

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 24-0242.01 Nicole Myers x4326

SENATE BILL 24-032

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Priola and Jaquez Lewis, Cutter, Exum, Winter F.

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Vigil, Froelich, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Mabrey, Mauro, Parenti

Senate Committees

Transportation & Energy
Finance

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING METHODS TO INCREASE THE USE OF TRANSIT.**

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/>.)

Transportation Legislation Review Committee. Statewide transit pass exploratory committee. Section 1 of the bill creates the statewide transit pass exploratory committee (committee) within the department of transportation (department) to produce a viable proposal for the creation, implementation, and administration of a statewide transit pass. The committee is required to meet as necessary to produce a viable proposal by July 1, 2026, with the goal of implementing a statewide transit pass by January 1, 2028.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

The committee consists of 15 members appointed by the executive director of the department and is required to include representatives of a diverse group of transit agencies throughout the state, a representative of an entity or interest group involved in passenger rail systems, a representative of an organization with a statewide perspective regarding transportation, and 2 representatives of the department, one who is knowledgeable about the department's inter-city regional bus service and one who is knowledgeable about innovative mobility.

In conducting its work and in producing a viable proposal for the creation, implementation, and administration of a statewide transit pass the committee is required to consider:

- Various specified logistics of creating a statewide transit pass;
- A method for determining the price of a statewide transit pass;
- A structure for the sale of the statewide transit pass to individuals and to employers for their employees;
- The services that will be offered to statewide transit pass holders;
- The types of statewide transit passes that would be offered, including different options for the duration of the pass to accommodate Colorado residents and visitors to Colorado;
- Additional opportunities for collaboration across transit agencies in the state to make it easier and more appealing for people to use transit;
- The technology that would be necessary to monitor the use of the statewide transit pass and track ridership across transit agencies;
- Local, tribal, state, and federal laws, rules, or regulations that need to be considered in connection with the creation of a statewide transit pass;
- The best method for advertising and marketing a statewide transit pass;
- The potential impacts that a statewide transit pass will have on transit pass programs that are currently offered by transit agencies;
- The potential impacts of section 20 of article X of the state constitution to local governments in connection with revenue generated by the sale of a statewide transit pass;
- A proposal for the structure and composition of a permanent advisory board to oversee the creation, implementation, and administration of a statewide transit pass; and
- Any other issues that need to be discussed or addressed, as deemed necessary and appropriate by a majority vote of the

members of the committee.

In producing a viable proposal for the creation, implementation, and administration of a statewide transit pass, the committee is required to solicit input from specified subject matter experts and interested parties across the state.

The committee is required to submit its proposal for the creation, implementation, and administration of a statewide transit pass, including recommendations for any necessary legislation in connection with the proposal, to the executive director and the members of the transportation legislation review committee of the general assembly on or before July 1, 2026.

Ozone season transit grant program. The ozone season transit grant program was created in the Colorado energy office in 2022. **Section 2** makes the following changes to the ozone season transit grant program:

- Relocates the ozone season transit grant program to the department;
- Requires the transit association that receives money from the state and uses the money to make grants to transit agencies to consider grants that have been or will be awarded to the transit agency through the youth fare free transit grant program, created in the bill, when making grants to ensure that transit agencies do not receive grants through the ozone season transit grant program for services that are paid for with grants from the youth fare free transit grant program;
- Requires the state treasurer to transfer \$7 million to the ozone season transit grant program fund on July 1, 2024, and on July 1 of each year thereafter; and
- Makes the ozone season transit grant program permanent by repealing the statute that would repeal the ozone season transit grant program on July 1, 2024.

Youth fare free transit grant program. **Section 3** creates the youth fare free transit grant program in the department to provide grants to the regional transportation district (RTD) and a transit association to provide fare free year-round transit services for individuals who are 19 years of age or younger (youth).

To receive a grant, a transit association or the RTD must submit an application to the department in accordance with the policies established by the department. A transit association that receives a grant may use the money to make grants to eligible transit agencies. The eligible transit agencies and the RTD may use the grant money to provide operating support for its transit operations and general transit programs, so long as the eligible transit agency or the RTD provides uninterrupted fare free year-round transit services for youth riders.

The RTD is required to report to the department and an eligible

transit agency that receives a grant from a transit association is required to report to the transit association regarding the estimated change in youth ridership during the year in which fare free services were offered compared to previous years, any changes that the RTD or the eligible transit agency would make in how it provides fare free transit services to youth or in its use of the grant money based on its experiences, and how the RTD or the eligible transit agency marketed the fare free transit services for youth. The transit association is required to submit to the department a summary of the reported information for all eligible transit agencies that received a grant through the transit association.

The bill creates the youth fare free transit grant program fund (fund) and transfers \$7 million from the general fund to the fund on July 1, 2024, and on July 1 of each year thereafter. The money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the department for the youth fare free transit grant program.

The department is required to establish policies governing the youth fare free transit grant program and to report to the house of representatives transportation, housing, and local government committee and the senate transportation committee, or their successor committees, by December 31 of each year of the program.

Income tax credit for the purchase of a transit pass. For income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, but before January 1, 2029, **section 4** creates an income tax credit allowed to any taxpayer in an amount equal to 30% of the amount spent by the taxpayer to purchase one or more transit passes for use by the taxpayer during the income tax year for which the credit is claimed.

