

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

PREAMENDED

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

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
Appropriations

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.*

by qualified canine trainers in conjunction with the veterans. The participants will foster, train, and ultimately utilize the dog he or she has been paired with as a service or companion animal. The program will further offer those veterans who graduate from the program with a trained dog the opportunity and necessary follow-along services to expand the program, if willing, through identifying, fostering, and training a subsequent dog for another eligible veteran who is unable to complete one or more parts of the process due to physical or other limitations.

The executive director of the department of human services (director) shall establish and post criteria, including eligibility criteria, for the program. The director shall establish guidelines and timelines for a request for proposals process to select a nonprofit entity (nonprofit) to facilitate operations for the program. The chosen nonprofit shall record and report measurable outcomes to the director.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 23 to title
3 26 as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 23**

5 **Training Veterans To Train Their Own**

6 **Service Dogs Pilot Program**

7 **26-23-101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE
8 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

10 (2) "ELIGIBLE VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON IN NEED OF MENTAL
11 HEALTH SERVICES WHO:

12 (a) SERVED IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR SERVICE, COAST
13 GUARD, OR NATIONAL GUARD OR THE RESERVE FORCES OF THE UNITED
14 STATES AND WHO WAS DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS
15 OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S.C. TITLE 38, AS
16 AMENDED; AND

17 (b) RECEIVED A REFERRAL FROM A QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH

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 AS WELL AS REQUIREMENTS FOR A NONPROFIT SELECTED TO IMPLEMENT
3 THE PROGRAM 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 TWO IN-STATE NONPROFIT AGENCIES
8 THAT REPRESENT DIFFERENT COUNTIES WITH WHICH TO CONTRACT FOR
9 THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM. THE EXECUTIVE
10 DIRECTOR SHALL FINALIZE THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS NO
11 LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2016. PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER
12 THAN OCTOBER 1, 2016, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE A
13 FINAL DECISION ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2016.

14 (b) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO IMPLEMENT AND OPERATE THE PROGRAM,
15 EACH 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 EACH 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, INCLUDING MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO SECTION
5 28-5-709 (3.5) (d), C.R.S. THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE
6 FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED AND OPERATED BY A
7 NONPROFIT AGENCY SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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

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

26 (b) ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND
27 INVESTMENT OF THE FUND AND ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED

1 MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR
2 REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE
3 GENERAL FUND.

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

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-5-709, **add (3.5)**
7 **(d)** as follows:

8 **28-5-709. Colorado state veterans trust fund - created - report.**
9 **(3.5) (d)** NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE
10 CONTRARY, ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH **(d)**, THE STATE
11 TREASURER SHALL DEDUCT ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
12 FROM THE COLORADO STATE VETERANS TRUST FUND AND TRANSFER SUCH
13 SUM TO THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS
14 PILOT PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SECTION 26-23-104, C.R.S.

15 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
16 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.