

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0610.02 Jason Gelender x4330

HOUSE BILL 25-1215

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Taggart and Joseph,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer,

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE REDISTRIBUTION OF THE LOTTERY FUND, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MODIFYING THE DISTRIBUTIONS OF**
103 **LOTTERY FUND MONEY FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL**
104 **CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FUND, THE WILDLIFE CASH FUND,**
105 **AND THE PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION CASH FUND; AND**
106 **MAKING NEW DISTRIBUTIONS TO THE OUTDOOR EQUITY FUND,**
107 **THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE, AND A NEW**
108 **STRATEGIC OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND**
109 **INFRASTRUCTURE CASH FUND.**

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

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.

applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Current law distributes, to the extent available, the first \$3 million of the lottery fund to the outdoor equity fund, the next \$3 million to the public school capital construction assistance fund, and any remaining money as follows:

- 25% to the wildlife cash fund;
- 25% to the parks and outdoor recreation cash fund; and
- 50% to the public school capital construction assistance fund.

For the 2024-25 state fiscal year and each state fiscal year thereafter, the bill redistributes, to the extent available, the first \$3 million of the lottery fund to the outdoor equity fund, the next \$4 million to the public school capital construction assistance fund, and any remaining money as follows:

- 10% to the wildlife cash fund;
- 10% to the parks and outdoor recreation cash fund;
- 30% to the outdoor equity fund; and
- 50% to the public school capital construction assistance fund.

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

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

4 (a) Since its creation, the outdoor equity grant program,
5 administered by the outdoor equity board in the division of parks and
6 wildlife, has provided a total of \$8.5 million to support meaningful
7 outdoor experiences for Colorado youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth,
8 low-income youth, indigenous youth, rural youth, and youth with
9 disabilities. These transformative experiences have allowed individuals
10 to discover and cherish the beauty of our state through environmental
11 education, experiential learning, stewardship programming, and more.
12 Through December 2024, this investment has supported more than 65,000
13 Colorado youth and families in experiencing the positive impact of the

1 great outdoors.

2 (b) The demand for the outdoor equity grant program reflects a
3 deep and growing need for opportunities that connect Colorado's
4 underserved youth to the outdoors. In 2023, hundreds of organizations
5 across the state put forward meaningful projects to empower youth
6 through outdoor experiences, but the program could only support a small
7 fraction of them due to limited funding. In 2024, the outdoor equity grant
8 program board received 263 grant proposals with a total ask of \$21
9 million dollars.

10 (c) This pattern has repeated year after year, with the
11 overwhelming majority of thoughtful and impactful applications going
12 unfunded. Despite the program's success in transforming lives, only 14%
13 of eligible applications have received support so far. The demand for this
14 program is a testament to its importance, but it also highlights how much
15 more could be done to ensure every young person in Colorado has the
16 chance to experience the outdoors and the life-changing opportunities it
17 provides.

18 (d) Public school capital construction assistance grant requests to
19 address health and safety needs in school buildings vastly outnumber
20 available grant funds every year. Increased funds for the public school
21 capital construction assistance fund will help meet more of those
22 qualified requests. These funds also generate local matching dollars for
23 public school facility projects and are local economic drivers, with more
24 than 17 direct and indirect jobs created or supported for every \$1 million
25 invested in building excellent schools today (BEST) grant program
26 schools.

27 (e) Increased investment in public school capital construction

1 assistance grants ensures that more public school facilities can be
2 renovated or rebuilt to meet modern safety and accessibility standards,
3 creating healthier learning environments and fostering long-term
4 educational success for Colorado's students; and

5 (f) The general assembly has the opportunity to reallocate existing
6 resources to support more of these critical programs without any new
7 funding.

8 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that by prioritizing
9 the outdoor equity grant program within our current budget, we can
10 expand access to transformative outdoor experiences for Colorado's
11 underserved youth, ensuring that more young people benefit from the
12 life-changing impact of nature.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 33-9-115 as**
14 **follows:**

15 **33-9-115. Strategic outdoor recreation management and**
16 **infrastructure cash fund.** (1) (a) THE STRATEGIC OUTDOOR RECREATION
17 MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CASH FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS
18 SECTION AS THE "FUND", IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE FUND
19 CONSISTS OF MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION
20 44-40-111 (12)(b) AND ANY OTHER MONEY THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
21 MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND. THE STATE TREASURER
22 SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT
23 AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE FUND.

24 (b) MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION
25 44-40-111 (12)(b) AND ANY INCOME AND INTEREST DERIVED FROM THE
26 DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF SUCH MONEY IS EXEMPT FROM ANY
27 RESTRICTION ON SPENDING, REVENUE, OR APPROPRIATIONS, INCLUDING,

1 WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE RESTRICTIONS OF SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF
2 THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

3 (2) MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE
4 DIVISION FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE REASONABLE
5 AND NECESSARY DIRECT AND INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED
6 BY THE DIVISION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PURPOSES:

7 (a) THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STRATEGIC OUTCOMES OR
8 OPPORTUNITIES THAT ADVANCE OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE
9 AND MANAGEMENT THAT ADDRESS:

10 (I) GROWING OR FUTURE DEMANDS ON INFRASTRUCTURE,
11 EXPERIENCES OR LANDS; AND

12 (II) CURRENT OR EXPECTED IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE, NATURAL OR
13 CULTURAL RESOURCES;

14 (b) USES OUTSIDE REGULAR ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE COLORADO
15 STATE PARKS SYSTEM, INCLUDING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH FEDERAL
16 LAND MANAGERS, NONGOVERNMENTAL OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS,
17 STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, LOCAL OR REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, OR
18 PROJECTS ADJACENT TO OR RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE COLORADO STATE
19 PARKS SYSTEM. THE DIVISION SHALL PRIORITIZE PARKS AND RECREATION
20 CASH FUND MONEY FOR USES ON OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE COLORADO
21 STATE PARKS SYSTEM.

