

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

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Chair of Committee

March 5, 2024  
Date

Committee on Judiciary.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB24-1286 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Finance with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and  
2 substitute:
- 3 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general  
4 assembly finds that:
- 5 (a) Access to justice is a basic principle of the rule of law, and it  
6 ensures that all persons, institutions, and entities, public and private,  
7 including the state, are held accountable to laws that are publicly  
8 promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated;
- 9 (b) In the absence of access to justice, people are unable to have  
10 their voices heard, exercise their rights, challenge discrimination, or hold  
11 decision-makers accountable;
- 12 (c) Providing civil legal aid to people in poverty is vital to  
13 Colorado in supporting justice for victims of intimate partner violence,  
14 ensuring veterans receive their well-earned benefits, protecting against  
15 elder abuse, fighting human trafficking, protecting access to necessities  
16 such as food and shelter, and other areas;
- 17 (d) Without access to civil legal representation, many laws and  
18 protections remain unenforceable for low-income Coloradans;
- 19 (e) State-funded legal aid in certain civil matters reinforces the  
20 importance of the right to counsel to ensure a fair trial;
- 21 (f) Equal access to justice would have little effective meaning if  
22 an individual could not afford that right on the basis of income;
- 23 (g) In order to meet the needs of our most vulnerable community  
24 members, it is necessary, appropriate, equitable, and in the best interest  
25 of all Coloradans to create a special purpose authority to allow  
26 low-income Coloradans access to the court system by imposing a fee on  
27 a party's first court filing;
- 28 (h) The fee imposed is for the specific purpose of serving users of

1 Colorado courts, who will pay the fee on all initial pleadings and answers  
2 because the fee:

3 (I) Will serve all qualified court users by increasing the efficiency  
4 of courts for all court users by reducing slowdowns caused by  
5 self-represented parties because providing guidance and legal assistance  
6 to unrepresented litigants increases efficiency in courts;

7 (II) Will increase the provision of justice in our courts for all court  
8 users, regardless of income, which is an interest shared among all court  
9 users;

10 (III) Is collected at a rate reasonably calculated based on the  
11 overall costs of the services provided by the authority; and

12 (IV) Is not a tax;

13 (i) Furthering access to Colorado's civil courts is a pillar of our  
14 democratic legal systems; and

15 (j) The state of Colorado must endeavor to systematically support  
16 the delivery of equal access to legal aid services to all qualified  
17 Coloradans.

18 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the lack of  
19 access to civil legal justice is a problem that has serious social, legal,  
20 economic, and political consequences, and the general assembly enacts  
21 this legislation to fund equal access to justice and reaffirm the  
22 commitment to equitable access to the civil legal process.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 2 to article  
24 5.7 of title 13 as follows:

25 **PART 2**

26 **EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY**

27 **13-5.7-201. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE  
28 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

29 (1) "AUTHORITY" MEANS THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY  
30 CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-202.

31 (2) "BOARD" MEANS THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY BOARD  
32 CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-204.

33 (3) "EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEE" MEANS THE FEE COLLECTED  
34 PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2.

35 (4) "FILING FEE" MEANS A DOCKET FEE FOR A CIVIL ACTION AS SET  
36 FORTH IN SECTIONS 13-4-112, 13-32-101, AND 13-32-102.

37 (5) "QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER" MEANS A 501 (c)(3)  
38 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN THE COLORADO RECIPIENT OF A  
39 FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT THAT PROVIDES  
40 LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND ADVICE TO PEOPLE IN COLORADO WHO ARE  
41 AT OR BELOW TWO HUNDRED FIFTY PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY  
42 GUIDELINE TO SUPPORT THEIR ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS SUCH AS HOUSING,  
43 EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND ASSISTANCE WITH