To claim the credit a taxpayer is required to include a credit certificate issued by the department with the income tax return filed with the department of revenue. The credit certificate that the department issues must identify the taxpayer and certify that the taxpayer purchased one or more transit passes for the taxpayer's use during the income tax year for which the credit is claimed.

The amount of the credit not used as an offset against income taxes in the current income tax year is refunded to the taxpayer.

No later than January 1, 2025, and no later than January 1 of each year thereafter through January 1, 2029, the department is required to provide the department of revenue with an electronic report of the taxpayers receiving a credit certificate.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 43-1-132 as
3 follows:

1 **43-1-132. Statewide transit pass exploratory committee -**
2 **legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND
3 DECLARES THAT:

4 (a) (I) OVER-RELIANCE ON PERSONAL PASSENGER VEHICLES FOR
5 TRANSPORTATION CONTRIBUTES TO POOR AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE
6 CHANGE AND HAS A NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON FAMILIES IN THE
7 STATE;

8 (II) (A) NATIONWIDE, THE NUMBER OF JOBS WITHIN THE TYPICAL
9 COMMUTE DISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS IN MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS HAS
10 DECLINED OVER TIME ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY THE BROOKINGS
11 INSTITUTION TITLED "THE GROWING DISTANCE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND
12 JOBS IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA";

13 (B) COLORADANS DRIVE MORE MILES PER PERSON THAN THEY
14 USED TO, IN PART DUE TO STRESS ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE
15 AND INCREASING HOUSEHOLD COSTS; AND

16 (C) SINCE 1981, PER CAPITA VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED IN
17 COLORADO HAVE RISEN BY OVER TWENTY PERCENT ACCORDING TO DATA
18 FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION;

19 (III) HIGH TRANSPORTATION COSTS IMPACT LOW-INCOME
20 HOUSEHOLDS IN PARTICULAR, WITH HOUSEHOLDS MAKING LESS THAN
21 FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES
22 SPENDING OVER TWENTY-FOUR PERCENT OF THEIR INCOME ON
23 TRANSPORTATION, WHEN SPENDING MORE THAN FIFTEEN PERCENT OF
24 INCOME ON TRANSPORTATION IS CONSIDERED COST BURDENED,
25 ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
26 CONSUMER EXPENDITURE SURVEYS;

27 (IV) (A) IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC IMPACTS, THE INCREASE IN

1 VEHICLE TRAFFIC HAS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT;

2 (B) THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
3 HAS CLASSIFIED THE DENVER METRO/NORTH FRONT RANGE AREA AS
4 BEING IN SEVERE NONATTAINMENT FOR OZONE AND GROUND LEVEL
5 OZONE, WHICH HAS SERIOUS IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH, PARTICULARLY
6 FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS;

7 (C) ACCORDING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION REDUCTION
8 ROADMAP, PUBLISHED BY THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE AND DATED
9 JANUARY 14, 2021, THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR IS THE SINGLE LARGEST
10 SOURCE OF GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION IN COLORADO;

11 (D) NEARLY SIXTY PERCENT OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
12 FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR COME FROM LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES,
13 WHICH CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY OF CARS AND TRUCKS THAT
14 COLORADANS DRIVE EVERY DAY;

15 (E) AS PART OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION REDUCTION
16 ROADMAP, A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN TO ACHIEVE LEGISLATIVELY
17 ADOPTED TARGETS OF REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION
18 ECONOMY-WIDE BY FIFTY PERCENT BELOW 2005 LEVELS BY 2030 AND
19 NINETY PERCENT BY 2050, THE STATE COMMITTED TO REDUCING
20 EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR BY FORTY-ONE PERCENT
21 BY 2030 FROM A 2005 BASELINE; AND

22 (F) THE GREENHOUSE GAS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
23 STANDARD ADOPTED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION IN 2021 SET
24 A TARGET TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
25 THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS BY ONE MILLION FIVE
26 HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS BY 2030;

27 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

1 (I) THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT RESULT
2 FROM INCREASED RELIANCE ON PASSENGER VEHICLES AND AN INCREASE
3 IN THE NUMBER OF MILES TRAVELED PER PERSON IS A MATTER OF
4 STATEWIDE CONCERN;

5 (II) ONE OF THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS
6 POLLUTION REDUCTION ROADMAP IS THAT REDUCING GROWTH IN DRIVING
7 IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO ACHIEVE THE STATE'S CLIMATE GOALS AND
8 THAT EXPANDING PUBLIC TRANSIT IS AN IMPORTANT NEAR-TERM ACTION
9 THAT CAN HELP ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS; AND

10 (III) IT IS THE STATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS
11 THAT REDUCE THE GROWTH IN DRIVING AND EXPAND PUBLIC TRANSIT.

12 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
13 REQUIRES:

14 (a) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS
15 EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (b) "STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS" OR "PASS" MEANS A SINGLE
17 TRANSIT PASS ON A UNIVERSAL PLATFORM THAT CAN BE USED ON TRANSIT
18 PROVIDED BY TRANSIT AGENCIES ACROSS THE STATE.

19 (c) "TRANSIT AGENCY" MEANS A PROVIDER OF PUBLIC
20 TRANSPORTATION, AS DEFINED IN 49 U.S.C. SEC. 5302 (15), AS AMENDED.