22 (c) OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE, PRIORITIZING
23 INVESTMENTS THAT BOTH ENHANCE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND
24 SUPPORT RESOURCE PROTECTION, INCLUDING:

25 (I) TRAIL AND RIVER FEATURE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND
26 PLANNING;

27 (II) SIGNAGE;

1 (III) BATHROOM FACILITIES, PARKING, OR OTHER PHYSICAL
2 INFRASTRUCTURE;

3 (d) OUTDOOR RECREATION VISITOR MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING
4 SIGNAGE, PUBLIC EDUCATION, FIELD AND INTERPRETIVE STAFFING, VISITOR
5 AND COMMUNITY SAFETY, WILDLIFE, AND NATURAL OR CULTURAL
6 RESOURCE PROTECTION;

7 (e) INCREASING EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IN THE OUTDOORS,
8 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FIELD AMBASSADORS, INTERPRETIVE
9 STAFFING, ADAPTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE,
10 EQUIPMENT, AND PROGRAMS; AND

11 (f) OUTDOOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION ANALYSIS AND
12 PLANNING, INCLUDING DATA PROCUREMENT AND ANALYSIS, NEEDS
13 ASSESSMENTS, AND DATA-ORIENTED COORDINATION OR INFORMATION
14 SHARING ACROSS ASSOCIATED FEDERAL, LOCAL, PRIVATE, AND STATE
15 PLANNING EFFORTS.

16 (3) THE DIVISION MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS,
17 AND DONATIONS, LOANS OF MONEY, OR AID IN ANY FORM FROM PRIVATE
18 OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE DIVISION
19 SHALL TRANSMIT ALL MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR
20 DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO
21 THE FUND.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 44-40-111, **amend**
23 (12)(b)(III) and (12)(b)(IV); and **add** (12)(a)(III.5) and (12)(b)(V) as
24 follows:

25 **44-40-111. Lottery fund creation - definitions.** (12) (a) As used
26 in this subsection (12), unless the context otherwise requires:

27 (III.5) "STRATEGIC OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND

1 INFRASTRUCTURE CASH FUND" MEANS THE STRATEGIC OUTDOOR
2 RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CASH FUND CREATED
3 IN SECTION 33-9-115 (1)(a).

4 (b) Pursuant to subsection (10)(b) of this section, the state
5 treasurer shall transfer money that would otherwise be allocated to the
6 general fund pursuant to section 3 (1)(b)(III) of article XXVII of the state
7 constitution, and as described in section 33-60-104 (1)(c), as follows:

8 (III) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, to the extent available, the
9 first two million two hundred fifty thousand dollars to the outdoor equity
10 fund; the next three million dollars to the public school capital
11 construction assistance fund; and any remaining money as follows:
12 Twenty-five percent to the wildlife cash fund, twenty-five percent to the
13 parks and outdoor recreation cash fund, and fifty percent to the public
14 school capital construction assistance fund; and

15 (IV) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, ~~and each state fiscal year~~
16 ~~thereafter~~, to the extent available, the first three million dollars to the
17 outdoor equity fund; the next three million dollars to the public school
18 capital construction assistance fund; and any remaining money as follows:
19 Twenty-five percent to the wildlife cash fund, twenty-five percent to the
20 parks and outdoor recreation cash fund, and fifty percent to the public
21 school capital construction assistance fund; AND

22 (V) FOR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND EACH STATE FISCAL
23 YEAR THEREAFTER, TO THE EXTENT AVAILABLE, **IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT**
24 **OF SUCH MONEY AVAILABLE IS TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS OR LESS:**

25 (A) **THE FIRST FOUR MILLION DOLLARS TO THE OUTDOOR EQUITY**
26 **FUND;**

27 (B) **THE NEXT THREE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

1 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FUND;

2 (C) THE NEXT SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE
3 OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE IN THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
4 DEVELOPMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-129 (2); AND

5 (D) ANY REMAINING MONEY AS FOLLOWS: FIFTY PERCENT TO THE
6 PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FUND; TWENTY
7 PERCENT TO THE PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION CASH FUND; TWENTY
8 PERCENT TO THE WILDLIFE CASH FUND; AND TEN PERCENT TO THE
9 OUTDOOR EQUITY FUND.

10 (VI) FOR THE 2024-25 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND EACH STATE
11 FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, TO THE EXTENT AVAILABLE, IF THE TOTAL
12 AMOUNT OF SUCH MONEY AVAILABLE IS MORE THAN TWENTY MILLION
13 DOLLARS:

14 (A) THE FIRST FOUR MILLION DOLLARS TO THE OUTDOOR EQUITY
15 FUND;

16 (B) THE NEXT THREE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FUND;

18 (C) THE NEXT SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE
19 OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE IN THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
20 DEVELOPMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-129 (2); AND

21 (D) ANY REMAINING MONEY AS FOLLOWS: FIFTY PERCENT TO THE
22 PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE FUND; FIFTEEN
23 PERCENT TO THE PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION CASH FUND; FIFTEEN
24 PERCENT TO THE WILDLIFE CASH FUND; TEN PERCENT TO THE OUTDOOR
25 EQUITY FUND; FIVE PERCENT TO THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY
26 OFFICE IN THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CREATED IN SECTION
27 24-48.5-129 (2); AND FIVE PERCENT TO THE STRATEGIC OUTDOOR

1 RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE CASH FUND.

2 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
3 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
4 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
5 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
6 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
7 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
8 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.