1 FAMILY MATTERS AND IMMIGRATION STATUS ISSUES.  
2 **13-5.7-202. Creation and purpose.** THERE IS CREATED AS A  
3 SPECIAL PURPOSE AUTHORITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-77-102, THE  
4 EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY, WHICH IS A BODY CORPORATE AND A  
5 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, WHICH SHALL NOT BE AN AGENCY  
6 OF STATE GOVERNMENT, AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE  
7 DIRECTION BY ANY DEPARTMENT, COMMISSION, BOARD, BUREAU, OR  
8 AGENCY OF THE STATE. THE AUTHORITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
9 ADMINISTERING THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
10 13-5.7-205.  
11 **13-5.7-203. General powers.** (1) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER  
12 POWERS GRANTED TO THE AUTHORITY IN THIS PART 2, THE AUTHORITY HAS  
13 THE FOLLOWING POWERS:  
14 (a) TO HAVE THE DUTIES, PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES, RIGHTS,  
15 LIABILITIES, AND DISABILITIES OF A BODY CORPORATE AND POLITICAL  
16 SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE;  
17 (b) TO HAVE PERPETUAL EXISTENCE AND SUCCESSION;  
18 (c) TO ADOPT, HAVE, AND USE A SEAL AND TO ALTER THE SAME AT  
19 ITS PLEASURE;  
20 (d) TO SUE AND BE SUED;  
21 (e) TO ENTER INTO ANY CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT NOT  
22 INCONSISTENT WITH THIS PART 2 OR THE LAWS OF THE STATE;  
23 (f) TO PURCHASE, LEASE, LEASE WITH AN OPTION TO PURCHASE,  
24 TRADE, EXCHANGE, OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRE, MAINTAIN, HOLD, IMPROVE,  
25 MORTGAGE, ENCUMBER, AND DISPOSE OF REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL  
26 PROPERTY, WHETHER TANGIBLE OR INTANGIBLE, AND ANY INTEREST,  
27 INCLUDING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WITHOUT RESTRICTION OR  
28 LIMITATION;  
29 (g) TO ACQUIRE OFFICE SPACE, EQUIPMENT, SERVICES, SUPPLIES,  
30 AND INSURANCE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART  
31 2;  
32 (h) TO DEPOSIT ANY MONEY OF THE AUTHORITY IN ANY BANKING  
33 INSTITUTION OR IN ANY DEPOSITORY AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
34 24-75-603, AND TO APPOINT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING SUCH  
35 DEPOSITS, ONE OR MORE PERSONS TO ACT AS CUSTODIANS OF THE MONEY  
36 OF THE AUTHORITY, WHO SHALL GIVE SURETY BONDS IN SUCH AMOUNTS  
37 AND FORM AND FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS THE BOARD REQUIRES;  
38 (i) TO CONTRACT FOR AND TO ACCEPT ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, AND  
39 LOANS OF FUNDS, PROPERTY, OR ANY OTHER AID IN ANY FORM FROM THE  
40 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE, ANY STATE AGENCY, OR ANY OTHER  
41 SOURCE, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF, AND TO COMPLY, SUBJECT TO  
42 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PART 2, WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF  
43 SUCH CONTRACTS OR THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH ITEMS;

1 (j) TO HAVE AND EXERCISE ALL RIGHTS AND POWERS NECESSARY  
2 OR INCIDENTAL TO OR IMPLIED FROM THE SPECIFIC POWERS GRANTED IN  
3 THIS PART 2, WHICH SPECIFIC POWERS SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A  
4 LIMITATION UPON ANY POWER NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO CARRY OUT  
5 THE PURPOSES AND INTENT OF THIS PART 2;

6 (k) TO FIX THE TIME AND PLACE OR PLACES AT WHICH ITS REGULAR  
7 AND SPECIAL MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD;

8 (l) TO ELECT ONE MEMBER AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD AND  
9 ANOTHER MEMBER AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD AND TO ELECT  
10 ONE OR MORE MEMBERS AS SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE BOARD  
11 AND ELECT OR APPOINT SUCH OTHER OFFICERS AS THE BOARD MAY  
12 DETERMINE AND PROVIDE FOR THEIR DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE;

