

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0921.01 Jed Franklin x5484

HOUSE BILL 26-1397

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sirota and Taggart, Brown

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Amabile and Bridges, Kirkmeyer

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE USE OF GENERAL FUND MONEY TO SUPPORT
102 BENEFITS PROVIDED TO CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL
103 THROUGH A MULTIPLE EMPLOYER HEALTH TRUST, AND, IN
104 CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING 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. Current law requires the state treasurer to transfer \$2.5 million to the firefighter benefits cash fund from the general fund on July 1, 2028, and on each July 1 thereafter, sufficient

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.

funds, subject to annual appropriation, to reimburse employers for the direct costs of providing certain benefits to firefighters and volunteer firefighters. Current law also requires the general assembly to appropriate \$650,000 from the general fund to the department of local affairs (department) on July 1, 2026, \$1 million from the general fund to the department on July 1, 2027, to reduce participating employer contributions to a multiple employer health trust (trust) for volunteer firefighters and part-time firefighters. The bill repeals the required transfers and required appropriations.

Current law requires the general assembly to appropriate money from the general fund to the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety for the purpose of reimbursing a multiple employer health trust for the direct costs of providing cardiac and other health screenings for peace officers as follows:

- \$350,000 for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026;
- \$500,000 for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027;
- \$1 million for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028; and
- On each July 1 thereafter, sufficient funds.

The bill repeals these required appropriations.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-302, **amend**
3 (11)(a)(II) and (11)(a)(III); and **repeal** (11)(a)(I) as follows:

4 **29-5-302. Required benefits - conditions of receiving benefits**
5 **- repeal.**

6 (11) (a) (I) ~~On July 1, 2028, the state treasurer shall transfer two~~
7 ~~million five hundred thousand dollars to the fund from the general fund,~~
8 ~~and on each July 1 thereafter, sufficient funds, subject to annual~~
9 ~~appropriation, to reimburse employers for the direct costs of providing the~~
10 ~~benefits required by this part 3 and 4 of article 5 of this title 29 for~~
11 ~~volunteer and part-time firefighters.~~

12 (II) The general assembly shall appropriate three hundred
13 thousand dollars for the state fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024, AND
14 five hundred thousand dollars for the state fiscal year beginning on July

1 1, 2025, ~~six hundred fifty thousand dollars for the state fiscal year~~
2 ~~beginning on July 1, 2026, and one million dollars for the state fiscal year~~
3 ~~beginning on July 1, 2027,~~ from the general fund to the department of
4 local affairs to reduce participating employer contributions for volunteer
5 firefighters and part-time firefighters. Money appropriated pursuant to
6 this subsection (11)(a)(II) shall be first used to reduce participating
7 employer contributions for volunteer firefighters and the remainder shall
8 be first used for part-time firefighters and any remaining amounts may
9 then be used for full-time firefighters.

10 (III) Subsection (11)(a)(II) of this section is repealed, effective
11 ~~July 1, 2028~~ JULY 1, 2026.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-604, **amend**
13 (3)(a)(I)(A); and **repeal** (3)(a)(I)(C), (3)(a)(I)(D), and (3)(a)(I)(E) as
14 follows:

15 **29-5-604. Employer participation in health trust required -**
16 **cardiovascular screening for peace officers.**

17 (3) (a) (I) The general assembly shall appropriate money from the
18 general fund or any other authorized source to the division of criminal
19 justice within the department of public safety for the purpose of
20 reimbursing a multiple employer health trust for the direct costs of
21 providing a program as required by this part 6 as follows:

22 (A) For the state fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024, the general
23 assembly shall appropriate two hundred thousand dollars from the general
24 fund to the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety
25 to be used for the purpose set forth in this subsection (3)(a)(I); AND

26 (C) ~~For the state fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2026, the general~~
27 ~~assembly shall appropriate three hundred fifty thousand dollars from the~~

1 general fund to the division of criminal justice in the department of public
2 safety to be used for the purpose set forth in this subsection (3)(a)(I);

3 (D) For the state fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2027, the general
4 assembly shall appropriate five hundred thousand dollars from the general
5 fund to the division of criminal justice in the department of public safety
6 to be used for the purpose set forth in this subsection (3)(a)(I); and

7 (E) For the state fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2028, the general
8 assembly shall appropriate one million dollars from the general fund, and
9 on each July 1 thereafter, the general assembly shall appropriate sufficient
10 funds, subject to annual appropriation, to the division of criminal justice
11 in the department of public safety to be used for the purpose set forth in
12 this subsection (3)(a)(I).

13 **SECTION 3. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

14 (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, to implement this
15 act, appropriations made in the annual general appropriation act for the
16 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of local affairs for use by the
17 division of local government are adjusted as follows:

18 (a) The general fund appropriation for firefighter heart and
19 circulatory malfunction benefits is decreased by \$150,000; and

20 (b) The reappropriated funds appropriation from the firefighter
21 benefits cash fund created in section 29-5-302 (11)(a), C.R.S., for
22 firefighter heart and circulatory malfunction benefits is decreased by
23 \$150,000.

24 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, to
25 implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual
26 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
27 department of public safety for use by the division of criminal justice for

1 first responder employer health benefit trusts is decreased by \$100,000.

2 (3) 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 local affairs for use by the division of local government for
8 firefighter heart and circulatory malfunction benefits is less than the
9 amount of the adjustment required in subsection (1)(a) of this section;

10 (b) The amount of the reappropriated funds appropriation from the
11 firefighter benefits cash fund created in section 29-5-302 (11)(a), C.R.S.,
12 made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal
13 year to the department of local affairs for use by the division of local
14 government for firefighter heart and circulatory malfunction benefits, is
15 less than the amount of the adjustment required in subsection (1)(b) of
16 this section; or

17 (c) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
18 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of local
19 affairs for use by the division of local government for firefighter heart
20 and circulatory malfunction benefits.

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

24 (a) The amount of the general fund appropriation made in the
25 annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
26 department of public safety for use by the division of criminal justice for
27 first responder employer health benefit trusts is less than the amount of

1 the adjustment required in subsection (2) of this section; or

2 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
3 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of public
4 safety for use by the division of criminal justice for first responder
5 employer health benefit trusts.

6 **SECTION 4. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
7 except that section 3 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
8 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
9 case section 3 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
10 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever
11 is later.

12 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
15 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
16 institutions.