

Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 18-1110.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 18-1319

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Singer and Young,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Public Health Care & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE EXTENSION OF SERVICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL
102 ADULTHOOD FOR FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH WHO ARE
103 BETWEEN THE AGES OF EIGHTEEN YEARS AND TWENTY-ONE
104 YEARS.

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 allows county departments of human or social services to extend the provision of certain services for a successful adulthood to foster care youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who have exited the

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

foster care system (former foster care youth), including assistance with employment, housing, education, financial management, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment (services for a successful adulthood).

The bill also tasks the state department of human services with establishing a former foster care youth steering committee. The purpose of the steering committee is to develop recommendations for an implementation plan that supports the long-term provision of services for a successful adulthood for former foster care youth.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-5-100.2 as
3 follows:

4 **26-5-100.2. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

6 (a) EACH YEAR, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, MORE THAN THREE
7 HUNDRED YOUTH, AGES EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY-ONE, EXIT COLORADO'S
8 FOSTER CARE SYSTEM WITHOUT A PERMANENT HOME OR A STABLE
9 SUPPORT NETWORK;

10 (b) THESE YOUTH DO NOT HAVE THE SAME SAFETY NETS,
11 SUPPORTIVE ADULTS, AND SUPPORT NETWORKS AS DO OTHER YOUTH THEIR
12 AGE;

13 (c) MANY OF THESE YOUTH WILL FACE CHALLENGES AS THEY
14 SEARCH FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION OR
15 TRAINING, SEARCH FOR EMPLOYMENT, MANAGE TIGHT BUDGETS, TAKE
16 CARE OF THEIR HEALTH NEEDS, AND MUCH MORE;

17 (d) YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE FACE NOT ONLY THE TYPICAL
18 DEVELOPMENTAL CHANGES AND NEW EXPERIENCES THAT ARE COMMON TO
19 YOUTH THEIR AGE BUT ALSO THE DRAMATIC CHANGE FROM BEING UNDER
20 THE COUNTY'S CARE TO BEING ON THEIR OWN, MANY WITHOUT ANY
21 SUPPORTIVE ADULTS OR SAFETY NET TO HELP THEM SUCCEED;

1 (e) THE ARRAY OF SERVICES AND SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO YOUTH
2 WHILE IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING HOUSING, FOOD, MEDICAL
3 CARE, AND CASEWORKER SUPPORT, DISAPPEAR AS SOON AS THE YOUTH
4 EXITS FOSTER CARE. ADDITIONALLY, MANY OF THESE YOUTH ARE DEALING
5 WITH THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF TRAUMA RELATED TO THE
6 ABUSE, NEGLECT, REMOVAL, AND OVERALL LACK OF RESOURCES THAT
7 THEY MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED.

8 (f) BY LEVERAGING THE EXPERTISE OF YOUTH WHO HAVE
9 SUCCESSFULLY MADE THE TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD, AS WELL AS
10 EXPERTS IN THE FIELD, MANY STATES HAVE DEVELOPED CREATIVE
11 APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THESE YOUTH;

12 (g) COLORADO CAN START ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF YOUTH BY
13 ALLOWING COUNTIES TO USE EXISTING CHILD WELFARE MONEY TO
14 PROVIDE CONTINUED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR YOUTH WHO EXIT THE
15 FOSTER CARE SYSTEM; AND

16 (h) ALTHOUGH EXISTING CHILD WELFARE MONEY MAY ENABLE THE
17 STATE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO SOME YOUTH, IT IS INSUFFICIENT TO
18 ADDRESS ALL THE NEED, NOR IS IT AVAILABLE CONSISTENTLY ACROSS THE
19 STATE.