21 (3) (a) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2024, THE EXECUTIVE
22 DIRECTOR SHALL CREATE A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS EXPLORATORY
23 COMMITTEE TO PRODUCE A VIABLE PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION,
24 IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS.
25 THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AS NECESSARY TO PRODUCE A VIABLE
26 PROPOSAL BY JULY 1, 2026, WITH THE GOAL OF IMPLEMENTING A
27 STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS BY JANUARY 1, 2028.

1 (b) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS
2 APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

3 (I) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIVE LARGEST TRANSIT
4 AGENCIES IN THE STATE;

5 (II) EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES FROM A DIVERSE GROUP OF TRANSIT
6 AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE
7 REPRESENTATIVE FROM A TRANSIT AGENCY THAT SERVES A RURAL PART
8 OF THE STATE THAT IS NOT A RESORT COMMUNITY AND AT LEAST ONE
9 REPRESENTATIVE FROM A TRANSIT AGENCY THAT SERVES ONE OR MORE
10 RESORT COMMUNITIES;

11 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ENTITY OR INTEREST GROUP
12 INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION, PLANNING, OR DEVELOPMENT OF
13 PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEMS;

14 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ORGANIZATION WITH A
15 STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE REGARDING TRANSPORTATION;

16 (V) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT, ONE WHO IS
17 KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S INTER-CITY REGIONAL BUS
18 SERVICE AND ONE WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S
19 INNOVATIVE MOBILITY PROGRAM;

20 (VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DISPROPORTIONATELY
21 IMPACTED COMMUNITY. AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b)(VI),
22 "DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITY" HAS THE MEANING SET
23 FORTH IN SECTION 24-4-109 (2)(b)(II).

24 (VII) ANY OTHER MEMBERS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE
25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

26 (c) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE
27 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

1 (4) IN CONDUCTING ITS WORK AND IN PRODUCING A VIABLE
2 PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION
3 OF A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS, THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIDER THE
4 FOLLOWING:

5 (a) THE LOGISTICS OF CREATING A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS,
6 INCLUDING:

7 (I) A VIABLE STRUCTURE FOR THE PASS TO ALLOW PASS HOLDERS
8 TO USE SERVICES PROVIDED BY TRANSIT AGENCIES ACROSS THE STATE
9 WITH A SINGLE PASS;

10 (II) A PLAN FOR COORDINATION AMONG TRANSIT AGENCIES
11 ACROSS THE STATE TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PASS;

12 (III) A METHOD FOR COST-SHARING THE EXPENSES IN CONNECTION
13 WITH THE CREATION, IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND
14 ADVERTISEMENT OF THE PASS;

15 (IV) A STRUCTURE FOR SHARING, APPORTIONING, AND
16 DISTRIBUTING REVENUE FROM THE SALE OF THE PASS AMONG THE TRANSIT
17 AGENCIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE PASS; AND

18 (V) THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A FORMULA TO DISTRIBUTE
19 REVENUE FROM THE SALE OF THE PASS AMONG THE TRANSIT AGENCIES
20 THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE PASS, THE FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN THE
21 CREATION OF SUCH A FORMULA, AND A DETERMINATION REGARDING THE
22 FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THE FORMULA WOULD BE RECALCULATED;

23 (b) A METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE PRICE OF A STATEWIDE
24 TRANSIT PASS, INCLUDING WHETHER THERE WILL BE OPTIONS FOR
25 DISCOUNTED PASSES FOR LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS AND CONSIDERATION
26 OF HOW TRANSIT OPERATORS WOULD CONTINUE TO COLLECT A FARE FROM
27 THE PASS THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THEIR EXISTING FARE STRUCTURE;

1 (c) A STRUCTURE FOR THE SALE OF THE STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS
2 TO INDIVIDUALS AND TO EMPLOYERS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING:

3 (I) AN OPT-IN OR OPT-OUT PROGRAM WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE
4 REGISTRATION OR WITH THE RENEWAL OF A DRIVER LICENSE OR STATE
5 IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE;

6 (II) ONLINE SALES; AND

7 (III) SALES KIOSKS AT AIRPORTS, TRAIN AND BUS STATIONS,
8 TOURISM OFFICES, AND OTHER PHYSICAL LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE;

9 (d) THE SERVICES THAT WILL BE OFFERED TO STATEWIDE TRANSIT
10 PASS HOLDERS, INCLUDING:

11 (I) CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER THE PASS WOULD COVER ONLY
12 SERVICES ON FIXED ROUTES OR PROVIDE ACCESS-ON-DEMAND SERVICES IN
13 ADDITION TO SERVICES ON FIXED ROUTES;

14 (II) IF ACCESS-ON-DEMAND SERVICES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE
15 PASS, HOW THE COST OF THOSE RIDES FACTORS INTO THE COST OF THE
16 PASS;

17 (III) CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL
18 "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42, U.S.C., SEC. 12101, ET
19 SEQ., AS AMENDED, REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCESS TO TRANSIT;
20 AND

21 (IV) CONSIDERATION OF FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO
22 ANTIDISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING TITLE VI OF THE FEDERAL "CIVIL
23 RIGHTS ACT OF 1964", PUB.L. 88-352, AS AMENDED;

24 (e) THE TYPES OF STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASSES THAT WOULD BE
25 OFFERED, INCLUDING DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR THE DURATION OF THE PASS
26 TO ACCOMMODATE COLORADO RESIDENTS WHO MAY USE A PASS
27 YEAR-ROUND, FOR A PORTION OF THE YEAR, OR OTHER LONGER DURATION,

