

**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. 24-0166.01 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 24-055

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Will,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Hartsook,

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING SUPPORTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE OF**
102 **INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE.**

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 creates the agricultural and rural community behavioral health liaison (liaison) position in the behavioral health administration (BHA) to serve as a liaison between the BHA, department of agriculture (department), behavioral health-care providers, rural community leaders, agricultural communities, and nonprofit organizations that serve agricultural communities. The liaison shall:

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.*

- Engage in statewide community outreach to educate communities on the impact of behavioral health issues facing farmers, ranchers, and other individuals involved in agricultural or rural communities;
- Establish interdepartmental relationships; and
- Develop an understanding of and address the root causes of behavioral health issues in the agricultural industry and in rural communities.

The bill creates the agricultural behavioral health community of practice work group (work group) in the department. The purpose of the work group is to convene a group of leaders and experts in agriculture and behavioral health care to improve access to behavioral health care for those involved in agriculture. The work group consists of at least 7 members and shall:

- Compile best practices to provide behavioral health care to those involved in agriculture;
- Identify gaps in access to comprehensive behavioral health care for those involved in agriculture;
- Engage with other stakeholders involved in behavioral health care focused on those involved in agriculture; and
- Collect data on behavioral health-care outcomes in agricultural communities and steps taken to support those involved in agriculture through behavioral health initiatives and programs.

The work group is scheduled for sunset review and repeal on September 1, 2029.

The bill establishes the agricultural behavioral health grant program (grant program) in the department. The purpose of the grant program is to:

- Continue existing programs or create new programs that address the root causes of behavioral health issues in the agricultural industry or in rural communities;
- Strengthen collaborative efforts between organizations and communities in addressing the root causes of behavioral health issues in the agricultural industry or in rural communities; and
- Improve access to health, wellness, and behavioral health care for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural industry workers.

The bill requires the department to contract with a statewide agricultural organization to convene an in-person annual summit for organizations with an interest in promoting and providing behavioral health care to agricultural communities.

The department and the BHA are required to enter into an interagency agreement to share data collected in the course of addressing

behavioral health-care issues in the agricultural industry and in rural communities.

On or before January 1, 2026, and each January 1 thereafter, the department is required to submit a report summarizing data collected by the work group, and data collected from grant recipients, to the agriculture, water, and natural resources committee and the health and human services committee of the house of representatives and the agriculture and natural resources committee and the health and human services committee of the senate, or their successor committees, and the BHA. On or before January 1, 2027, and each January 1 thereafter, the department shall include in the report a summary of the data collected regarding the in-person annual summit.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-303, **add** (1.5)
3 as follows:

4 **27-60-303. Behavioral health administration - additional**
5 **duties - collaboration with other agencies.** (1.5) (a) THE BHA SHALL
6 CREATE THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
7 HEALTH PROGRAM AND IDENTIFY A SPECIFIC BHA STAFF PERSON TO SERVE
8 AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE BHA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
9 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS, RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS,
10 AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT
11 SERVE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES. THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL
12 COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM SHALL:

13 (I) ENGAGE IN STATEWIDE COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO EDUCATE
14 COMMUNITIES ON THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES FARMERS, RANCHERS,
15 OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND RURAL
16 COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCE;

17 (II) ESTABLISH INTERDEPARTMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS; AND

18 (III) DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND ADDRESS THE ROOT
19 CAUSES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

1 AND IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

2 (b) THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
3 HEALTH PROGRAM SHALL COORDINATE TRAINING FOR BEHAVIORAL
4 HEALTH PROVIDERS TO SERVE FARMERS, RANCHERS, OTHER
5 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WORKERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING
6 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES.

7 (c) THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
8 HEALTH PROGRAM STAFF LIAISON SHALL SERVE ON THE AGRICULTURAL
9 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WORK GROUP, CREATED
10 IN SECTION 35-1-121, AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE WORK GROUP AS
11 NEEDED.

12 (d) THE BHA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SHALL
13 ENTER INTO AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT TO SHARE DATA COLLECTED IN
14 THE COURSE OF UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE BEHAVIORAL
15 HEALTH-CARE ISSUES IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND IN RURAL
16 COMMUNITIES. THE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT MUST STATE THAT THE
17 DATA SHARED WILL BE AGGREGATED AND ANONYMIZED, AND DATA
18 SHARING MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL DATA
19 PRIVACY LAWS.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-1-121 as
21 follows:

22 **35-1-121. Agricultural behavioral health community of**
23 **practice work group - creation - grant program - reporting - rules -**
24 **definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
25 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

26 (a) "AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF
27 PRACTICE WORK GROUP" OR "WORK GROUP" MEANS THE AGRICULTURAL

1 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WORK GROUP CREATED IN
2 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (b) "AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM" OR
4 "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
5 GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

6 (c) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION" MEANS THE
7 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
8 27-50-102.

