership grant program (program). The program specifies the purposes that grants can be used for. The bill adds to the program purposes services that support peace officers involved in job-related traumatic situations. Additionally, for state fiscal year 2022-23, the bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund to the peace officers behavioral health support and community partnership fund.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) According to the centers for disease control and prevention,
5 peace officers are fifty-four percent more likely to commit suicide, with
6 suicide being the second leading cause of death among peace officers
7 following COVID-19;

8 (b) The Invisible Wounds Project found that one in four peace
9 officers suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder;

10 (c) Good mental and psychological health is essential for peace
11 officers to effectively keep Colorado and local communities safe from
12 crime and violence;

13 (d) Improving mental health resiliency can also help peace
14 officers prepare for, recover from, and adapt to stress and adversity;

15 (e) The experiences of peace officers and public safety mental
16 health professionals, along with scientific research, show that providing

1 peace officers with mental health support services following traumatic
2 incidents promotes positive outcomes;

3 (f) Allowing law enforcement agencies to hire full-time
4 behavioral health professionals can aid in addressing confidentiality
5 concerns, improve cultural competencies, and help law enforcement
6 agencies systematically identify and refer peace officers to mental health
7 services;

8 (g) Increased availability to behavioral health services will
9 increase peace officers' empathy toward those experiencing mental health
10 crises and provide the tools and awareness peace officers need to improve
11 how they handle difficult situations;

12 (h) Improved access to behavioral health support services through
13 peer support programs and other programs reduces barriers peace officers
14 may have toward behavioral health support services and will increase
15 their cultural competency in behavioral health support practices;

16 (i) Cross-training peace officers in behavioral health and
17 providing student loan repayment options for current and former certified
18 peace officers to receive this training can increase empathy; and

19 (j) While behavioral health training is essential for peace officers,
20 there is no training or experience that can fully prepare them for the types
21 of calls and situational challenges they face on a daily basis. Investing in
22 tools and programs to help peace officers manage the stressors that
23 accompany their work can have a positive impact on peace officers'
24 mental health, as well as on community outcomes.

25 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that investing in
26 additional mental and behavioral health funding and training for peace
27 officers will improve interactions between peace officers and members

1 of the community, have positive public safety outcomes, and help peace
2 officers recover from on-the-job trauma in order to handle the daily
3 stressors of their job.

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5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-3501, **amend**
6 (2)(e), (2)(f), (4), and (7)(a); and add (2)(g) and (9) as follows:

7 **24-32-3501. Peace officers behavioral health support and**
8 **community partnerships grant program - created - report - rules -**
9 **fund - definitions - repeal.** (2) Grant recipients may use money received
10 through the grant program for the following purposes:

11 (e) Training and education programs that teach peace officers and
12 their immediate family members the symptoms of job-related mental
13 trauma and how to prevent and treat such trauma; and

14 (f) Peer support programs for peace officers; AND

15 (g) HIRING, CONTRACTING, OR DEVELOPING A REMOTE NETWORK
16 TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNSELING, THERAPY, OR OTHER
17 RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES TO PEACE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN
18 JOB-RELATED TRAUMATIC SITUATIONS.

19 (4) The department shall administer the grant program and,
20 subject to available appropriations, shall award grants as provided in this
21 section from the fund created in subsection (7) of this section. THE
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSFER THE AWARDED GRANT MONEY TO A GRANT
23 RECIPIENT AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE GRANT RECIPIENT'S
24 GRANT APPLICATION IS APPROVED.

25 (7) (a) The peace officers behavioral health support and
26 community partnership fund, referred to in this section as the "fund", is
27 created in the state treasury. The fund consists of gifts, grants, and

1 donations credited to the fund pursuant to subsection (7)(b) of this section
2 and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or
3 transfer to the fund. Subject to annual appropriation by the general
4 assembly, the department may expend money from the fund for the
5 purposes of this section. The department may use up to five percent of the
6 money annually appropriated to the fund to pay the direct and indirect
7 costs that the department incurs in administering the grant program THE
8 MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED FOR THE DIRECT
9 AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
10 SECTION.

11 (9) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER MONEY APPROPRIATED OR
12 TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND, FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23, THE
13 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FROM
14 THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND. THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT
15 TO THIS SECTION MUST BE USED FOR PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS
16 (2)(c) TO (2)(g) OF THIS SECTION. THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED,
17 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

18 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal
19 year, \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the peace officers behavioral health
20 support and community partnership fund created in section 24-32-3501
21 (7)(a), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the general fund. The
22 department of local affairs is responsible for the accounting related to this
23 appropriation.

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