13 (m) TO APPOINT AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND PROFESSIONAL AND  
14 BUSINESS ADVISERS, INCLUDING REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS,  
15 CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES, PROPERTY MANAGERS, ATTORNEYS,  
16 ACCOUNTANTS, AND FINANCIAL ADVISERS AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE  
17 NECESSARY IN THE AUTHORITY'S JUDGMENT TO ACCOMPLISH THE  
18 PURPOSES OF THIS PART 2, AND TO FIX THE COMPENSATION OF SUCH  
19 AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND ADVISERS, AND TO ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND  
20 DUTIES OF ALL AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND ADVISERS, AS WELL AS ANY  
21 OTHER PERSON CONTRACTING WITH THE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE  
22 SERVICES, INCLUDING TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OR THE CONTRACT  
23 FOR SERVICES;

24 (n) TO MAKE AND EXECUTE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AND  
25 OTHER INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT IN THE EXERCISE OF THE  
26 POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2,  
27 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CONTRACTS WITH ANY PERSON, FIRM,  
28 CORPORATION, MUNICIPALITY, STATE AGENCY, COUNTY, OR OTHER  
29 ENTITY. ALL MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, AND STATE AGENCIES MAY  
30 ENTER INTO AND DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO PERFORM ANY SUCH  
31 ARRANGEMENT OR CONTRACT WITH THE AUTHORITY.

32 (o) OTHER POWERS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE AUTHORITY'S  
33 SPECIFIC GOALS AS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2.

34 **13-5.7-204. Equal justice fund authority board - membership**  
35 **and meetings - fund - rules.** (1) THE AUTHORITY IS GOVERNED BY THE  
36 EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY BOARD, WHICH IS MADE UP OF SEVEN  
37 MEMBERS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE AND HAVE A  
38 DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING CIVIL LEGAL AID THROUGH  
39 CURRENT OR PRIOR EMPLOYMENT WITH A QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID  
40 PROVIDER, OR THROUGH SUBSTANTIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE WITH A  
41 SIMILAR ORGANIZATION.

42 (2) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MUST BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

43 (a) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE

1 COLORADO SUPREME COURT;  
2 (b) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;  
3 (c) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COLORADO BAR  
4 ASSOCIATION;  
5 (d) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE COLORADO LAWYER TRUST  
6 ACCOUNT FOUNDATION; AND  
7 (e) THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
8 THE COLORADO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION, AT LEAST TWO OF WHOM  
9 ARE EMPLOYED BY A QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER, AND AT LEAST  
10 ONE OF WHOM IS EMPLOYED BY A QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER  
11 THAT EMPLOYS TEN OR FEWER FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS.  
12 (3) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE REASONABLE  
13 EFFORTS TO APPOINT BOARD MEMBERS THAT REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC  
14 AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE, INCLUDING MEMBERS FROM  
15 BOTH RURAL AND URBAN PARTS OF THE STATE, AND MEMBERS OF DIVERSE  
16 POLITICAL, RACIAL, ABILITY, CULTURAL GROUP, AND SOCIOECONOMIC  
17 STATUS.  
18 (4) MEMBERS SERVE TERMS OF THREE YEARS; EXCEPT THAT  
19 INITIAL TERMS OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
20 OF THE COLORADO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION ARE TWO-YEAR  
21 TERMS IN ORDER TO STAGGER THE TERMS SO THAT NO MORE THAN FOUR  
22 MEMBERS' TERMS EXPIRE IN THE SAME YEAR. THE APPOINTING  
23 AUTHORITIES SHALL DESIGNATE THE INITIAL TERMS AND FILL ANY  
24 VACANCIES ON THE BOARD.  
25 (5) TERMS EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 OF THE FINAL YEAR OF THE  
26 TERM.  
27 (6) MEMBERS MAY BE REAPPOINTED TO SERVE TWO ADDITIONAL  
28 TERMS.  
29 (7) A MEMBER MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BY MAJORITY  
30 VOTE OF THE BOARD FOR MISFEASANCE, MALFEASANCE, WILLFUL NEGLECT  
31 OF DUTY, OR OTHER CAUSE AFTER NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING, UNLESS  
32 NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVED IN WRITING BY  
33 THE MEMBER BEING REMOVED.  
34 (8) THE BOARD SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES PER YEAR.  
35 (9) THE BOARD SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE-CHAIR AT ITS  
36 FIRST MEETING OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR.  
37 (10) MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION BUT MUST BE  
38 REIMBURSED FOR ACTUAL AND REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE  
39 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.  
40 (11) THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE AND  
41 KEEP A RECORD OF ALL PROCEEDINGS.  
42 (12) (a) THE AUTHORITY MAY COOPERATE AND ENTER INTO  
43 CONTRACTS WITH THE COMMISSION OR ANOTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY, FOR