9 (2) (a) THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF
10 PRACTICE WORK GROUP IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE PURPOSE OF
11 THE WORK GROUP IS TO CONVENE A GROUP OF LEADERS AND EXPERTS IN
12 AGRICULTURE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO
13 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS, OTHER
14 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WORKERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

15 (b) (I) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, THE COMMISSIONER,
16 OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE, SHALL APPOINT AT LEAST SEVEN
17 MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE WORK GROUP, WHICH MUST INCLUDE THE
18 AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM
19 STAFF LIAISON DESCRIBED IN SECTION 27-60-303 (1.5). THE
20 COMMISSIONER, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE, MAY ADD
21 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS, IF NECESSARY, TO REPRESENT THE DIVERSITY OF
22 THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY. THE COMMISSIONER, OR THE
23 COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE, SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT:

24 (A) STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL
25 ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERIENCE PROVIDING ACCESS, SERVICES, AND
26 RESOURCES FOR THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THOSE INVOLVED IN
27 AGRICULTURE;

1 (B) STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE
2 PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES;

3 (C) STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS MENTAL OR
4 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES;

5 (D) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS;

6 (E) RURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS; AND

7 (F) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH MENTAL
8 HEALTH ISSUES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES, OR SUBSTANCE USE
9 DISORDERS AND RECOVERY.

10 (II) THE COMMISSIONER, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE,
11 SHALL SELECT A MEMBER OF A STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION
12 TO CHAIR, FACILITATE, AND LEAD THE WORK GROUP MEETINGS.

13 (c) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2025, THE WORK GROUP SHALL
14 CONVENE THE FIRST MEETING AND ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS,
15 INCLUDING PROCEDURES TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP TO
16 PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS REMOTELY. THE WORK GROUP SHALL MEET
17 AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH.

18 (d) THE CHAIR, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE, SHALL OPEN THE
19 MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC, PROVIDE ADVANCE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE
20 MEETINGS, AND ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENTS AT THE MEETINGS. THE CHAIR,
21 OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE, SHALL CONDUCT OUTREACH AND ENCOURAGE
22 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

23 (e) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ORGANIZE TRANSLATION SERVICES,
24 UPON ADVANCED NOTICE AND REQUEST, FOR MEETINGS HELD PURSUANT
25 TO SUBSECTIONS (2)(c) AND (2)(d) OF THIS SECTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE
26 WORK GROUP AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ATTEND THE MEETINGS.
27 THE WORK GROUP SHALL CREATE A PROCESS FOR A MEMBER OF THE WORK

1 GROUP OR A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO REQUEST TRANSLATION SERVICES
2 IN ADVANCE OF A MEETING.

3 (f) MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP WHO ARE COMPENSATED BY AN
4 ORGANIZATION TO SERVE ON THE WORK GROUP SERVE WITHOUT
5 COMPENSATION. MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP WHO ARE NOT
6 COMPENSATED BY AN ORGANIZATION TO SERVE ON THE WORK GROUP
7 MUST RECEIVE COMPENSATION.

8 (g) THE WORK GROUP SHALL:

9 (I) COMPILE BEST PRACTICES TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
10 CARE TO FARMERS, RANCHERS, OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY
11 WORKERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES;

12 (II) IDENTIFY GAPS IN THE PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
13 CARE TO FARMERS, RANCHERS, OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY
14 WORKERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES;

15 (III) ENGAGE WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN
16 AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE;

17 (IV) COLLECT DATA, AS PERMITTED BY STATE AND FEDERAL DATA
18 PRIVACY LAWS, ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE OUTCOMES IN
19 AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND STEPS TAKEN TO SUPPORT FARMERS,
20 RANCHERS, OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WORKERS, AND THEIR
21 FAMILIES THROUGH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS;

22 AND

23 (V) REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
24 ADMINISTRATION ON THE DATA COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
25 (2)(g)(IV) OF THIS SECTION AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE OR POLICY
26 CHANGES TO FURTHER IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
27 CARE.

1 (h) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
2 2029. BEFORE THE REPEAL, THE WORK GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW
3 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-3-1203.

