First Regular Session Seventy-first General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 17-0800.02 Christy Chase x2008

HOUSE BILL 17-1235

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mitsch Bush and Hamner,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coram and Crowder, Donovan

House Committees Health, Insurance, & Environment Appropriations

Senate Committees

	A BILL FOR AN ACT
101	CONCERNING A FINANCIAL RELIEF PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL
102	ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS EARNING A HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF
103	NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL
104	POVERTY LINE OF WHICH THEY SPEND MORE THAN FIFTEEN
105	PERCENT ON HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR INDIVIDUAL
106	HEALTH INSURANCE PURCHASED THROUGH THE COLORADO
107	HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE.

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://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill creates a financial relief program, available from July 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018, to provide financial assistance to individuals and their families who spend more than 15% of their household income on individual health insurance premiums. The Colorado health benefit exchange (exchange) is to oversee the program, and counties may elect to administer the program in their counties. For any county that opts not to administer the program, the exchange is to administer the program in that county.

Financial relief is available to individuals and families determined eligible based on the following:

- ! The individual or family enrolled in and paid premiums for a bronze, silver, or gold level individual health benefit plan purchased through the exchange;
- ! The individual or family has a household income of more than 400%, but not more than 500%, of the federal poverty line;
- ! The individual or family does not have access to a government-sponsored program, such as medicaid or medicare, or an affordable employer-sponsored plan; and
- ! The individual or family pays more than 15% of the household income on premiums for the plan.

The exchange is to certify that an individual or family has enrolled in one of the specified health benefit plans, the premium amount of the plan, the household income of the individual or family, and that the individual or family does not have access to a government-sponsored program or employer-sponsored plan.

The amount of financial relief is calculated based on the cost of the premium for the lowest-cost bronze health benefit plan available to the individual or family through the exchange, minus an amount equal to 15% of the individual's or family's household income. The general assembly is to appropriate money from the general fund to provide financial assistance to individuals who qualify under the program.

A carrier offering individual health benefit plans on the exchange must permit an individual to purchase an individual health benefit plan on the exchange during a special enrollment period that begins June 1, 2017, and ends August 1, 2017, for plans effective through December 31, 2017. For the 2018 plan year, individuals are subject to the standard open enrollment period specified in law.

The program repeals on July 1, 2019, unless congress enacts and the president signs legislation repealing the advance premium tax credit authorized under federal law, in which case the program repeals upon the date of the repeal of said tax credit.

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

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SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

- (a) Currently, premiums for health insurance across the nine health insurance geographic rating regions in Colorado, as well as the number of insurance carriers available and the number and variety of plans offered in the different regions, vary significantly;
- (b) Premiums in rural areas, especially in the eastern plains and the western slope areas of the state, are considerably higher than premiums in metropolitan areas, and the number of carriers and the diversity of plans they offer are very limited in those areas. In fact, only one carrier is currently offering plans on the health benefit exchange in rural areas of the state.
- (c) Many Coloradans in rural areas whose incomes fall between four hundred percent and five hundred percent of the federal poverty line are cost-burdened in that they spend more than fifteen percent of their household income on premiums for health insurance but earn too much to qualify for subsidies available under federal law;
- (d) Because of the financial burden high-cost health insurance places on individuals in rural areas of the state, a considerable number of these cost-burdened individuals may not purchase health insurance in 2017, exacerbating the problems of few carriers, few plan options, and high costs of health insurance in rural regions of the state as well as increasing the number of uninsured individuals in those areas;
- (e) It is therefore important to establish a program to provide temporary financial relief to Coloradans who earn between four and five hundred percent of the federal poverty line and are spending more than fifteen percent of their household income on health insurance premiums.