1 AND VISITORS TO COLORADO WHO MAY USE A PASS FOR A DAY, WEEK, OR
2 OTHER LIMITED DURATION;

3 (f) ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION ACROSS
4 TRANSIT AGENCIES IN THE STATE, IN ADDITION TO THE CREATION,
5 IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS,
6 TO MAKE IT EASIER AND MORE APPEALING FOR PEOPLE TO USE TRANSIT,
7 INCLUDING:

8 (I) THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSIT AGENCIES ALLOWING CUSTOMERS
9 TO PURCHASE A TICKET IN ONE TRANSACTION FOR AN ENTIRE TRIP THAT
10 REQUIRES TRANSIT SERVICES PROVIDED BY MULTIPLE TRANSIT AGENCIES;
11 AND

12 (II) THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSIT AGENCIES SUBMITTING THEIR
13 TRIP PLANNING DATA TO A CENTRAL SOURCE TO ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO
14 CREATE AN ITINERARY THAT REQUIRES SERVICES PROVIDED BY MULTIPLE
15 TRANSIT AGENCIES;

16 (g) THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO MONITOR THE
17 USE OF THE STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS AND TRACK RIDERSHIP ACROSS
18 TRANSIT AGENCIES TO ASSIST TRANSIT AGENCIES IN DETERMINING AND
19 UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PASS IN THE FUTURE;

20 (h) ANY ADDITIONAL LOCAL, TRIBAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS,
21 RULES, OR REGULATIONS THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION
22 WITH THE CREATION OF A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS;

23 (i) THE BEST METHOD FOR ADVERTISING AND MARKETING A
24 STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS;

25 (j) THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS THAT A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS
26 WILL HAVE ON TRANSIT PASS PROGRAMS THAT ARE CURRENTLY OFFERED
27 BY TRANSIT AGENCIES;

1 (k) THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE
2 STATE CONSTITUTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH
3 REVENUE GENERATED BY THE SALE OF A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS;

4 (l) A PROPOSAL FOR THE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF A
5 PERMANENT ADVISORY BOARD TO OVERSEE THE CREATION,
6 IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS;
7 AND

8 (m) ANY OTHER ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE DISCUSSED OR
9 ADDRESSED, AS DEEMED NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE BY A MAJORITY
10 VOTE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

11 (5) IN PRODUCING A VIABLE PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION,
12 IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS,
13 THE COMMITTEE SHALL SOLICIT INPUT FROM SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS
14 AND INTERESTED PARTIES ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING:

15 (a) THE TRANSIT AND RAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED IN
16 SECTION 43-1-1104 (1)(b);

17 (b) TRANSIT AGENCIES FROM ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING A
18 PRESENTATION BY AND DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
19 REGARDING A STATEWIDE TRANSIT PASS AT AN ANNUAL MEETING
20 ORGANIZED BY A NONPROFIT ENTITY TO PROVIDE TRAINING ON A VARIETY
21 OF TOPICS, INCLUDING TRANSIT MANAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP
22 DEVELOPMENT, DRIVER SAFETY, SYSTEM SAFETY, HUMAN SERVICES
23 ISSUES, MOBILITY, AND POLICY ISSUES IN CONNECTION WITH THE FEDERAL
24 TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT; AND

25 (c) MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
26 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND
27 TO PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE

1 CREATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATEWIDE
2 TRANSIT PASS OR DISCUSSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSAL.

3 (6) THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT ITS PROPOSAL FOR THE
4 CREATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF A STATEWIDE
5 TRANSIT PASS, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY NECESSARY
6 LEGISLATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSAL, TO THE EXECUTIVE
7 DIRECTOR AND THE MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION
8 REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JULY 1,
9 2026.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add with amended**
11 **and relocated provisions** 43-1-133 as follows:

12 **43-1-133. [Formerly 24-38.5-114]. Ozone season transit grant**
13 **program - fund - creation - policies - report - definitions.** (1) As used
14 in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

15 (a) "Eligible transit agency" means a transit agency that is:

16 (I) A regional service authority providing surface transportation
17 pursuant to part 1 of article 7 of title 32, a regional transportation
18 authority created pursuant to part 6 of article 4 of title 43, or any other
19 political subdivision of the state, public entity, or nonprofit corporation
20 providing mass transportation services to the general public other than the
21 regional transportation district; and

22 (II) Eligible to receive money under a grant authorized by 49
23 U.S.C. sec. 5307 or 49 U.S.C. sec. 5311.

24 (b) "Fund" means the ozone season transit grant program fund
25 established in subsection (8) of this section.

26 (c) ~~"Office" means the Colorado energy office created in section~~
27 ~~24-38.5-101.~~

1 ~~(d)~~ (c) "Ozone season" means the period from June 1 to August
2 31 of a calendar year; except that, if an eligible transit agency operates in
3 an area in which ozone-causing traffic levels are typically highest during
4 a different period than June 1 to August 31 of a calendar year and the
5 eligible transit agency identifies the different period in an application for
6 a grant to offer fare-free service during the identified period that is
7 submitted to a transit association in accordance with the requirements of
8 this section, "ozone season" means, for that eligible transit agency, the
9 different period identified in the grant application.

10 ~~(e)~~ (d) "Program" means the ozone season transit grant program
11 created in subsection (2) of this section.