4 (3)(a) THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM
5 IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER
6 THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO
7 AWARD GRANT MONEY TO:

8 (I) CONTINUE EXISTING PROGRAMS OR CREATE NEW PROGRAMS
9 THAT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE
10 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY OR IN RURAL COMMUNITIES;

11 (II) STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN
12 ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF
13 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY OR IN
14 RURAL COMMUNITIES; AND

15 (III) IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND BEHAVIORAL
16 HEALTH CARE FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS, _____ OTHER AGRICULTURAL
17 INDUSTRY WORKERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES.

18 (b) IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
19 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

20 (I) DEVELOP THE GRANT APPLICATION;

21 (II) ESTABLISH A DISBURSEMENT TIMELINE FOR THE GRANTS;

22 (III) CREATE A RUBRIC TO EVALUATE GRANT APPLICATIONS;

23 (IV) AWARD GRANT MONEY TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS;

24 (V) REQUIRE GRANT RECIPIENTS TO REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT
25 ON THE PROGRESS OF GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS, FINDINGS, AND
26 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ESTABLISH A DEADLINE FOR THE
27 SUBMITTAL OF THE REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT; AND

1 (VI) COLLECT THE REPORTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(V)
2 FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS ON THE USE OF GRANT FUNDS.

3 (c) IN AWARDING GRANT MONEY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
4 (3)(b)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE
5 APPLICANTS THAT PRIMARILY SERVE INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN
6 AGRICULTURE. THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF MONEY A GRANT RECIPIENT
7 MAY RECEIVE ANNUALLY IS FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

8 (4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH A STATEWIDE
9 AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION THAT HAS ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS
10 ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES TO ORGANIZE, MANAGE, AND
11 CONVENE AN IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT FOR ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN
12 INTEREST IN PROMOTING AND PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO
13 AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES. THE STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION SHALL
14 CONVENE THE FIRST IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT NO LATER THAN
15 DECEMBER 2025. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH THE
16 STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
17 "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES 101 TO 112 OF TITLE 24.

18 (b) THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION SHALL
19 CONDUCT POST-EVENT SURVEYS OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ATTEND THE
20 IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT.

21 (c) THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION SHALL
22 ANNUALLY PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT:

23 (I) RECEIPTS DOCUMENTING FUNDS SPENT ON THE IN-PERSON
24 ANNUAL SUMMIT; AND

25 (II) A REPORT DESCRIBING THE IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT,
26 INCLUDING:

27 (A) THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES;

1 (B) THE NAMES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ATTENDED;

2 (C) THE RESULTS OF THE POST-EVENT SURVEYS DESCRIBED IN
3 SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND

4 (D) ANY FINDINGS OR RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHANGES FOR
5 FUTURE IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMITS.

6 (d) THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION THAT
7 CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT BARRED FROM APPLYING TO
8 THE GRANT PROGRAM.

9 (5) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
10 ADMINISTRATION SHALL ENTER INTO AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT TO
11 SHARE DATA COLLECTED IN THE COURSE OF UNDERSTANDING AND
12 ADDRESSING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE ISSUES IN THE
13 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. THE
14 INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT MUST STATE THAT THE DATA SHARED WILL BE
15 AGGREGATED AND ANONYMIZED, AND DATA SHARING MUST BE IN
16 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL DATA PRIVACY LAWS.

17 (6) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY
18 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

19 (7) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH JANUARY 1
20 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT SUMMARIZING
21 THE WORK GROUP REPORT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(g)(V) OF THIS
22 SECTION AND THE GRANT RECIPIENT REPORTS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO
23 SUBSECTION (3)(b)(VI) OF THIS SECTION TO THE AGRICULTURE, WATER,
24 AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN
25 SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
26 AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE HEALTH
27 AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR

1 COMMITTEES, AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

2 (b) AS PART OF THE JANUARY 1, 2027, REPORT DESCRIBED IN
3 SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION, AND IN EACH JANUARY 1 REPORT
4 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT SUMMARIZING
5 THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION REPORT COLLECTED
6 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

7 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136
8 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS
9 SUBSECTION (7) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **add**
11 (20)(a)(V) as follows:

12 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative**
13 **declaration - definition - repeal.** (20) (a) The following statutory
14 authorizations for the designated advisory committees will repeal on
15 September 1, 2029:

16 (V) THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF
17 PRACTICE WORK GROUP CREATED IN SECTION 35-1-121 (2).

18 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
21 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
22 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
23 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
24 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
25 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
26 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.