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1	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 2 to article
2	22 of title 10 as follows:
3	PART 2
4	FINANCIAL RELIEF PROGRAM TO DEFRAY
5	INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS
6	10-22-201. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE
7	CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
8	(1) "ADMINISTERING BODY" MEANS THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR
9	AGENCY ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM IN ITS COUNTY OR, IN THE CASE OF
10	A COUNTY THAT ELECTS NOT TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM, THE
11	EXCHANGE.
12	(2) "Eligible employer-sponsored plan" has the same
13	MEANING AS SET FORTH IN $26\mathrm{U.S.C.}$ SEC. $5000A~(f)(2)$ OF THE FEDERAL
14	"Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended.
15	(3) "FEDERAL POVERTY LINE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS
16	"POVERTY LINE", AS DEFINED IN $42~\mathrm{U.S.C.}$ SEC. $9902~(2)$.
17	(4) "GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM
18	LISTED IN 26 U.S.C. SEC. 5000A (f)(1)(A) OF THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL
19	REVENUE CODE OF 1986", AS AMENDED.
20	(5) "HOUSEHOLD INCOME" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH
21	IN $26\mathrm{U.S.C.}$ Sec. $36\mathrm{B}$ (d)(2) of the federal "Internal Revenue Code
22	OF 1986", AS AMENDED.
23	(6) "Program" means the financial relief program
24	ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PART 2.
25	(7) "PROGRAM AREA" MEANS ANY COUNTY CONTAINED WITHIN
26	ONE OF THE THREE MOST COSTLY GEOGRAPHIC INSURANCE RATING AREAS
27	OF THE STATE AS DETERMINED BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF THE DREMITIMS

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1	CHARGED FOR INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS SOLD ON THE
2	EXCHANGE IN THE GEOGRAPHIC RATING AREA.
3	(8) "QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY
4	WHO SATISFIES THE CRITERIA FOR, AND IS DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR,
5	FINANCIAL RELIEF UNDER THE PROGRAM.
6	10-22-202. Financial relief program - assistance to defray
7	individual health insurance premiums - plans purchased through
8	exchange - income criteria. (1) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, AND
9	CONTINUING THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2018, OR UNTIL THE TOTAL
10	AMOUNT OF MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-22-204 FOR
11	FINANCIAL RELIEF UNDER THE PROGRAM IS DISTRIBUTED, WHICHEVER
12	OCCURS FIRST, THE EXCHANGE SHALL OVERSEE A FINANCIAL RELIEF
13	PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PART 2 TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL
14	ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES RESIDING IN THE PROGRAM
15	AREA WHO PURCHASE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH THE
16	EXCHANGE AND SPEND MORE THAN FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THEIR
17	$HOUSEHOLDINCOMEONHEALTHINSURANCEPREMIUMS.ACOUNTY\overline{INTHE}$
18	PROGRAM AREA MAY DESIGNATE A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY TO
19	ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF TO QUALIFIED
20	INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE COUNTY, BUT IF A COUNTY ELECTS NOT TO
21	ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM, THE EXCHANGE SHALL ADMINISTER THE
22	PROGRAM FOR THAT COUNTY.
23	(2) (a) To be eligible for financial relief under the
24	PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM MUST
25	DEMONSTRATE THAT THE APPLICANT:
26	(I) RESIDES IN THE PROGRAM AREA;
27	(II) ENROLLED IN AND, WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER APPLYING AND

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1	PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2019, PAID PREMIUMS FOR A BRONZE, SILVER, OR
2	GOLD LEVEL INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION
3	10-16-103.4, PURCHASED THROUGH THE EXCHANGE;
4	(III) HAS A HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED
5	PERCENT, BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED PERCENT, OF THE FEDERAL
6	POVERTY LINE;
7	(IV) Does not have access to, or eligibility for,
8	ENROLLMENT IN:
9	(A) A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROGRAM; OR
10	(B) AN AFFORDABLE, ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLAN, AS
11	DETERMINED UNDER 26 U.S.C. SEC. 36B (c)(2)(C)(i) OF THE FEDERAL
12	"Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended; and
13	(V) PAYS MORE THAN FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE HOUSEHOLD
14	INCOME ON PREMIUMS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN
15	PURCHASED THROUGH THE EXCHANGE.
16	(b) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL
17	RELIEF UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE EXCHANGE SHALL CERTIFY:
18	(I) THAT THE APPLICANT RESIDES IN THE PROGRAM AREA;
19	(II) THAT THE APPLICANT HAS ENROLLED IN A BRONZE, SILVER, OR
20	GOLD LEVEL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN PURCHASED THROUGH THE EXCHANGE;
21	(III) THE MONTHLY PREMIUM AMOUNT THE APPLICANT PAYS FOR
22	THE PLAN;
23	(IV) THAT THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THE APPLICANT IS MORE
24	THAN FOUR HUNDRED PERCENT, BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED
25	PERCENT, OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE; AND
26	(V) THAT THE APPLICANT DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO, OR IS NOT
27	ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL IN, A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROGRAM OR AN

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1	AFFORDABLE.	ELIGIBLE	EMPLOYER	-SPONSORED	PLAN
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(c) THE ADMINISTERING BODY SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM.

