

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 20-0401.01 Shelby Ross x4510

SENATE BILL 20-029

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Moreno,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Coleman and Duran,

Senate Committees

Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A ONE-TIME BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENT TO**
102 **COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS.**

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>.)

For the state fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020, the amount of basic cash assistance a Colorado works program recipient (recipient) receives must equal or exceed 100% of the amount of basic cash assistance in 2019 plus 10%.

Commencing July 1, 2021, the department must annually increase the amount of basic cash assistance a recipient receives by a cost of living

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.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
June 2, 2020

adjustment equal to 1.5% or the federal social security administration's cost of living adjustment that year, whichever is greater.

The joint budget committee (JBC) must review the sustainability of the Colorado long-term works reserve to fund the cost of living adjustment, and, if the JBC deems necessary, identify additional sources of funding.

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

2

3 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
4 finds and declares that:

5 (a) Colorado is in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis.
6 As the state makes difficult choices about the budget and how to support
7 Colorado's recovery now and into the future, it is critical to provide
8 support to families who are facing some of the greatest barriers to
9 economic security.

10 (b) Families enrolled in the temporary assistance for needy
11 families (TANF) program who are experiencing extreme poverty need
12 additional money as soon as possible to help weather the immediate
13 effects of the economic crisis. The additional barriers that these families
14 will face in meeting basic needs now, and as the state begins to recover,
15 make it even more critical to prioritize a way to provide cash assistance
16 to these families as soon as possible.

17 (c) During this time of economic crisis for families and Colorado,
18 the Colorado long-term works reserve should be used to provide critical
19 cash assistance to families experiencing extreme poverty. The best way
20 to do this is to provide immediate, one-time cash assistance to families
21 who receive basic cash assistance under the TANF program. This
22 one-time payment will help families make ends meet during the current

1 economic crisis and will help make up for the fact that basic cash
2 assistance has not been adjusted for inflation since the program was
3 created in 1996 and has not kept up with the cost of living in Colorado.

4

5 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, add (1)(d)
6 and (1)(e) as follows:

7 26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules.

8 (1) Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.

9 (d) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION TO THE CONTRARY, A
10 PARTICIPANT ENROLLED IN THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM ON OR AT
11 ANY TIME WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
12 SUBSECTION (1)(d) SHALL RECEIVE A ONE-TIME FIVE-HUNDRED DOLLAR
13 BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENT IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT OF BASIC
14 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT A PARTICIPANT RECEIVES PURSUANT TO THIS
15 SECTION. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR THE
16 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d) PURSUANT TO SECTION
17 26-2-721 (2.5).

18 (e) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
19 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL REVIEW THE
20 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COLORADO LONG-TERM WORKS RESERVE
21 CREATED IN SECTION 26-2-721.

22 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-721, add (2.5)
23 as follows:

24 26-2-721. Colorado long-term works reserve - creation - use.

25 (2.5) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THE MONEY IN THE
26 RESERVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING SECTION 26-2-709 (1)(d).

27 SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.