

CHAPTER 395

MILITARY AND VETERANS

HOUSE BILL 24-1273

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Parenti, Boesenecker, Brown, Epps, Ricks, Rutinel, Willford, Woodrow, Bacon, Bird, Clifford, Daugherty, deGruy Kennedy, Duran, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Hernandez, Herod, Kipp, Lieder, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Lukens, Lynch, Mabrey, Martinez, Marvin, Mauro, McCormick, Ortiz, Sirota, Snyder, Story, Titone, Valdez, Velasco, Vigil, Weissman, Young, McCluskie, Amabile, Joseph;

also SENATOR(S) Hinrichsen and Pelton B., Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Gonzales, Hansen, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton R., Priola, Sullivan, Van Winkle, Will, Zenzinger.

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

(XIV) THE VETERANS ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 28-5-712.

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

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

28-5-712. Veterans assistance grant program - created - rules - fund - repeal.

(2) ~~On or before September 1, 2014,~~ The adjutant general, in consultation with the board of veterans affairs created in section 28-5-702, shall adopt rules for the administration of the program, including, but not limited to:

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

(b) Procedures by which eligible nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies may apply for and receive ~~moneys~~ MONEY from the program; AND

(c) CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING, CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' GUIDELINES AND STATE NEEDS, UNDERSERVED VETERAN POPULATIONS, INCLUDING WOMEN VETERANS, WITH THE INTENT TO PRIORITIZE ALLOCATING PROGRAM MONEY TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR UNDERSERVED VETERANS.

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

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

(a) Information describing the grants awarded through the program during the preceding year; AND

(b) THE CRITERIA USED TO IDENTIFY UNDERSERVED VETERAN POPULATIONS AND WHETHER AND HOW PROGRAM MONEY WAS ALLOCATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED VETERANS.

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

SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be

held in November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 4, 2024