(d) THE ADMINISTERING BODY SHALL ISSUE FINANCIAL RELIEF TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS ON A QUARTERLY BASIS IN THE MONTH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF EACH CALENDAR QUARTER IN WHICH THE APPLICANT IS DETERMINED TO BE QUALIFIED. AN APPLICANT FOR THE PROGRAM MUST APPLY FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF IN EACH CALENDAR OUARTER FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND MUST DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION. UPON RECEIVING CERTIFICATION FROM THE EXCHANGE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION, IF THE ADMINISTERING BODY DETERMINES THAT AN APPLICANT IS QUALIFIED FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR A GIVEN CALENDAR QUARTER, THE ADMINISTERING BODY SHALL CALCULATE THE FINANCIAL RELIEF PAYABLE TO THE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2)(e) OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL ISSUE THE FINANCIAL RELIEF TO THE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL IN THE MONTH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF THE CALENDAR QUARTER FOR WHICH FINANCIAL RELIEF IS SOUGHT.

(e) THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL RELIEF PAYABLE TO A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL FOR A CALENDAR QUARTER EQUALS THE COST OF THE PREMIUM IN THAT QUARTER FOR THE LOWEST-COST BRONZE PLAN AVAILABLE TO THE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL THROUGH THE EXCHANGE MINUS FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL'S HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THAT QUARTER.

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1	10-22-203. Special enrollment period. 10 FACILITATE
2	PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES MAY ENROLL
3	IN AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN PURCHASED THROUGH THE
4	EXCHANGE DURING A SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD ESTABLISHED UNDER
5	SECTION 10-16-105.7 (4).
6	10-22-204. Program funding - administration within existing
7	resources. (1) The general assembly shall appropriate not more
8	THAN FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE
9	GENERAL FUND TO THE EXCHANGE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF TO
10	QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE PROGRAM. UPON REQUEST OF A
11	COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM IN THAT
12	COUNTY, WHICH REQUEST DETAILS THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED
13	INDIVIDUALS IN THE COUNTY AND AMOUNT NEEDED TO PROVIDE
14	FINANCIAL RELIEF TO THOSE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS, AS CALCULATED IN
15	ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 10-22-202 (2)(e), THE EXCHANGE SHALL
16	ALLOCATE AND DISTRIBUTE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS
17	SUBSECTION (1) TO THE ADMINISTERING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR
18	AGENCY. THE EXCHANGE SHALL ESTABLISH THE PROCESS FOR HOW AND
19	WHEN AN ADMINISTERING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY IS TO SUBMIT
20	THE REQUEST AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER TO FACILITATE
21	PAYMENT OF FINANCIAL RELIEF AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 10-22-202 (2)(d).
22	(2) Administering bodies shall administer the program
23	WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES AND SHALL NOT USE ANY OF THE MONEY
24	MADE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF UNDER THE PROGRAM
25	FOR THEIR DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS IN ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM.
26	10-22-205. Repeal of part - notice to revisor. (1) EXCEPT AS
27	PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THIS PART 2 IS REPEALED,

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1	EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019.
2	(2) This part 2 is repealed if, prior to September 1, 2019, the
3	UNITED STATES CONGRESS ENACTS AND THE PRESIDENT SIGNS FEDERAL
4	LEGISLATION AMENDING THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF
5	1986", AS AMENDED, TO REPEAL 26 U.S.C. SEC. 36B, WHICH AUTHORIZES
6	A REFUNDABLE CREDIT FOR COVERAGE UNDER A QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN,
7	AS DEFINED UNDER THE FEDERAL ACT. THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD SHALL
8	NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING IF THE CONDITION
9	SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2) HAS OCCURRED BY E-MAILING THE
10	NOTICE TO REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@STATE.CO.US. THIS PART 2 IS
11	REPEALED UPON THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE THAT THE REPEAL OF
12	26U.S.C. sec. $36B$ occurred or upon the date of the notice to the
13	REVISOR OF STATUTES IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT SPECIFY A DIFFERENT
14	DATE.
15	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 10-22-108 as
16	follows:
17	10-22-108. Money for implementation, operation, and
18	$\textbf{sustainability of the exchange-notice to revisor-repeal.} \ (1) \ \underline{\textbf{Moneys}}$
19	MONEY received by the board for the implementation of this article
20	ARTICLE 22, and for building reserves for the operation and sustainability
21	of the exchange pursuant to section 10-22-109, must be transferred
22	directly to the exchange for the purposes of this article ARTICLE 22. The
23	
24	board shall deposit any moneys MONEY received in a banking institution
24	board shall deposit any moneys MONEY received in a banking institution within or outside the state. Moneys MONEY from the general fund shall
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agency services. The account of the banking institution must be insured

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by the federal deposit insurance corporation and compliant with the "Public Deposit Protection Act", article 10.5 of title 11. C.R.S.

