

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**ENGROSSED**

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

LLS NO. 26-0766.01 Christopher McMichael x4775

**HOUSE BILL 26-1229**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Taggart and Feret,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Amabile and Rich,**

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**House Committees**  
Health & Human Services

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH DISPARITIES AND**  
102 **COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM TO CONSIDER THE**  
103 **HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH.**

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**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 amends the definition of "social determinants of health" to acknowledge the human-animal bond as a life-enhancing resource that impacts the length and quality of human life. The change authorizes, but does not require, the health disparities and community grant program to direct funds to programs that support the human-animal bond.

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  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 12, 2026

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2203, **add** (4)  
3 as follows:

4 **25-4-2203. Health disparities and community grant program**  
5 **human-animal bond - definitions - rules.**

6 (4) (a) SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY THE  
7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
8 SUPPORTING THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND, THE GRANT PROGRAM MAY  
9 AWARD GRANTS TO ENTITIES THAT SUPPORT THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND AS  
10 A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH.

11 (b) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
12 REQUIRES:

13 (I) "HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND" MEANS THE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL  
14 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL AND A PET ANIMAL WITHIN THE  
15 INDIVIDUAL'S CARE AND CUSTODY.

16 (II) "PET ANIMAL" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION  
17 35-80-102 (10).

18 **SECTION 2. 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 (August  
21 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
22 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
23 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
24 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
25 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.