

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-1027.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 17-292

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Lundberg, Lambert, Moreno

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rankin, Hamner, Young

Senate Committees
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
102 **WITH WAGES PROGRAM FOR QUALIFYING COLORADO WORKS**
103 **BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
104 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill directs the department of human services (department) to work with counties and the Colorado work force development council to develop program and reporting

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.

requirements for an employment opportunities with wages program (employment program). The department shall seek input from community-based organizations and businesses when creating the employment program.

The department is authorized and directed to contract with an independent entity to evaluate the employment program to annually assess its efficacy and effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Colorado works program. A final evaluation report must be completed on or before October 1, 2020.

The department is required to submit 3 annual reports to the joint budget committee and joint health and human services committee, beginning October 15, 2018.

The employment program is repealed, effective September 1, 2021.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-706.6, **add** (9)
3 as follows:

4 **26-2-706.6. Payments and services under Colorado works -**
5 **rules - repeal.** (9) **Colorado works subsidized employment.** (a) ON OR
6 BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2017, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL, IN
7 COORDINATION WITH COUNTIES AND THE COLORADO WORK FORCE
8 DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
9 THIS SUBSECTION (9), DEVELOP PROGRAM AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS,
10 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO GOALS, PARAMETERS, ALLOWABLE USES
11 OF FUNDING, AND AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR AN EMPLOYMENT
12 OPPORTUNITIES WITH WAGES PROGRAM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION
13 (9) AS THE "EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM". THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL
14 SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES
15 WHEN CREATING THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

16 (b) THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS INTENDED TO ASSIST
17 PARTICIPANTS IN ATTAINING LIVING-WAGE, PERMANENT JOBS BY FUNDING

1 EVIDENCE-BASED SUBSIDIZED WAGES OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING
2 SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT, APPRENTICESHIPS, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, AND
3 TRANSITIONAL JOBS, AS IDENTIFIED IN THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
4 PHASE. AN ENTITY, INCLUDING A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR
5 SOCIAL SERVICES, A WORKFORCE CENTER, OR A COMMUNITY-BASED
6 ORGANIZATION, MAY APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE EMPLOYMENT
7 PROGRAM. WHEN APPLYING FOR FUNDING FROM THE EMPLOYMENT
8 PROGRAM, AN ENTITY OTHER THAN A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN OR
9 SOCIAL SERVICES OR A WORKFORCE CENTER MUST DEMONSTRATE IN ITS
10 PROPOSAL COLLABORATION WITH COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN OR
11 SOCIAL SERVICES OR WORKFORCE CENTERS, AS WELL AS PROVIDE A LETTER
12 OF SUPPORT FROM THE COUNTY OR COUNTIES IN WHICH THE ENTITY
13 INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. ANY
14 ORGANIZATION IN COLORADO MAY APPLY FOR FUNDS FROM THE
15 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IF IT MEETS THE PROGRAM PARAMETERS
16 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF THIS SECTION. THE GOAL
17 OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT ALL REGIONS OF THE
18 STATE.

19 (c) PARTICIPANTS MAY BEGIN ENROLLING IN THE EMPLOYMENT
20 PROGRAM AS SOON AS IT IS DEVELOPED, BUT NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1,
21 2018. THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CEASES OPERATING ON JUNE 30, 2020.

22 (d) WAGES EARNED BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE EMPLOYMENT
23 PROGRAM DO NOT COUNT AS INCOME FOR THE PURPOSES OF COLORADO
24 WORKS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT DETERMINATION, AS DEFINED
25 IN THIS SECTION.

26 (e) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY ANNUALLY USE UP TO THE
27 EQUIVALENT OF TWO AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE MONEY ANNUALLY

1 APPROPRIATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM TO CONTRACT WITH A
2 QUALIFIED, INDEPENDENT ENTITY TO EVALUATE THE EMPLOYMENT
3 PROGRAM. THE EVALUATION MUST INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE SUCCESS
4 OF PARTICIPANTS IN GAINING PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT AND ACHIEVING
5 NEW SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS. THE INDEPENDENT ENTITY SHALL ALSO
6 EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN FILLING JOBS
7 IN INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH WORKER SHORTAGES AND INCREASING THE
8 NUMBER OF COLORADO WORKS PARTICIPANTS FINDING NEW EMPLOYMENT
9 IN LIVING-WAGE JOBS. THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION MUST BE
10 DEVELOPED TOGETHER WITH THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM DESIGN AND
11 ANNUALLY ASSESS THE EFFICACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
12 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COLORADO
13 WORKS PROGRAM, THE SHORT- AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES ACHIEVED,
14 AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL EFFORTS. THE FINAL
15 EVALUATION REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1,
16 2020.

17 (f) (I) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2018, AND ON OR BEFORE
18 OCTOBER 15, 2019, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL
19 REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO THE JOINT HEALTH AND
20 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE
21 ANNUAL REPORT MUST INCLUDE DETAILS CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION
22 OF THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND OUTCOMES ACHIEVED THROUGH THE
23 INVESTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE PREVIOUS FISCAL
24 YEAR. THE FIRST INDEPENDENT EVALUATION COMPLETED PURSUANT TO
25 SUBSECTION (9)(e) OF THIS SECTION MUST ACCOMPANY THE ANNUAL
26 REPORT SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2019.

27 (II) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2020, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1 SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE FINAL INDEPENDENT
2 EVALUATION COMPLETED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9)(e) OF THIS
3 SECTION, TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND TO THE JOINT HEALTH
4 AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

5 (g) THIS SUBSECTION (9) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
6 2021.

7 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2017-18 state fiscal year,
8 \$4,000,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use
9 by the office of self sufficiency. This appropriation is from federal
10 temporary assistance for needy families block grant funds. To implement
11 this act, the office may use the appropriation for a subsidized employment
12 program for qualifying Colorado works program basic cash assistance
13 recipients.

14 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
15 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
16 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
17 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
18 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
19 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
20 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
21 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
22 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
23 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.