1 ADMINISTRATIVE OR OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING FOR STAFFING.

2 (b) THE AUTHORITY SHALL PAY THE CONTRACTED ENTITY IN  
3 ADVANCE FOR ALL AGREED UPON COSTS INCURRED BY THE CONTRACTED  
4 ENTITY IN PROVIDING STAFFING FOR THE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT ITS  
5 MISSION, INCLUDING COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES STAFFING THE  
6 AUTHORITY AND ANY ADMINISTRATION AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED  
7 WITH STAFFING THE AUTHORITY.

8 (13) IF THE COMMISSION EXPECTS TO INCUR ACTUAL COSTS AS A  
9 RESULT OF STAFFING THE AUTHORITY THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT  
10 PROVIDED BY THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.7-206, THE  
11 AUTHORITY SHALL PAY THE COMMISSION FOR ALL COSTS INCURRED BY THE  
12 COMMISSION IN PROVIDING STAFFING TO THE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING, BUT  
13 LIMITED TO, COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES STAFFING THE AUTHORITY  
14 AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN AN AMOUNT AGREED UPON BY THE  
15 AUTHORITY AND COMMISSION.

16 **13-5.7-205. Equal justice fund - creation.** (1) THERE IS  
17 CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND. THE EQUAL  
18 JUSTICE FUND IS ADMINISTERED BY THE AUTHORITY. THE PURPOSE OF THE  
19 FUND IS TO:

20 (a) PROVIDE ACCESS TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO INDIGENT  
21 PERSONS BY PROVIDING ANNUAL GRANTS TO THE COLORADO RECIPIENT OF  
22 A FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT AND OTHER  
23 QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.7-206;

24 (b) INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF COLORADO COURTS FOR ALL  
25 COURT USERS BY REDUCING SLOWDOWNS CAUSED BY  
26 SELF-REPRESENTATION; AND

27 (c) PAY THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE  
28 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PART 2, INCLUDING PAYMENT FOR COSTS  
29 ASSOCIATED WITH STAFFING THE AUTHORITY AND REIMBURSEMENT OF THE  
30 ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES OF BOARD MEMBERS AS REQUIRED BY  
31 SECTION 13-5.7-204.

32 (2) THE COURT SHALL COLLECT THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEE AT  
33 THE TIME OF FILING AND QUARTERLY, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND  
34 SHALL REMIT THE COLLECTED EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEES TO THE STATE  
35 TREASURER TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND.

36 (3) THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY COLLECTED  
37 FROM THE FILING FEE REQUIRED BY SECTIONS 13-4-112, 13-32-101, AND  
38 13-32-102.

39 (4) THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO  
40 THE AUTHORITY AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL  
41 ASSEMBLY. ANY INTEREST OR INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND  
42 INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND REMAINS IN THE  
43 EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AND IS NOT TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR

1 ANY OTHER FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR.

2 **13-5.7-206. Distribution of funds.** (1) ON JULY 1, 2025, AND  
3 EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, THE AUTHORITY SHALL ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTE  
4 ALL REVENUE DEPOSITED INTO THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND, LESS THE  
5 AUTHORITY'S DIRECT AND INDIRECT EXPENSES IN ADMINISTERING THE  
6 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PART 2 AND ANY OTHER RELATED WORK  
7 COMPLETED TO ADVANCE THE MISSION OF THE AUTHORITY. THE  
8 AUTHORITY SHALL DISTRIBUTE SIXTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF THE REMAINING  
9 REVENUE TO THE COLORADO RECIPIENT OF A FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES  
10 CORPORATION FIELD GRANT, AND THIRTY-THREE PERCENT TO QUALIFIED  
11 CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDERS.

