

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0855.03 Lindy Schaible x4215

HOUSE BILL 26-1373

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Brown and Sirota, Taggart

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Kirkmeyer, Bridges

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING REDUCING MONTHLY SUBSIDY REIMBURSEMENT
102 PERCENTAGES FOR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROVIDER
103 CONTRACTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN
104 APPROPRIATION.

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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill specifies monthly subsidy payment reimbursement limits for the adoption assistance program and the relative guardianship assistance program that apply to contracts that

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.

take effect July 1, 2026, or later.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-5-104, **amend**
3 (1)(b) as follows:

4 **26-5-104. Funding of child welfare services provider contracts**
5 **- funding mechanism review - fund - report - rules - definitions.**

6 (1) **Reimbursement.**

7 (b) (I) The state department shall reimburse the county
8 departments ninety percent of the amounts expended by county
9 departments for adoption and relative guardianship assistance and is
10 authorized to make an expenditure in excess of appropriations pursuant
11 to section 24-75-109 (1)(b). The adoption and relative guardianship
12 assistance programs are exempt from the close-out process described in
13 subsection (7) of this section and the capped allocation described in
14 subsection (3) of this section. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS SUBSECTION
15 (1)(b)(I), THE REIMBURSEMENT RATES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTIONS
16 (1)(b)(II) AND (1)(b)(III) OF THIS SECTION APPLY TO NEGOTIATIONS AND
17 CONTRACTS THAT TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2026, OR LATER.

18 (II) FOR THE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, MONTHLY SUBSIDY
19 PAYMENTS MUST NOT EXCEED:

20 (A) FIFTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO ARE
21 UNDER NINE YEARS OLD;

22 (B) FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO
23 ARE NINE YEARS OLD OR OLDER BUT UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OLD; AND

24 (C) SIXTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO ARE
25 FOURTEEN YEARS OLD OR OLDER.

1 (III) FOR THE RELATIVE GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
2 MONTHLY SUBSIDY PAYMENTS MUST NOT EXCEED:

3 (A) SIXTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO ARE
4 UNDER NINE YEARS OLD;

5 (B) SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO
6 ARE NINE YEARS OLD OR OLDER BUT UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OLD; AND

7 (C) SEVENTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CARE RATES FOR YOUTH WHO
8 ARE FOURTEEN YEARS OLD OR OLDER.

9 (IV) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026, SERVICES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
10 26-7-102 (10), ARE NOT REIMBURSABLE EXCEPT FOR NONRECURRING
11 ADOPTION EXPENSES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-7-106 (2)(c).

12 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

13 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, to implement this
14 act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general
15 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of
16 human services for adoption and relative guardianship assistance is
17 decreased by \$2,199,750.

18 (2) The cash funds appropriation made in the annual general
19 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of
20 human services for adoption and relative guardianship assistance is
21 decreased by \$407,295. This appropriation is from local funds and is
22 subject to the "(I)" notation as defined in the annual general appropriation
23 act for the same fiscal year.

24 (3) The federal funds anticipated to be received for the 2026-27
25 state fiscal year by the department of human services for adoption and
26 relative guardianship will decrease by \$1,339,336. This figure is subject
27 to the "(I)" notation as defined in the general appropriation act for the

1 same fiscal year.

2 (4) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of
3 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27
4 state fiscal year if:

5 (a) The amount of the general fund appropriation made in the
6 annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
7 department of human services for adoption and relative guardianship
8 assistance is less than the amount of the adjustment required in subsection
9 (1) of this section; or

10 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
11 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of human
12 services for adoption and relative guardianship assistance.

13 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
14 except that section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
15 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
16 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
17 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever
18 is later.

19 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
22 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
23 institutions.