12 ~~(f)~~ (e) "Regional transportation district" means the regional
13 transportation district established in article 9 of title 32.

14 ~~(f.5)~~ (f) "Transit agency" means a provider of public
15 transportation, as defined in 49 U.S.C. sec. 5302 (15), as amended.

16 (g) "Transit association" means a Colorado nonprofit corporation
17 formed to represent transit interests in Colorado whose membership
18 includes transit agencies, transit-related businesses, and governmental
19 entities.

20 (2) The ozone season transit grant program is created in the ~~office~~
21 DEPARTMENT. The purposes of the program are:

22 (a) To provide grants to transit associations for the purpose of
23 providing grants to eligible transit agencies in order to offer free transit
24 services for a minimum of thirty days during ozone season; and

25 (b) To provide grants to the regional transportation district for the
26 purpose of providing free transportation services for a minimum of thirty
27 days during ozone season.

1 (3) The ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT shall administer the program and
2 award grants in accordance with this section and the policies developed
3 by the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT pursuant to subsection (6) of this section.
4 Subject to available appropriations, grants shall be paid out of the fund.

5 (4) (a) To receive a grant, a transit association or the regional
6 transportation district must submit an application to the ~~office~~
7 DEPARTMENT in accordance with the requirements of this section and the
8 policies established by the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT in accordance with
9 subsection (6) of this section. The ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT may award grants
10 of up to three million dollars each year to a transit association and up to
11 eleven million dollars each year to the regional transportation district;
12 except that:

13 (I) If the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT awards a grant for a year to a transit
14 association in an amount less than three million dollars, then the
15 maximum amount of the grant that the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT may award to
16 the transit association for the next year is three million dollars plus an
17 amount equal to the difference between three million dollars and the
18 amount of the grant awarded to the transit association for the prior year;
19 and

20 (II) If the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT awards a grant for a year to the
21 regional transportation district in an amount less than eleven million
22 dollars, then the maximum amount of the grant that the ~~office~~
23 DEPARTMENT may award to the regional transportation district for the next
24 year is eleven million dollars plus an amount equal to the difference
25 between eleven million dollars and the amount of the grant awarded to the
26 regional transportation district for the prior year.

27 (b) A transit association, the regional transportation district, or an

1 eligible transit agency that receives a grant ~~from a transit association~~
2 THROUGH THE PROGRAM is not required to expend a grant in the year in
3 which it is received and retains the grant amount until it is expended. The
4 retention of all or a portion of a grant received during one year by a transit
5 association or the regional transportation district for use in a subsequent
6 year does not reduce the maximum amount that the transit association or
7 regional transportation district is eligible to receive as a new grant during
8 the subsequent year as set forth in this subsection (4).

9 (5) A grant recipient may use the grant money as follows:

10 (a) (I) A transit association that receives a grant may use the
11 money to establish a grant program for eligible transit agencies in
12 accordance with this section. A transit association may use a portion of
13 the grant money to pay its direct and indirect costs in administering the
14 grant program including reasonable costs to market the program to
15 eligible transit agencies.

16 (II) To receive a grant from the transit association, an eligible
17 transit agency must submit an application to the transit association. At a
18 minimum, the application must describe the free transit services that will
19 be newly provided, expanded to include additional free types of service,
20 expanded to include additional free routes, or provided more frequently
21 with the grant money, indicate to what extent the eligible transit agency
22 will match the grant money with other money, and commit to providing
23 the new or expanded free services for at least thirty days during the ozone
24 season.

25 (III) An eligible transit agency that receives a grant through the
26 transit association may use the money to cover the costs associated with
27 providing new or expanded free transit services within its service area

1 during ozone season, including offering additional free services or free
2 routes or increasing the frequency of service on routes for which the
3 eligible transit agency currently offers free service. Grant money may be
4 used to replace fare box revenue and to pay for other expenses necessary
5 to implement and measure the effectiveness of the program, including
6 reasonable marketing expenses incurred to raise awareness of free service
7 and increase ridership, expenses incurred in conducting rider surveys to
8 better measure the impact of the program on ridership and vehicle miles
9 traveled in private motor vehicles, and expenses associated with an
10 increase in ridership as a result of the program.

11 (IV) An eligible transit agency shall not use grant money to offset
12 or replace funding for free transit services that the eligible transit agency
13 offers as of January 1 of the funding year; except that an eligible transit
14 agency may use grant money that was not expended in the year in which
15 it was received or grant money from a grant awarded for a subsequent
16 year to continue funding for any such free transit services that were
17 previously funded with grant money.

18 (V) In awarding grants under this subsection (5)(a), the transit
19 association shall:

20 (A) Allocate money among applicants with the goals of reducing
21 ozone formation, increasing ridership on transit, and reducing vehicle
22 miles traveled in the state; ~~and~~

23 (B) Consider the extent to which the applicant will match grant
24 money with other money; AND

25 (C) CONSIDER THE GRANTS THAT APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN
26 AWARDED THROUGH THE YOUTH FARE FREE TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAM,
27 CREATED IN SECTION 43-1-134, TO ENSURE THAT THE APPLICANT DOES

1 NOT RECEIVE GRANT MONEY PURSUANT TO THE PROGRAM FOR
2 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES COVERED BY GRANTS AWARDED THROUGH
3 THE YOUTH FARE FREE TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAM.