20 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINES THAT BY
21 COUPLING THE SHORT-TERM APPROACH OF USING EXISTING CHILD
22 WELFARE MONEY WITH THE CREATION OF A STEERING COMMITTEE TASKED
23 WITH DEVELOPING A LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR SERVICES
24 FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD FOR YOUTH WHO WERE FORMERLY IN THE
25 STATE'S FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, THE STATE CAN BETTER MEET THE NEEDS
26 OF YOUTH WHO ARE MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM THE FOSTER CARE
27 SYSTEM TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD.

1 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-5-101, **amend** the
2 introductory portion; and **add** (4.1), (4.5), (5.5), and (5.8) as follows:

3 **26-5-101. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 5, unless
4 the context otherwise requires:

5 (4.1) "COUNTY DEPARTMENT" MEANS A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
6 HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES.

7 (4.5) "FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH" MEANS A YOUTH AT LEAST
8 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE BUT YOUNGER THAN TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE
9 WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OR LEGAL AUTHORITY OF A
10 COUNTY DEPARTMENT AND WHO WAS PLACED IN A CERTIFIED OR
11 NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE PLACEMENT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
12 26-6-102 (21); A CERTIFIED OR LICENSED FACILITY; OR A FOSTER CARE
13 HOME, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-6-102 (14) AND CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO
14 ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE 26.

15 (5.5) "SERVICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD" MEANS
16 SUPPORTIVE SERVICES THAT HELP FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH ACHIEVE
17 SELF-SUFFICIENCY. "SERVICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD" MAY
18 INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ASSISTANCE WITH EDUCATION,
19 EMPLOYMENT, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, HOUSING, MENTAL HEALTH
20 CARE, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION. "SERVICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL
21 ADULTHOOD" DOES NOT INCLUDE OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT, AS
22 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-5-102 (2)(i).

23 (5.8) "STEERING COMMITTEE" MEANS THE FORMER FOSTER CARE
24 YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION
25 26-5-114.

26 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-5-113 and
27 26-5-114 as follows:

1 **26-5-113. Extended services for former foster care youth.**

2 (1) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY COORDINATE CERTAIN SERVICES TO
3 FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH WHO REQUEST SUCH SERVICES IN ORDER TO
4 SUPPORT SUCH FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH IN BECOMING
5 SELF-SUFFICIENT ADULTS. THIS SECTION IS NOT MEANT TO REPLACE
6 SERVICES FOR FOSTER CARE YOUTH WHO REMAIN IN THE CUSTODY OF A
7 COUNTY DEPARTMENT. THE DETERMINATION OF WHETHER A YOUTH WHO
8 IS IN FOSTER CARE IS READY TO LEAVE THE CUSTODY OF THE COUNTY
9 DEPARTMENT REMAINS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT.

10 (2) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY OPT TO SERVE FORMER FOSTER
11 CARE YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DIVISION OF YOUTH
12 SERVICES IF SUCH YOUTH ARE INCLUDED IN THE PLAN FOR SERVICES FOR
13 A SUCCESSFUL ADULthood.

14 (3) THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS MAY ASSIST A COUNTY
15 DEPARTMENT IN SECURING AVAILABLE HOUSING VOUCHERS THROUGH
16 PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS, SUCH AS
17 THE HOMELESS SOLUTIONS PROGRAM, THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER
18 PROGRAM, OR ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM
19 FOR FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH, SPECIFICALLY BETWEEN THE AGES OF
20 EIGHTEEN AND TWENTY-ONE, WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR
21 IMMINENT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS. IF APPROPRIATIONS ARE AVAILABLE,
22 THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS MAY ASSIST FORMER FOSTER CARE
23 YOUTH WITH SECURITY DEPOSITS RELATED TO HOUSING.

24 (4) THE MANAGED CARE ENTITY CONTRACTED WITH FOR THE
25 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING'S STATEWIDE
26 MANAGED CARE SYSTEM SHALL ASSIST A COUNTY DEPARTMENT THAT OPTS
27 TO SERVE FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH WHO ARE ENROLLED IN MEDICAID.

