

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0289.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 16-1112

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Landgraf, Lontine, Priola, Roupe, Windholz, Ginal, Carver, Brown, Joshi, Pabon, Rankin, Ryden, Saine, Thurlow

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Crowder,

House Committees

Public Health Care & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN**
102 **THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM.**

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill creates the training veterans to train their own service dogs pilot program (program) and the training veterans to train their own service dogs pilot program fund. The purpose of the program is to identify a group of up to 10 eligible veterans, as defined by federal law and who have been referred by a qualified mental health professional, to participate in the program, to pair with dogs. The dogs will be identified

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 PROFESSIONAL FOR PURPOSES OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.

2 (3) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
3 THE DEPARTMENT.

4 (4) "FOLLOW-ALONG SUPPORT SERVICES" MEANS TRAINING AND
5 SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN WHO IS
6 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM AFTER CANINE FOSTERING AND TRAINING
7 IS COMPLETE.

8 (5) "FUND" MEANS THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR OWN
9 SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SECTION 26-23-104.

10 (6) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR
11 OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM.

12 **26-23-102. Training veterans to train their own service dogs**

13 **pilot program - created - purpose - selection process - services to**

14 **veterans. (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE TRAINING**

15 VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM. THE

16 PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IDENTIFY AND TRAIN A GROUP OF UP TO

17 TEN ELIGIBLE VETERANS TO PAIR WITH DOGS, AS IDENTIFIED BY QUALIFIED

18 CANINE TRAINERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VETERANS, TO FOSTER,

19 TRAIN, AND ULTIMATELY UTILIZE THE DOGS AS THEIR OWN SERVICE OR

20 COMPANION ANIMALS. THE PROGRAM WILL FURTHER OFFER THOSE

21 VETERANS WHO GRADUATE FROM THE PROGRAM WITH A TRAINED DOG THE

22 OPPORTUNITY AND NECESSARY FOLLOW-ALONG SERVICES TO EXPAND THE

23 PROGRAM, IF WILLING, BY IDENTIFYING, FOSTERING, AND TRAINING A

24 SUBSEQUENT DOG FOR ANOTHER ELIGIBLE VETERAN WHO IS UNABLE TO

25 COMPLETE ONE OR MORE PARTS OF THE PROCESS DUE TO PHYSICAL

26 LIMITATIONS.

27 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MUST ESTABLISH AND POST THE ELIGIBILITY

1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION TO THE PROGRAM FOR VETERANS AND CANINES
2 TO BE USED BY THE NONPROFIT SELECTED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM
3 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-23-103.

4 **26-23-103. Request for proposals for program implementation**
5 **and operation - criteria for nonprofit - reporting.** (1) (a) THE
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ESTABLISH AND USE A COMPETITIVE REQUEST
7 FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS TO SELECT AN IN-STATE NONPROFIT AGENCY
8 WITH WHICH TO CONTRACT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF
9 THE PROGRAM. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL FINALIZE THE REQUEST
10 FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2016. PROPOSALS
11 MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2016, AND THE
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON OR BEFORE
13 NOVEMBER 1, 2016.

14 (b) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO IMPLEMENT AND OPERATE THE PROGRAM,
15 A NONPROFIT AGENCY MUST:

- 16 (I) BE BASED IN COLORADO;
- 17 (II) SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE VETERAN POPULATION WITHIN THE
18 NONPROFIT AGENCY'S GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION;
- 19 (III) GENERATE ITS OWN REVENUE AND REINVEST THE PROCEEDS
20 OF THAT REVENUE IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS PROGRAMS,
21 INCLUDING VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES; AND
- 22 (IV) OFFER A VARIETY OF VETERAN SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN
23 CONNECTION WITH LICENSED OR CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH
24 PROFESSIONALS, AS WELL AS OTHER SERVICES THAT HELP VETERANS
25 TRANSITION TO THEIR COMMUNITY AFTER MILITARY SERVICE.

26 (2) IN AWARDDING FOR THE CONTRACT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
27 SHALL REQUIRE THE SELECTED NONPROFIT AGENCY TO:

1 (a) REPORT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM TO THE
2 DEPARTMENT, ALONG WITH AN EVALUATION OF THOSE OUTCOMES;

3 (b) SELECT UP TO TEN ELIGIBLE VETERANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
4 PROGRAM, BASED ON THE ESTABLISHED AND POSTED CRITERIA;

5 (c) SELECT APPROPRIATE CANINE COMPANIONS FOR THE PROGRAM
6 BASED ON THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA;

7 (d) ASSIST IN PLACING A SELECTED AND TRAINED CANINE WITH AN
8 ELIGIBLE VETERAN BASED ON THAT VETERAN'S SPECIFIC, INDIVIDUAL
9 NEEDS;

10 (e) ASSIST VETERANS WITH LEARNING AND APPLYING THE PROPER
11 TECHNIQUES REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL TRAINING;

12 (f) PROVIDE MENTORING AND GUIDANCE TO AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN
13 WHO IS FOSTERING A CANINE THAT IS BEING TRAINED; AND

14 (g) PROVIDE ANY OTHER FOLLOW-ALONG SUPPORT SERVICES
15 DEEMED APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY BY THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE
16 INDIVIDUAL VETERAN-CANINE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE PROGRAM
17 SUCCESSFUL.

18 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT THE OUTCOMES AND
19 EVALUATIONS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM TO THE STATE, VETERANS, AND
20 MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
22 OF THE SENATE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES
23 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
24 COMMITTEES, AFTER ONE FULL YEAR OF DATA HAS BEEN COLLECTED AND
25 EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER.

26 **26-23-104. Training veterans to train their own service dogs**
27 **pilot program fund - creation.** (1) THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN

1 THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE
2 TREASURY. THE PRINCIPAL OF THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEYS
3 APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY. THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE
5 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED AND OPERATED BY A NONPROFIT AGENCY
6 SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

7 (2) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK, ACCEPT, AND
8 EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS, INCLUDING IN-KIND DONATIONS,
9 FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM;
10 EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ACCEPT A GIFT, GRANT, OR
11 DONATION THAT IS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH
12 THIS ARTICLE OR ANY OTHER LAW OF THE STATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
13 TRANSMIT ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEYS RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS,
14 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT
15 THE SAME TO THE FUND.

16 (3) (a) THE MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY
17 APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING
18 IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM BY THE NONPROFIT
19 AGENCY SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION
20 26-23-103 AND FOR ANY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE
21 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. THE DEPARTMENT'S
22 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE PROGRAM IN A FISCAL YEAR MUST
23 NOT EXCEED THREE PERCENT OF THE MONEYS TRANSFERRED OR
24 APPROPRIATED IN THAT FISCAL YEAR.

25 (b) ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND
26 INVESTMENT OF THE FUND AND ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED
27 MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR

1 REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE
2 GENERAL FUND.

3 **26-23-105. Repeal.** THIS ARTICLE IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
4 SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.

5 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.