4 (VI) Each eligible transit agency that receives a grant shall report
5 on the use of the money to the transit association in accordance with
6 policies established by the transit association and the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT.
7 The report must include, at a minimum, information on how the grant
8 money was spent; the free services that were offered using the grant
9 money; and estimates of the change in ridership during the period that
10 free services were offered compared to previous months, the same month
11 in previous years, and the months after the program concluded. The report
12 may include additional information, including a narrative analysis, to
13 provide context on the ridership data included in the report. On or before
14 December 1 of each year of the grant program, the transit association
15 shall submit a report to the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT compiling and
16 summarizing the reported information for all eligible transit agencies that
17 received a grant through the transit association.

18 (VII) A transit association receiving a grant shall develop and
19 publicize policies for the grant, including the process and deadlines for
20 an eligible transit agency to apply for and receive a grant, the information,
21 including notice that the eligible transit agency must identify any period
22 other than June 1 to August 31 of a calendar year for its ozone season in
23 the application, and documentation required for the application, reporting
24 requirements and deadlines, and any additional requirements necessary
25 to administer the grant.

26 (b) (I) The regional transportation district may use grant money
27 to cover the costs of providing at least thirty days of free transit on all

1 services offered by the regional transportation district. Grant money may
2 be used to replace fare box revenue and to pay for other expenses
3 necessary to implement the program, including reasonable marketing
4 expenses incurred to raise awareness of free service and increase
5 ridership and expenses associated with an increase in ridership as a result
6 of the program.

7 (II) On or before December 1 of each year for which the regional
8 transportation district receives a grant, the regional transportation district
9 shall submit a report to the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT on the implementation of
10 the program in accordance with the policies established by the ~~office~~
11 DEPARTMENT. At a minimum, the report must include information on how
12 the grant money was spent; the free services that were offered using the
13 grant money; and estimates of the change in ridership during the period
14 that free services were offered compared to previous months, the same
15 month in previous years, and the months after the program concluded.
16 The report may include additional information, including a narrative
17 analysis, to provide context on the ridership data included in the report.

18 (III) The state auditor shall audit the regional transportation
19 district's use of the grant money as part of its next performance audit of
20 the regional transportation district conducted pursuant to section 32-9-115
21 (3).

22 (6) The ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT shall establish and publicize policies
23 for the program. At a minimum, the policies must address the process and
24 any deadlines for applying for and receiving a grant under the program,
25 the information and documentation required for the application, reporting
26 requirements and deadlines, and any additional policies necessary to
27 administer the program.

1 (7) The ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT may seek, accept, and expend gifts,
2 grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes of this
3 section. The ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT shall transmit all money received
4 through gifts, grants, or donations to the state treasurer, who shall credit
5 the money to the fund.

6 (8) (a) The ozone season transit grant program fund is hereby
7 created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money transferred to the
8 fund in accordance with ~~subsection (8)(d)~~ SUBSECTIONS (8)(d) AND (8)(e)
9 of this section, any other money that the general assembly appropriates or
10 transfers to the fund, and any gifts, grants, or donations credited to the
11 fund pursuant to subsection (7) of this section.

12 (b) The state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived
13 from the deposit and investment of money in the fund to the fund.

14 (c) Money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the ~~office~~
15 DEPARTMENT for the purposes specified in this section.

16 (d) Three days after May 26, 2022, the state treasurer shall
17 transfer twenty-eight million dollars from the general fund to the fund.

18 (e) ON JULY 1, 2024, AND ON JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,
19 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL TRANSFER SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS TO
20 THE FUND.

21 (9) On or before December 31 of each year of the program, the
22 ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT shall submit a report on the implementation of the
23 program to the house of representatives transportation and local
24 government committee and the senate transportation and energy
25 committee, or their successor committees. The report must summarize
26 and compile the information submitted to the ~~office~~ DEPARTMENT
27 pursuant to subsections (5)(a)(VI) and (5)(b)(II) of this section.

1 (10) ~~This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2024.~~

2 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 43-1-134 as
3 follows:

4 **43-1-134. Youth fare free transit grant program - fund -**
5 **creation - policies - report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS
6 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY" MEANS A TRANSIT AGENCY THAT
8 IS:

9 (I) A REGIONAL SERVICE AUTHORITY PROVIDING SURFACE
10 TRANSPORTATION PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 32, A
11 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY CREATED PURSUANT TO PART 6
12 OF ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 43, OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE
13 STATE, PUBLIC ENTITY, OR NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROVIDING MASS
14 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OTHER THAN THE
15 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT; AND

16 (II) ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE MONEY UNDER A GRANT AUTHORIZED BY
17 49 U.S.C. SEC. 5307 OR 49 U.S.C. SEC. 5311.

18 (b) "FUND" MEANS THE YOUTH FARE FREE TRANSIT GRANT
19 PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (c) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE YOUTH FARE FREE TRANSIT GRANT
21 PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (d) "REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT" MEANS THE REGIONAL
23 TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLE 9 OF TITLE 32.

24 (e) "TRANSIT AGENCY" MEANS A PROVIDER OF PUBLIC
25 TRANSPORTATION, AS DEFINED IN 49 U.S.C. SEC. 5302 (15), AS AMENDED.

26 (f) "TRANSIT ASSOCIATION" MEANS A COLORADO NONPROFIT
27 CORPORATION FORMED TO REPRESENT TRANSIT INTERESTS IN COLORADO

1 WHOSE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES TRANSIT AGENCIES, TRANSIT-RELATED
2 BUSINESSES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

3 (g) "YOUTH" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NINETEEN YEARS OF
4 AGE OR YOUNGER.

