A BILL FOR AN ACT

Concerning the peace officers mental health support grant program, and, in connection therewith, allowing certain agencies to apply for grants from the program and expanding the permissible uses of money awarded as grants under the 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://leg.colorado.gov.)

Under current law, only county sheriffs' offices and municipal police departments may apply for a grant from the peace officers mental health support grant program. This bill would allow certain agencies, including but not limited to county sheriffs' offices, municipal police departments, and other entities, to apply for grants under the program. Additionally, it would expand the permissible uses of the money awarded through the program, allowing for a broader range of mental health support services to be provided to peace officers.
health support grant program (program). The bill opens the program to additional "eligible applicants", which include other types of law enforcement agencies as well as organizations that provide services and programs that promote the mental health wellness of peace officers. The bill also specifies new permissible uses of grant money and requires grant recipients to report to the department of local affairs concerning their use of grant money.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-3501, amend (1), (2), (3), (5), (6), and (7); and add (2.5) and (10.5) as follows:

24-32-3501. Peace officers mental health support grant program - created - rules - policies and procedures - fund - definitions - repeal. (1) There is created in the department of local affairs, referred to in this section as the "department", the peace officers mental health support grant program to provide grants of money to county sheriffs' offices and municipal police departments for the purpose of helping these agencies engage mental health professionals who can provide services to peace officers, including:

(a) On-scene response services to support peace officers' handling of persons with mental health disorders; and

(b) Counseling services to peace officers.

(c) Assistance for law enforcement agencies' development and implementation of policies to support peace officers who are involved in a shooting or a fatal use of force;

(d) Training and education programs that teach peace officers the symptoms of job-related mental trauma and how to prevent and treat such trauma; and

(e) Peer support programs.

(2) Grant recipients may use the money received through the grant
program to hire mental health professionals and provide services to peace officers, including:

(a) On-scene response services to support peace officers' handling of persons with mental health disorders; and

(b) Counseling services; to peace officers;

(c) Assistance for law enforcement agencies' development and implementation of policies to support peace officers who are involved in a shooting or a fatal use of force;

(d) Training and education programs that teach peace officers the symptoms of job-related mental trauma and how to prevent and treat such trauma; and

(e) Peer support programs.

(2.5) For the purposes of subsections (1)(b) and (2)(b) of this section, grant recipients may use money received through the grant program to reimburse peace officers who have paid the costs of their own counseling services.

(3) County sheriffs' offices and municipal police departments law enforcement agencies that apply for grants from the grant program are encouraged to do so, to the extent possible, in collaboration with the community mental health centers in their regions.

(5) The executive director of the department, or his or her executive director's designee, shall develop such policies and procedures as are required in this section and such additional policies and procedures as may be necessary to implement the grant program. At a minimum, the policies and procedures must specify the time frames for applying for grants, the form of the grant program application, the time frames for distributing grant money, and criteria for the executive
director, or his or her THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S designee, to use in awarding and denying grants. THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MUST ALSO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO TRANSFER GRANT MONEY TO EACH GRANT RECIPIENT AS SOON AS IS PRACTICABLE AFTER A GRANT APPLICATION IS APPROVED.

(6) To receive a grant, a sheriff's office or municipal police department AN ELIGIBLE AGENCY must submit an application to the department in accordance with policies and procedures developed by the executive director, or his or her THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S designee.

(7) (a) I N ACCORDANCE WITH A SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED PURSUANT TO RULES PROMULGATED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, EACH GRANT RECIPIENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A REPORT THAT DESCRIBES AND INCLUDES DOCUMENTATION OF THE GRANT RECIPIENT’S USE OF THE GRANT MONEY. THE REPORT MUST ALSO INCLUDE ANY INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO ANY POLICIES OR PROCEDURES DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION. IN PREPARING EACH SUCH REPORT, EACH GRANT RECIPIENT SHALL REDACT THE NAMES AND ANY OTHER PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF EACH PEACE OFFICER TO WHOM THE GRANT RECIPIENT PROVIDED SERVICES, TRAINING, OR EDUCATION WITH GRANT MONEY.

(b) On and after August 9, 2017 NOVEMBER 1, 2021, the department shall include a summarized report of the activities of the grant program in the department's annual presentation to the committees of reference pursuant to section 2-7-203. Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), the reporting requirements set forth in this section continue until the grant program is repealed pursuant to subsection (11) of this
section.

(10.5) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Eligible agency" means a law enforcement agency
within the state or a peace officer organization within the state.

(b) "Law enforcement agency" means the Colorado state
patrol, the Colorado bureau of investigation, the department
of corrections, the department of revenue, a county sheriff's
office, a municipal police department, a campus police
department, a town marshal's office, or the division of parks and
wildlife.

(c) "Peace officer organization" means:

(I) A statewide association of police officers and former
police officers; or

(II) An organization within the state that provides
services and programs that promote the mental health wellness
of peace officers and that has at least one peace officer or
former peace officer serving on its board of directors or in a
comparable capacity.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.