12 (2) THE BOARD, BY RESOLUTION, SHALL ESTABLISH A FUNDING  
13 FORMULA TO USE TO DETERMINE THE DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT FOR EACH  
14 QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER. IN DEVELOPING THE FORMULA, THE  
15 BOARD SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

16 (a) THE NUMBER OF ATTORNEY HOURS SPENT SERVING PEOPLE IN  
17 COLORADO IN POVERTY IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR;

18 (b) THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED BY THE  
19 QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER;

20 (c) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN POVERTY WHO RECEIVE  
21 LEGAL REPRESENTATION OR LEGAL ADVICE FROM THE QUALIFIED CIVIL  
22 LEGAL AID PROVIDER;

23 (d) GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF SERVICES; AND

24 (e) ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE SERVING POPULATIONS WITH  
25 BARRIERS TO LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
26 AND PEOPLE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

27 (3) IN ESTABLISHING THE FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO  
28 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER THE VITAL  
29 IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK OF QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDERS  
30 THAT EMPLOY TEN OR FEWER FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS TO LOW-INCOME  
31 COLORADO COMMUNITIES.

32 **13-5.7-207. Report.** (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, AND  
33 EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER, THE AUTHORITY SHALL PREPARE AND  
34 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUDICIARY  
35 COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, OR THEIR  
36 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, THAT DETAILS THE USE OF THE FUND. AT A  
37 MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

38 (a) HOW MUCH MONEY WAS COLLECTED IN THE FUND IN THE  
39 PRECEDING YEAR;

40 (b) HOW MUCH MONEY THE COLORADO RECIPIENT OF A FEDERAL  
41 LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT AND OTHER QUALIFIED CIVIL  
42 LEGAL AID PROVIDERS RECEIVED FROM THE FUND IN THE PRECEDING YEAR;

43 (c) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS LEFT UNUSED BY THE COLORADO

1 RECIPIENT OF A FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT  
2 AND THE QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDERS AT THE CONCLUSION OF  
3 THE PRECEDING YEAR; AND

4 (d) THE TYPES OF LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO  
5 RECEIVED LEGAL SERVICES AS A RESULT OF THE FUND.

6 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 13-4-112 as  
7 follows:

8 **13-4-112. Fees of the clerk of court of appeals.** (1) (a) Within  
9 the time allowed or fixed for transmission of the record, the appellant  
10 shall pay to the clerk of the court of appeals a docket fee of two hundred  
11 ~~twenty-three~~ FORTY-THREE dollars.

12 (b) The docket fee for the appellee shall be one hundred  
13 ~~forty-eight~~ SIXTY-EIGHT dollars to be paid upon the entry of appearance  
14 of the appellee.

15 (2) (a) Each fee collected pursuant to ~~paragraph (a) of subsection~~  
16 ~~(1)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a) of this section shall be transmitted to the state  
17 treasurer and divided as follows:

18 (I) One hundred fifty dollars shall be deposited in the supreme  
19 court library fund created pursuant to section 13-2-120;

20 (II) Five dollars shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash  
21 fund created in section 13-32-101 (6); ~~and~~

22 (III) Sixty-eight dollars shall be deposited in the justice center  
23 cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a); AND

24 (IV) TWENTY DOLLARS MUST BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE  
25 FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.

26 (b) Each fee collected pursuant to ~~paragraph (b) of subsection (1)~~  
27 SUBSECTION (1)(b) of this section shall be transmitted to the state  
28 treasurer and divided as follows:

29 (I) Seventy-five dollars shall be deposited in the supreme court  
30 library fund created pursuant to section 13-2-120;

31 (II) Five dollars shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash  
32 fund created in section 13-32-101 (6); ~~and~~

33 (III) Sixty-eight dollars shall be deposited in the justice center  
34 cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a); AND

35 (IV) TWENTY DOLLARS MUST BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE  
36 FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.