- THIS SECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE GENERAL (2) (a) ASSEMBLY FROM APPROPRIATING, AND THE EXCHANGE FROM EXPENDING, MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO QUALIFY FOR THE FINANCIAL RELIEF PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN PART 2 OF THIS ARTICLE 22. HOWEVER, THE EXCHANGE SHALL NOT USE ANY GENERAL FUND MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE EXCHANGE UNDER PART 2 OF THIS ARTICLE 22 TO ADMINISTER OR OTHERWISE PAY FOR COSTS INCURRED BY THE EXCHANGE OR AN ADMINISTERING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY IN ADMINISTERING THE FINANCIAL RELIEF PROGRAM.
- 13 (b) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)(b)(II) OF THIS
 14 SECTION, THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
 15 2019.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED IF, PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2019, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ENACTS AND THE PRESIDENT SIGNS FEDERAL LEGISLATION AMENDING THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986", AS AMENDED, TO REPEAL 26 U.S.C. SEC. 36B, WHICH AUTHORIZES A REFUNDABLE CREDIT FOR COVERAGE UNDER A QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN, AS DEFINED UNDER THE FEDERAL ACT. THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING IF THE CONDITION SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b)(II) HAS OCCURRED BY E-MAILING THE NOTICE TO REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@STATE.CO.US. THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED UPON THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE THAT THE REPEAL OF 26 U.S.C. SEC. 36B OCCURRED OR UPON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE TO THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT

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1	SPECIFY A DIFFERENT DATE.
2	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-105.7, add (4)
3	as follows:
4	10-16-105.7. Health benefit plan open enrollment periods -
5	special enrollment periods - rules - notice to revisor - repeal.
6	(4) (a) For purposes of allowing individuals and families to
7	PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCIAL RELIEF PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER
8	PART 2 OF ARTICLE 22 OF THIS TITLE 10, A CARRIER OFFERING AN
9	INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ON THE EXCHANGE SHALL PERMIT AN
10	INDIVIDUAL TO PURCHASE AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ON THE
11	EXCHANGE DURING A SIXTY-DAY SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD THAT
12	BEGINS JUNE 1, 2017. AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN PURCHASED
13	DURING THE SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD ESTABLISHED BY THIS
14	SUBSECTION (4) IS EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017, AND AN
15	INDIVIDUAL WHO WISHES TO PURCHASE COVERAGE FOR THE 2018BENEFIT
16	YEAR MUST ENROLL DURING THE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD SPECIFIED IN
17	SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION FOR THAT BENEFIT YEAR. THE
18	COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS
19	SUBSECTION (4).
20	(b) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b)(II) OF THIS
21	SECTION, THIS SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
22	2019.
23	(II) This subsection (4) is repealed if, prior to September 1,
24	2019, THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ENACTS AND THE PRESIDENT SIGNS
25	FEDERAL LEGISLATION AMENDING THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE
26	CODE OF 1986", AS AMENDED, TO REPEAL 26 U.S.C. SEC. 36B, WHICH
27	AUTHORIZES A REFUNDABLE CREDIT FOR COVERAGE UNDER A QUALIFIED

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1	HEALTH PLAN, AS DEFINED UNDER THE FEDERAL ACT. THE CHAIR OF THE
2	BOARD SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING IF THE
3	CONDITION SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b)(II) HAS OCCURRED BY
4	E-MAILING THE NOTICE TO REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@STATE.CO.US. THIS
5	SUBSECTION (4) IS REPEALED UPON THE DATE IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE
6	THAT THE REPEAL OF 26 U.S.C. SEC. 36B OCCURRED OR UPON THE DATE
7	OF THE NOTICE TO THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT
8	SPECIFY A DIFFERENT DATE.
9	SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
10	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11	preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

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