1 (5) STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
2 COLLEGES SHALL WORK WITH THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS TO EXPLORE
3 WAYS TO SUPPORT FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH BOTH FINANCIALLY AND
4 THROUGH OTHER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES. THIS SUPPORT INCLUDES
5 REVIEWING THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE AND OTHER FEE
6 WAIVERS TO FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH.

7 (6) A COUNTY DEPARTMENT MAY SUPPORT FORMER FOSTER CARE
8 YOUTH PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION BY DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR SERVICES
9 FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD AND TRANSFERRING AN AMOUNT OF
10 MONEY OUT OF THE COUNTY'S CORE SERVICES FUNDING AND INTO A FUND
11 FOR SERVICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD.

12 **26-5-114. Former foster care youth steering committee -**
13 **implementation plan - recommendations - report.** (1) THE STATE
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH STEERING
15 COMMITTEE THAT INCLUDES COMPREHENSIVE AND APPROPRIATE
16 STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION FROM THE STATE AND COUNTY LEVEL.
17 THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONVENE THE COMMITTEE ON OR BEFORE
18 OCTOBER 30, 2018. THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHALL:

19 (a) DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN THAT ALLOWS FORMER
20 FOSTER CARE YOUTH TO RECEIVE SERVICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL
21 ADULTHOOD OR ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING TO PLACEMENT, AS WELL AS
22 ALTERNATIVES TO RETURNING TO PLACEMENT AFTER REACHING EIGHTEEN
23 YEARS OF AGE BUT BEFORE REACHING TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE, OR A
24 LATER AGE IF SO RECOMMENDED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE, AND
25 AFTER THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT'S JURISDICTION ENDS;

26 (b) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO THE OPERATION,
27 EVALUATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. IN

1 MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHALL USE A
2 CONSENSUS-BASED APPROACH.

3 (c) COORDINATE WITH OTHER COMMITTEES FORMED BY THE
4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT HAVE SIMILAR OR OVERLAPPING
5 JURISDICTIONAL TASKS OR PURPOSES.

6 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2020, THE STEERING COMMITTEE
7 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT WITH ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN
8 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; THE GOVERNOR; AND THE JOINT
10 BUDGET COMMITTEE, THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF
11 THE SENATE, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
12 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

13 (3) THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN RECOMMENDED BY THE STEERING
14 COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS NOT REQUIRED TO BECOME
15 OPERATIONAL UNLESS ADEQUATE STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING IS
16 AVAILABLE.

17 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-1-116, **amend**
18 (1.5) as follows:

19 **19-1-116. Funding - alternatives to placement out of the home**
20 **- services to prevent continued involvement in child welfare system.**

21 (1.5) No later than July 1, 1994, each county in the state shall assure
22 access to alternatives to out-of-home placements for families with
23 children AND YOUTH WHO ARE at imminent risk of out-of-home
24 placements. Beginning September 1, 2011, a county may also provide
25 access for families to alternative services to prevent continued
26 involvement with the county department child welfare system. BEGINNING
27 SEPTEMBER 1, 2018, A COUNTY MAY ALSO PROVIDE ACCESS TO

1 ALTERNATIVE SERVICES FOR FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH, AS DEFINED IN
2 SECTION 26-5-101, WHO ARE NO LONGER IN THE CUSTODY OF THE
3 DEPARTMENT BUT NEED LIMITED ASSISTANCE FROM THE COUNTY. Two or
4 more counties may jointly provide or purchase alternative services to
5 families in the respective counties. Such services shall either be provided
6 for under the plan adopted by placement alternative commissions in
7 accordance with ~~paragraph (b) of subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(b) of this
8 section or purchased by the county if such county does not have a
9 placement alternative commission for the county. If a county purchases
10 alternative services, the county shall ensure that the services purchased
11 meet the goals of placement alternative commission plans, as described
12 in ~~subparagraph (I) of paragraph (b) of subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION
13 (2)(b)(I) of this section.

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