37 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-32-101, **add** (1.5)  
38 and (3)(d) as follows:

39 **13-32-101. Docket fees in civil actions - judicial stabilization**  
40 **cash fund - justice center cash fund - justice center maintenance fund**  
41 **- created - report - legislative declaration.** (1.5) (a) BEGINNING  
42 JANUARY 1, 2025, AN EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEE OF TWENTY DOLLARS  
43 MUST BE PAID ON ALL COURT FILINGS BY A PARTY AT THE TIME A FEE IS



1 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, EXCEPT FOR  
2 FILINGS IN SMALL CLAIMS COURT.

3 (b) FEES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1.5) MUST  
4 BE ANNUALLY DEPOSITED INTO THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN  
5 SECTION 13-5.7-205.

6 (3) (d) A FILING FEE MUST NOT BE CHARGED TO A COLORADO  
7 RECIPIENT OF A FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT OR  
8 OTHER QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
9 13-5.7-201.

10 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-32-102, **amend**  
11 (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(f), (6)(a)(II), (6)(b)(II), and (6)(f)(II) as follows:

12 **13-32-102. Fees in probate proceedings.** (1) On and after July  
13 1, 2019, for services rendered by judges and clerks of district or probate  
14 courts in all counties of the state of Colorado in proceedings had pursuant  
15 to articles 10 to 17 of title 15, the court shall charge the following fees:

16 (a) Docket fee at the time of filing first papers in any decedent's  
17 estate eligible for summary administrative procedures ~~under~~ PURSUANT  
18 TO section 15-12-1203, or in any small estate of a person under disability  
19 qualifying under section 15-14-118, which estates involve no real  
20 property

21 ..... \$ ~~83.00~~ **103.00**

22 (b) Docket fee at time of filing first papers in any estate not  
23 coming within the provisions of subsection (1)(a) of this section

24 ..... ~~199.00~~ **219.00**

25 (f) Docket fee at time of filing first papers in each action relating  
26 to a trust

27 ..... ~~199.00~~ **219.00**

28 (6) (a) Each fee collected pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this  
29 section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:

30 (II) On and after July 1, 2019, forty-eight dollars shall be  
31 deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section  
32 13-32-101 (6), five dollars shall be deposited in the court security cash  
33 fund established pursuant to section 13-1-204, fifteen dollars shall be  
34 deposited in the office of public guardianship cash fund established  
35 pursuant to section 13-94-108 (1), ~~and~~ fifteen dollars shall be deposited  
36 in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a), AND  
37 TWENTY DOLLARS SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND  
38 CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.

39 (b) Each fee collected pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section  
40 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:

41 (II) On and after July 1, 2019, one hundred forty-three dollars  
42 shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section  
43 13-32-101 (6), five dollars shall be deposited in the court security cash

1 fund established pursuant to section 13-1-204, fifteen dollars shall be  
2 deposited in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101  
3 (7)(a), thirty-five dollars shall be deposited in the office of public  
4 guardianship cash fund established pursuant to section 13-94-108 (1), and  
5 one dollar shall be deposited in the general fund pursuant to section  
6 2-5-119, AND TWENTY DOLLARS SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL  
7 JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.

8 (f) Each fee collected pursuant to subsection (1)(f) of this section  
9 shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:

10 (II) On and after July 1, 2019, one hundred forty-three dollars  
11 shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section  
12 13-32-101 (6), five dollars shall be deposited in the court security cash  
13 fund established pursuant to section 13-1-204, fifteen dollars shall be  
14 deposited in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101  
15 (7)(a), thirty-five dollars shall be deposited in the office of public  
16 guardianship cash fund established pursuant to section 13-94-108 (1), and  
17 one dollar shall be deposited in the general fund pursuant to section  
18 2-5-119, AND TWENTY DOLLARS SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL  
19 JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.

20 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-77-102, **amend**  
21 (15)(b)(XIX) and (15)(b)(XX); and **add** (15)(b)(XXI) as follows:

22 **24-77-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 77, unless the  
23 context otherwise requires:

24 (15) (b) "Special purpose authority" includes, but is not limited to:

25 (XIX) The Colorado electric transmission authority created in  
26 section 40-42-103 (1); and

27 (XX) The middle-income housing authority created in section  
28 29-4-1104 (1); AND

29 (XXI) THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY CREATED IN SECTION  
30 13-5.7-202.

31 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
32 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
34 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
35 institutions."

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