

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0895.01 Veronica Parish x2606

HOUSE BILL 26-1378

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Taggart, Brown

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
102 RESOURCES ADMINISTERED BY THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
103 ADMINISTRATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING
104 AN 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:

- Repeals the requirement that the behavioral health administration (BHA) contract with a nonprofit

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.

organization serving agricultural and rural communities in Colorado to provide vouchers for behavioral health care services;

- Repeals the requirement that the BHA contract with an independent third party to provide services and supports to behavioral health providers seeking to become behavioral health safety net providers;
- Repeals the building substance use disorder treatment capacity in underserved communities grant program;
- Repeals the recovery support services grant program;
- Transfers the balance of the high-risk families cash fund (fund) to the general fund and repeals the fund on July 1, 2026; and
- Reduces appropriations to the department of education for the affected programs and services.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 27-50-305,
3 27-60-110, 27-80-120, and 27-80-126.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-50-101, **amend**
5 (6); and **add** (17.5) as follows:

6 **27-50-101. Definitions.**

7 As used in this article 50, unless the context otherwise requires:

8 (6) "Behavioral health provider" means a recovery community
9 organization, ~~as defined in section 27-80-126~~, a recovery support services
10 organization, as defined in section 27-60-108, or a licensed organization
11 or professional providing diagnostic, therapeutic, or psychological
12 services for behavioral health conditions. Behavioral health providers
13 include a residential child care facility, as defined in section 26-6-903
14 (29), and a federally qualified health center.

15 (17.5) "RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN
16 INDEPENDENT, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION LED AND GOVERNED BY
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF RECOVERY THAT ORGANIZE

1 RECOVERY-FOCUSED POLICY ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES, CARRY OUT
2 RECOVERY-FOCUSED COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS,
3 OR PROVIDE PEER-RUN RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-50-105, **amend**
5 (1)(gg); and **repeal** (1)(h), (1)(ee), and (1)(ii) as follows:

6 **27-50-105. Administration of behavioral health programs -**
7 **state plan - sole mental health authority - gifts, grants, or donations**
8 **- repeal.**

9 (1) The BHA shall administer and provide the following
10 behavioral health programs and services:

11 (h) ~~Behavioral health-care services for rural and agricultural~~
12 ~~communities pursuant to section 27-60-110;~~

13 (ee) ~~The building substance use disorder treatment capacity in~~
14 ~~underserved communities grant program created pursuant to section~~
15 ~~27-80-120;~~

16 (gg) (I) The high-risk families cash fund created pursuant to
17 section 27-80-123.

18 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(gg) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
19 2026.

20 (ii) ~~The recovery support services grant program created pursuant~~
21 ~~to section 27-80-126;~~

22 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-301, **amend**
23 (3) as follows:

24 **27-60-301. Definitions.**

25 As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

26 (3) "Behavioral health provider" means a recovery community
27 organization, as defined in ~~section 27-80-126~~ SECTION 27-50-101, a

1 recovery support services organization, as defined in section 27-60-108,
2 or a licensed organization or professional that provides diagnostic,
3 therapeutic, or psychological services for behavioral health conditions.
4 Behavioral health providers include a residential child care facility, as
5 defined in section 26-6-903 (29), and a federally qualified health center,
6 as defined in the federal "Social Security Act", 42 U.S.C. sec. 1395x
7 (aa)(4).

8 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-80-123, **add** (8)
9 and (9) as follows:

10 **27-80-123. High-risk families cash fund - creation - services**
11 **provided - report - definition - repeal.**

12 (8) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED
13 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON JUNE 30, 2026, TO THE
14 GENERAL FUND.

15 (9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

16 **SECTION 6. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

17 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this
18 act, the appropriations made in the annual general appropriation act for
19 the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of human services for use
20 by the behavioral health administration for behavioral health safety net
21 services is decreased by \$3,500,000, which amount consists of \$500,000
22 from the general fund and \$3,000,000 from the marijuana tax cash fund
23 created in section 39-28.8-501 (1), C.R.S.

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

27 (a) The general fund appropriation made in the annual general

1 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of
2 human services for use by the behavioral health administration for
3 behavioral health safety net services is less than the amount of the
4 adjustment required in subsection (1) of this section;

5 (b) The cash funds appropriation from the marijuana tax cash fund
6 created in section 39-28.8-501 (1), C.R.S., made in the annual general
7 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of
8 human services for use by the behavioral health administration for
9 behavioral health safety net services is less than the amount of the
10 adjustment required in subsection (1) of this section; or

11 (c) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
12 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of human
13 services for use by the behavioral health administration for behavioral
14 health safety net services.

15 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, to
16 implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual
17 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
18 department of human services for use by the behavioral health
19 administration for the recovery support services grant program is
20 decreased by \$1,600,805, and the related FTE is decreased by 1.0 FTE.

21 (4) (a) If the general fund appropriation made in the annual
22 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
23 department of human services for use by the behavioral health
24 administration for the recovery support services grant program is an
25 amount less than the amount of the adjustment required in subsection (3)
26 of this section, the general fund appropriation is decreased to \$0.

27 (b) If the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state

1 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of human
2 services for use by the behavioral health administration for the recovery
3 support services grant program, then subsection (3) of this section does
4 not require a reduction of an appropriation in the annual general
5 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year.

6 (5) Except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, to
7 implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual
8 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
9 department of human services for use by the behavioral health
10 administration for behavioral health vouchers is decreased by \$50,000.

11 (6) (a) If the general fund appropriation made in the annual
12 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
13 department of human services for use by the behavioral health
14 administration for behavioral health vouchers is an amount less than the
15 amount of the adjustment required in subsection (5) of this section, the
16 general fund appropriation is decreased to \$0.

17 (b) If the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
18 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of human
19 services for use by the behavioral health administration for behavioral
20 health vouchers, then subsection (5) of this section does not require a
21 reduction of an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for
22 the 2026-27 state fiscal year.

23 **SECTION 7. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
24 except that section 6 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
25 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
26 case section 6 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
27 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever

1 is later.

2 **SECTION 8. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
3 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
5 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
6 institutions.