

SB137_L.051

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

SB21-137 be amended as follows:

1 Amend reengrossed bill, page 3, after line 3 insert:

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

4 (a) The federal government enacted the "American Rescue Plan
5 Act of 2021" to provide support to state, local, and tribal governments in
6 responding to the impact of COVID-19 and to assist their efforts to
7 contain the effects of COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and
8 businesses. Under the federal act, the state of Colorado received over
9 three billion dollars to be used for the purposes identified in the federal
10 act.

11 (b) Regulations construing the federal act promulgated by the
12 United States treasury identify a nonexclusive list of uses that address a
13 broad range of public health needs exacerbated by the pandemic. Under
14 these regulations, funds may be used for mental health and substance
15 misuse treatment; hotlines and warmlines; crisis intervention, services, or
16 outreach to promote access to health and social services; and other
17 behavioral health services.

18 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the programs and
19 services funded by the federal money transferred in this bill are
20 appropriate uses of the money transferred to Colorado under the federal
21 act. This money will be put to expeditious and efficient use in expanding
22 access to evidence-based treatment for mental health and substance use
23 disorders, especially in frontier and rural communities; supporting
24 behavioral health services for pregnant and parenting women, for families
25 of young children, and for children and youth; enhancing evidence-based
26 strategies and services to prevent drug overdose deaths; mitigating the
27 impacts of the opioid crisis; and expanding access to recovery support
28 services."

29 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

** *** ** *** **