

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 21-0178.02 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 21-032

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan, Bridges, Buckner, Danielson, Garcia, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Jaquez
Lewis, Kolker, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Simpson, Story, Winter, Zenzinger

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ortiz,

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Appropriations

House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT**
102 **GRANT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**
103 **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>.)

The bill establishes a mobile veterans-support unit grant program (grant program) to provide grant funding to a veteran-owned-and-focused organization to create a mobile veterans-support unit. A mobile veterans-support unit acts as a point of contact to veterans in rural areas or to veterans experiencing homelessness. The mobile veterans-support

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
3rd Reading Unamended
May 3, 2021

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 30, 2021

unit distributes supplies, transports veterans who do not have access to public or private transportation, and works with the office of economic development (office) to provide business and job opportunities to veterans.

The office administers the grant program.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-32-118.5 as follows:

24-32-118.5. Mobile veterans-support unit grant program - fund created - report - definitions - repeal. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-32-103.

(b) "FUND" MEANS THE MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM CASH FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

(c) "GRANT PROGRAM" OR "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(d) "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO SERVED IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR SERVICE, AND SPACE FORCE OF THE UNITED STATES, REGARDLESS OF THE PERSON'S DISCHARGE STATUS.

(2) (a) THE DIVISION SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO A VETERAN-OWNED-AND-FOCUSED ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES VETERANS WHO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS OR ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

(b) THE GRANT PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE FUNDING FOR:

1 (I) A TWO-YEAR GRANT PROGRAM;
2 (II) TWO STAFF MEMBERS; AND
3 (III) THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE TO DISTRIBUTE SUPPLIES OR
4 TRANSPORT VETERANS IN RURAL AREAS WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO
5 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION. EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO
6 ENSURE THE VEHICLE IS COMPLIANT WITH THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH
7 DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED,
8 IN ORDER TO SERVE VETERANS WHO LIVE WITH A DISABILITY.

9 (c) THE DIVISION SHALL ESTABLISH AND PUBLICIZE CRITERIA FOR
10 THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION MUST:

11 (I) SERVE VETERANS REGARDLESS OF THE DISCHARGED STATUS;
12 AND

13 (II) HAVE EXPERIENCE SERVING VETERANS EXPERIENCING
14 HOMELESSNESS.

15 (d) A MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT ESTABLISHED WITH THE
16 ASSISTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD SHALL SEEK TO BUILD TRUST WITH THE
17 VETERANS IT SERVES AND ACT AS A POINT OF CONTACT FOR VETERANS
18 WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION.

19 (e) THE DIVISION SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND A TIMELINE
20 FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT RECEIVES GRANT MONEY TO REPORT
21 INFORMATION TO THE DIVISION ABOUT THE USE OF THE GRANT MONEY.

22 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 15, 2021, THE DIVISION SHALL:

23 (I) ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
24 OF THE PROGRAM; AND

25 (II) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES BY WHICH ELIGIBLE
26 ORGANIZATIONS MAY APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE MONEY FROM THE
27 PROGRAM.

1 (b) BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2021, THE DIVISION SHALL:

2 (I) ACCEPT GRANT APPLICATIONS; AND

3 (II) VERIFY THAT AN APPLICATION MEETS THE CRITERIA
4 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION.

5 (c) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 21, 2022, AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
6 APPROPRIATIONS, THE DIVISION SHALL AWARD GRANT MONEY TO ELIGIBLE
7 APPLICANTS.

8 (d) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 21, 2024, THE DIVISION SHALL SUBMIT
9 A REQUEST TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE THE MOBILE
10 VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM. ■ ■

11 (4) THE DIVISION MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS,
12 OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF
13 THIS SECTION. THE DIVISION SHALL TRANSFER EACH GIFT, GRANT, AND
14 DONATION TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE SAME TO
15 THE FUND.

16 (5) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE MOBILE
17 VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM CASH FUND, WHICH SHALL
18 CONSIST OF:

19 (I) GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO
20 SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION; AND

21 (II) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY.

23 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ANY INTEREST AND
24 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
25 FUND TO THE FUND.

26 (c) ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND
27 AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE FUND AND IS NOT

1 TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND; EXCEPT THAT,
2 IF THE PROGRAM IS NOT RENEWED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(d) OF
3 THIS SECTION, ANY MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AS OF JUNE 30, 2024,
4 SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE GENERAL FUND.

5 (d) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY, THE DIVISION MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND FOR THE
7 PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION. SUBJECT TO ANNUAL
8 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE DIVISION MAY EXPEND
9 MONEY FROM THE FUND FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS
10 ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM.

11 (6) A RECIPIENT OF A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS NOT
12 DISQUALIFIED FROM RECEIVING A GRANT PURSUANT TO THE VETERANS
13 ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 28-5-712.

14 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025.

15 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2021-22 state fiscal year,
16 \$229,070 is appropriated to the division of local government programs.
17 This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption
18 that the division will require an additional 0.6 FTE. To implement this
19 act, the division may use this appropriation for the mobile veterans
20 support unit grant program.

21 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
22 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
23 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
24 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
25 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
26 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
27 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.