

CHAPTER 313

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

SENATE BILL 26-181

BY SENATOR(S) Amabile and Kirkmeyer, Bridges, Bright, Kipp, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Rich, Simpson, Coleman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Brown and Taggart, Sirota, Clifford, Duran, Froelich, Lindsay, Rutinel, McCluskie.

AN ACT

CONCERNING MODIFYING THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-706.5, **amend** (4) introductory portion and (4)(a) as follows:

26-2-706.5. Restrictions on length of participation - rules.

(4) ~~No later than July 1, 2023,~~ The state board shall ~~promulgate~~ **ADOPT** rules:

(a) Establishing statewide standards and procedures that ~~require~~ **PERMIT** counties to offer extensions beyond the sixty-month lifetime maximum for all households that demonstrate good cause, which includes, but is not limited to, an applicant or participant who is

~~(i) A child-only case;~~

~~(ii) the head of a single parent household unit and has a child under one year of age; or~~ **LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD; AND**

~~(iii) Experiencing hardship, as defined in rules promulgated by the state board; and~~

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **amend** (1)(b)(I); **repeal** (1)(b)(III)(B), (1)(b)(III)(C), and (1)(b)(IV); and **add** (1)(b)(I.5) as follows:

26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules - legislative intent - repeal.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(1) Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.

~~(b) (I) In establishing the calculation for determining the amount of an eligible applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance grant, the state department shall ensure that the amount of the basic cash assistance grant that a participant or applicant receives for the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022, is equal to or exceeds one hundred percent of the amount of basic cash assistance in 2021, plus ten percent. For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 JULY 1, 2028, and each state fiscal year thereafter, the amount of basic cash assistance must be equal to or exceed the amount of basic cash assistance for the previous state fiscal year plus a two percent cost of living adjustment or a cost of living adjustment that is equal to the average of the federal social security administration's cost of living adjustment for that fiscal year plus the previous two fiscal years, whichever is greater.~~

~~(I.5) (A) FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEARS COMMENCING JULY 1, 2026, AND JULY 1, 2027, A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT IS NOT APPLIED TO AN APPLICANT'S OR PARTICIPANT'S BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT.~~

~~(B) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 31, 2028.~~

~~(III) (B) If the total statewide county TANF reserve falls below fifteen percent of the county block grant amount, the general assembly shall appropriate money from the Colorado long-term works reserve to the county block grant until the balance of the total statewide county TANF reserve exceeds fifteen percent of the county block grant amount or until the Colorado long-term works reserve falls below twenty-five percent of the state block grant amount.~~

~~(C) If the Colorado long-term works reserve falls below twenty-five percent of the state block grant amount and the total statewide county TANF reserve exceeds fifteen percent of the county block grant amount, the counties shall fund the TANF program from available TANF funds until the total statewide county TANF reserve falls below fifteen percent of the county block grant amount. Counties are only required to spend available TANF money, including county TANF reserves and the maintenance of effort, for the Colorado works program.~~

~~(IV) Beginning January 2023, and each January thereafter, the joint budget committee shall at least annually review the balance of the Colorado long-term works reserve and the total statewide county TANF reserve, and, if the joint budget committee determines that the balance of the Colorado long-term works reserve will fall below twenty-five percent of the state block grant amount and the balance of the total statewide county TANF reserve will fall below fifteen percent of the county block grant amount in the current or next state fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate money from the state general fund or the unclaimed property trust fund to cover any increase in basic cash assistance above the amount of basic cash assistance in state fiscal year 2021-22 until the balance of the Colorado long-term works reserve exceeds twenty-five percent of the state block grant amount and the total statewide county TANF reserve exceeds fifteen percent of the county block grant amount.~~

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709.5, **repeal** (2) as follows:

26-2-709.5. Exit interviews and follow-up interviews of participants - reporting.

~~(2) If the state department, in consultation with counties, identifies additional need for funding to administer the works program, the state department is strongly encouraged to request state general fund money or, if the balance of the state TANF reserve is greater than the mandatory floor, appropriate additional state TANF money to fund counties' administration of the works program.~~

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-714, **repeal** (11) as follows:

26-2-714. County block grants formula - use of money - rules.

~~(11) The works allocation committee shall:~~

~~(a) Review, at least quarterly, the balance of the Colorado long-term works reserve, the balance of the total statewide county TANF reserve, and the amount of basic cash assistance grants provided to participants to monitor whether the balance of the Colorado long-term works reserve will fall below twenty-five percent of the state block grant amount and whether the balance of the total statewide county TANF reserve will fall below fifteen percent of the county block grant amount;~~

~~(b) Submit a written report to the joint budget committee detailing the current Colorado long-term works reserve level, the total statewide county TANF reserve level as a whole and by county, and any projections regarding deficits in the reserves; and~~

~~(c) Establish a mitigation fund for counties whose TANF reserves fall below fifteen percent of the county's block grant amount.~~

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

Approved: June 2, 2026