

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

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 24-0802.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 24-1086

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE DENVER HEALTH AND HOSPITAL**
102 **AUTHORITY.**

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>.)

Current law requires the department of health care policy and financing (department) to offer to enter into a direct contract with the managed care organization (MCO) operated by or under the control of the Denver health and hospital authority (Denver health) until Denver health ceases to operate a medicaid managed care program or until June 30, 2025. The bill removes the option for the department to enter into a direct

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.*

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 12, 2024

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 5, 2024

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
January 29, 2024

contract until June 30, 2025, and instead requires the department to enter into the contract until Denver health ceases to operate a managed care program.

The bill prohibits the MCO from reimbursing contracted medicaid providers at rates that are higher than the department's medicaid fee for service rates unless the provider enters into a quality incentive agreement with the MCO. The bill requires the MCO's contract to provide physical and behavioral health-care services to the population it serves.

For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, the department distributed money appropriated for a supplemental state payment to Denver health. The bill authorizes the department to continually distribute any money appropriated for payment to Denver health.

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

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

4 (a) Safety net hospitals are experiencing significant financial
5 hardships due to uncompensated care, increased staffing costs, inflation,
6 and federal money that is no longer available. Hospitals are seeing more
7 uninsured, underinsured, and medicaid patients. Safety net hospitals are
8 caring for patients longer, with less revenue and increased expenses, and
9 they are struggling with how to provide care for their communities. Rural
10 safety net hospitals and Denver health are the mostly heavily burdened by
11 these increasing financial hardships.

12 (b) Denver health and hospital authority is the largest safety net
13 hospital in Colorado, serving patients from 63 out of the 64 counties in
14 the state;

15 (c) From 2020 to 2023, uncompensated care at Denver health has
16 increased 127% due to underpayment from public insurance companies
17 and increases in uninsured patients, including migrants and people
18 experiencing homelessness;

19 (d) In 2023, Denver health is projected to provide more than \$135

1 million in uncompensated care;

2 (e) Increased demand for services among uninsured and
3 underinsured patients and increases in the number of homeless patients
4 and those with a mental health diagnosis, together with the increasing
5 expenses and stagnating public funding from federal, state, and local
6 governments, have created an unsustainable financial situation for Denver
7 health;

8 (f) As a safety net hospital on the front line of providing
9 health-care services statewide, it is important for the health of Coloradans
10 that Denver health is financially stable and remains a valuable health-care
11 resource; and

12 (g) As the largest safety net hospital in Colorado, Denver health
13 maintains and invests in administrative infrastructure necessary to carry
14 out the responsibilities of serving a disproportionate share of medicaid
15 members and uninsured individuals. Because of this, Denver health is
16 unable to generate sufficient revenue to fulfill the ongoing investment
17 need.

18 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares it is important to
19 provide authority to the department of health care policy and financing to
20 assist safety net hospitals, such as Denver health, in becoming financially
21 stable.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-5-402, **amend**
23 **(7.5)(a) and (7.5)(b)(II) as follows:**

24 **25.5-5-402. Statewide managed care system - rules -**
25 **definitions - repeal.** (7.5) (a) The state department shall offer to enter
26 into a direct contract **FOR PHYSICAL HEALTH-CARE SERVICES** with the
27 MCO operated by or under the control of Denver health and hospital

1 authority, created pursuant to article 29 of title 25, ~~until the MCO ceases~~
2 ~~to operate a medicaid managed care program or until June 30, 2025,~~
3 ~~unless sooner reproced~~ FROM JULY 1, 2025, UNTIL JUNE 30, 2032, AS
4 LONG AS THE MCO MEETS ALL MCO CRITERIA REQUIRED BY THE STATE
5 DEPARTMENT. If the state department designates an MCE OTHER THAN
6 THE MCO OPERATED BY OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF DENVER HEALTH
7 AND HOSPITAL AUTHORITY to manage behavioral ~~health~~ HEALTH-CARE
8 services pursuant to this article 5, Denver health and hospital authority,
9 or any subsidiary, ~~thereof~~, shall collaborate with the ~~MCO~~ MCE during
10 the term of contract.

11 (b) The MCO operated by or under the control of Denver health
12 and hospital authority shall:

13 ~~_____~~
14 (II) Accept rates determined by the state department, through
15 standard methodologies, to cover the population it is serving. RATES PAID
16 BY THE MCO TO CONTRACTED PROVIDERS MUST NOT BE HIGHER THAN THE
17 STATE DEPARTMENT'S MEDICAID FEE FOR SERVICE RATES UNLESS THE
18 PROVIDER ENTERS INTO A QUALITY INCENTIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE
19 MCO.

20 ~~_____~~

21 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 25.5-4-427
22 as follows:

23 **25.5-4-427. State payment to the Denver health and hospital**
24 **authority.** (1) The state department shall distribute money appropriated
25 for a ~~supplemental~~ payment to the Denver health and hospital authority
26 created in section 25-29-103.

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

1 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
2 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
3 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
4 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
5 institutions.