5 (2) THE YOUTH FARE FREE TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAM IS CREATED
6 IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM ARE:

7 (a) TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO TRANSIT ASSOCIATIONS FOR THE
8 PURPOSE OF PROVIDING GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCIES IN ORDER
9 TO OFFER YEAR-ROUND FARE FREE TRANSIT SERVICES TO YOUTH RIDERS;
10 AND

11 (b) TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
12 DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING YEAR-ROUND FARE FREE
13 TRANSIT SERVICES TO YOUTH RIDERS.

14 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND
15 AWARD GRANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND THE POLICIES
16 DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS
17 SECTION. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, GRANTS ARE PAID OUT
18 OF THE FUND.

19 (4) (a) TO RECEIVE A GRANT, A TRANSIT ASSOCIATION OR THE
20 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO
21 THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
22 SECTION AND THE POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN
23 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT
24 MAY AWARD GRANTS OF UP TO FIVE MILLION DOLLARS EACH YEAR TO A
25 TRANSIT ASSOCIATION AND UP TO FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED
26 THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH YEAR TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
27 DISTRICT; EXCEPT THAT:

1 (I) IF THE DEPARTMENT AWARDS A GRANT FOR A YEAR TO A
2 TRANSIT ASSOCIATION IN AN AMOUNT LESS THAN FIVE MILLION DOLLARS,
3 THEN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THE GRANT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY
4 AWARD TO THE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION FOR THE NEXT YEAR IS FIVE MILLION
5 DOLLARS PLUS AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FIVE
6 MILLION DOLLARS AND THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDED TO THE
7 TRANSIT ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRIOR YEAR; AND

8 (II) IF THE DEPARTMENT AWARDS A GRANT FOR A YEAR TO THE
9 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT IN AN AMOUNT LESS THAN FOUR
10 MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, THEN THE MAXIMUM
11 AMOUNT OF THE GRANT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD TO THE
12 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR THE NEXT YEAR IS FOUR
13 MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PLUS AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO
14 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND
15 DOLLARS AND THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDED TO THE REGIONAL
16 TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR THE PRIOR YEAR.

17 (b) A TRANSIT ASSOCIATION, THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
18 DISTRICT, OR AN ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES A GRANT IS
19 NOT REQUIRED TO EXPEND A GRANT IN THE YEAR IN WHICH IT IS RECEIVED
20 AND RETAINS THE GRANT AMOUNT UNTIL IT IS EXPENDED. THE RETENTION
21 OF ALL OR A PORTION OF A GRANT RECEIVED DURING ONE YEAR BY A
22 TRANSIT ASSOCIATION OR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR
23 USE IN A SUBSEQUENT YEAR DOES NOT REDUCE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT
24 THAT THE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION OR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT
25 IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4) AS A NEW
26 GRANT DURING THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

27 (5) (a) (I) A TRANSIT ASSOCIATION THAT RECEIVES A GRANT MAY

1 USE THE MONEY TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE TRANSIT
2 AGENCIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION. A TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
3 MAY USE A PORTION OF THE GRANT MONEY TO PAY ITS DIRECT AND
4 INDIRECT COSTS IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM INCLUDING
5 REASONABLE COSTS TO CREATE A STATEWIDE MARKETING CAMPAIGN FOR
6 USE BY ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCIES.

7 (II) TO RECEIVE A GRANT FROM A TRANSIT ASSOCIATION, AN
8 ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE TRANSIT
9 ASSOCIATION. AT A MINIMUM, THE APPLICATION MUST DESCRIBE THE
10 ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY'S CURRENT YOUTH RIDERSHIP AND THE
11 METHOD THAT THE ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY USES TO TRACK YOUTH
12 RIDERS.

13 (III) AN ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES A GRANT
14 THROUGH THE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION MAY USE THE GRANT MONEY TO
15 PROVIDE OPERATING SUPPORT FOR ITS TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND GENERAL
16 TRANSIT PROGRAMS, SO LONG AS THE ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY PROVIDES
17 UNINTERRUPTED FARE FREE YEAR-ROUND TRANSIT SERVICES FOR YOUTH
18 RIDERS.

19 (IV) IN AWARDING GRANTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (5)(a), A
20 TRANSIT ASSOCIATION SHALL:

21 (A) ALLOCATE MONEY AMONG APPLICANTS WITH THE GOALS OF
22 INCREASING YOUTH RIDERSHIP ON TRANSIT, REDUCING OZONE FORMATION,
23 AND REDUCING VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED IN THE STATE; AND

24 (B) CONSIDER DISTRIBUTING GRANT MONEY USING A FORMULA
25 DEVELOPED BY THE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT
26 YOUTH RIDERSHIP IN THE SERVICE AREA OF THE APPLICANT AND THE
27 EXTENT TO WHICH THE APPLICANT WILL MATCH GRANT MONEY WITH

1 OTHER MONEY; EXCEPT THAT APPLICANTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO MATCH
2 GRANT MONEY TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT.

