

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

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 24-0556.01 Conrad Imel x2313

HOUSE BILL 24-1273

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen and Pelton B.,

House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
Finance
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE**
102 **GRANT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE 2023 SUNSET**
104 **REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.**

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/>.)

Sunset Process - House State, Civic, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee. The bill implements the recommendation of the department of regulatory agencies' sunset review and report on the

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.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 17, 2024

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 15, 2024

veterans assistance grant program by continuing the program for 7 years, until September 1, 2031.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal**
3 (25)(a)(VIII); and **add** (32)(a)(XI) as follows:

4 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**
5 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**
6 **declaration - repeal.** (25) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,
7 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2024:

8 (VIII) ~~The veterans assistance grant program created in section~~
9 ~~28-5-712;~~

10 (32) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled
11 for repeal on September 1, 2031:

12 (XI) THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN
13 SECTION 28-5-712.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-5-712, **amend** (2),
15 (3)(b), (4), and (5) as follows:

16 **28-5-712. Veterans assistance grant program - created - rules**
17 **- fund - repeal.** (2) ~~On or before September 1, 2014,~~ The adjutant
18 general, in consultation with the board of veterans affairs created in
19 section 28-5-702, shall adopt rules for the administration of the program,
20 including, but not limited to:

21 (a) Criteria for determining which nonprofit organizations and
22 governmental agencies are eligible to receive ~~moneys~~ MONEY from the
23 program; and

24 (b) Procedures by which eligible nonprofit organizations and
25 governmental agencies may apply for and receive ~~moneys~~ MONEY from

1 the program; AND

2 (c) CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATING PROGRAM
3 MONEY, WITH THE INTENT THAT AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT OF MONEY
4 APPROPRIATED FROM THE FUND EACH YEAR FOR THE PROGRAM IS USED TO
5 PROVIDE SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED VETERANS. THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6 SHALL DEFINE "UNDERSERVED VETERANS" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
7 FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' GUIDELINES AND TO MEET
8 EMERGING STATE AND LOCAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES, WITH A FOCUS ON
9 INCLUSIVE CRITERIA THAT ENCOMPASSES DIVERSE GROUPS, INCLUDING
10 WOMEN VETERANS.

11 (3) (b) The ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund ~~are~~ IS subject to annual
12 appropriation to the division by the general assembly for the direct and
13 indirect costs associated with implementing the program. The state
14 treasurer may invest any ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund not expended for the
15 purposes of this section as provided by law. The state treasurer shall
16 credit any interest and income derived from the deposit and investment
17 of ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund to the fund. Any unexpended and
18 unencumbered ~~moneys~~ MONEY in the fund at the end of a fiscal year
19 ~~remain~~ REMAINS in the fund and shall not be credited to any other fund;
20 except that ~~any moneys remaining in the fund on September 1, 2024, shall~~
21 ~~be credited~~ THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED
22 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON AUGUST 31, 2031, to the
23 general fund.

24 (4) In its annual report before the house and senate committees of
25 reference pursuant to section 2-7-203, ~~C.R.S.~~, the department of military
26 and veterans affairs shall include:

27 (a) Information describing the grants awarded through the

1 program during the preceding year; AND

2 (b) THE CRITERIA USED TO DEFINE "UNDERSERVED VETERANS" AND
3 HOW PROGRAM MONEY WAS ALLOCATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF
4 UNDERSERVED VETERANS.

5 (5) This section is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2024~~
6 SEPTEMBER 1, 2031. Before ITS repeal, the department of regulatory
7 agencies shall review the program as described in section 24-34-104.
8 ~~C.R.S.~~

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