

CHAPTER 130

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE BILL 26-1229

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Taggart and Feret, Camacho, Carter, Clifford, Duran, Garcia, Gonzalez R., Hamrick, Jackson, Lindsay, Nguyen, Paschal, Rutinel, Valdez, Woodrow;
also SENATOR(S) Amabile and Rich, Benavidez, Carson, Cutter, Jodeh, Kipp, Kolker, Marchman, Wallace, Weissman, Coleman.

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part

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of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 8, 2026