3 (V) (A) EACH ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES A GRANT
4 SHALL REPORT ON THE USE OF THE MONEY TO THE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
5 IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY THE TRANSIT
6 ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPARTMENT. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE, AT A
7 MINIMUM, ESTIMATES OF THE CHANGE IN YOUTH RIDERSHIP DURING THE
8 YEAR IN WHICH FARE FREE SERVICES WERE OFFERED TO YOUTH RIDERS
9 COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS, ANY CHANGES THAT THE ELIGIBLE
10 TRANSIT AGENCY WOULD MAKE IN HOW IT PROVIDES FARE FREE TRANSIT
11 SERVICES TO YOUTH RIDERS OR IN ITS USE OF THE GRANT MONEY BASED ON
12 ITS EXPERIENCES, AND HOW THE ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY MARKETED
13 THE FARE FREE TRANSIT SERVICES FOR YOUTH RIDERS. THE REPORT MAY
14 INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING A NARRATIVE ANALYSIS,
15 TO PROVIDE CONTEXT ON THE RIDERSHIP DATA INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.
16 EACH ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES A GRANT THROUGH THE
17 TRANSIT ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO THE TRANSIT
18 ASSOCIATION BY JANUARY 31, 2025, AND BY JANUARY 31 OF EACH YEAR
19 THEREAFTER.

20 (B) BY FEBRUARY 28, 2025, AND BY FEBRUARY 28 OF EACH YEAR
21 THEREAFTER, THE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
22 DEPARTMENT COMPILING AND SUMMARIZING THE REPORTED INFORMATION
23 FOR ALL ELIGIBLE TRANSIT AGENCIES THAT RECEIVED A GRANT THROUGH
24 THE TRANSIT ASSOCIATION.

25 (VI) A TRANSIT ASSOCIATION THAT RECEIVES A GRANT FROM THE
26 DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLICIZE POLICIES FOR THE GRANT,
27 INCLUDING THE PROCESS AND DEADLINES FOR AN ELIGIBLE TRANSIT

1 AGENCY TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A GRANT, THE INFORMATION AND
2 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION, REPORTING
3 REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES, AND ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
4 NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE GRANT.

5 (b) (I) THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT MAY USE GRANT
6 MONEY TO PROVIDE OPERATING SUPPORT FOR ITS TRANSIT OPERATIONS
7 AND GENERAL TRANSIT PROGRAMS, SO LONG AS THE REGIONAL
8 TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT PROVIDES UNINTERRUPTED FARE FREE
9 YEAR-ROUND TRANSIT SERVICES FOR YOUTH RIDERS.

10 (II) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR FOR WHICH THE
11 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT RECEIVES A GRANT, THE REGIONAL
12 TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT
13 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
14 POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE,
15 AT A MINIMUM, ESTIMATES OF THE CHANGE IN YOUTH RIDERSHIP DURING
16 THE YEAR IN WHICH FARE FREE SERVICES WERE OFFERED TO YOUTH RIDERS
17 COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS, ANY CHANGES THAT THE REGIONAL
18 TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT WOULD MAKE IN HOW IT PROVIDES FARE FREE
19 TRANSIT SERVICES TO YOUTH RIDERS OR IN ITS USE OF THE GRANT MONEY
20 BASED ON ITS EXPERIENCES, AND HOW THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
21 DISTRICT MARKETED THE FARE FREE TRANSIT SERVICES FOR YOUTH
22 RIDERS. THE REPORT MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING
23 A NARRATIVE ANALYSIS, TO PROVIDE CONTEXT ON THE RIDERSHIP DATA
24 INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.

25 (III) THE STATE AUDITOR SHALL AUDIT THE REGIONAL
26 TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S USE OF THE GRANT MONEY AS PART OF ITS
27 NEXT PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

1 CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 32-9-115 (3).

2 (6) (a) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND PUBLICIZE
3 POLICIES FOR THE PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE POLICIES MUST ADDRESS
4 THE PROCESS AND ANY DEADLINES FOR APPLYING FOR AND RECEIVING A
5 GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION
6 REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND
7 DEADLINES, AND ANY ADDITIONAL POLICIES NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER
8 THE PROGRAM.

9 (II) IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT
10 SHALL AWARD FORMULA-BASED GRANTS TO A TRANSIT ASSOCIATION AND
11 THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR USE BY THE TRANSIT
12 ASSOCIATION OR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT DURING THE
13 TWELVE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF THE GRANT MONEY. THE
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT GRANTS ARE AWARDED BY JULY 15,
15 2024, AND BY JULY 15 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.

16 (7) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
17 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
18 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TRANSMIT ALL
19 MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE
20 TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE FUND.

21 (8) (a) THE YOUTH FARE FREE TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAM FUND IS
22 HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF
23 MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION
24 (8)(d) OF THIS SECTION, ANY OTHER MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
25 APPROPRIATES OR TRANSFERS TO THE FUND, AND ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR
26 DONATIONS CREDITED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS
27 SECTION.

1 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
2 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
3 FUND TO THE FUND.

4 (c) MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE
5 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.

6 (d) ON JULY 1, 2024, AND ON JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,
7 THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM
8 THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND.

9 (9) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR OF THE PROGRAM,
10 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
11 THE PROGRAM TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TRANSPORTATION AND
12 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND
13 ENERGY COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE REPORT
14 MUST SUMMARIZE AND COMPILE THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE
15 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (5)(a)(V) AND (5)(b)(II) OF THIS
16 SECTION.

17 == ===== ==

18 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 24-38.5-114.

19 **SECTION 5. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
20 except that sections 2 and 4 of this act take effect July 1, 2024.

21 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
24 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
25 institutions.