

**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. 21-0928.01 Kristen Forrester x4217

SENATE BILL 21-233

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez and Hansen,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Benavidez and Gonzales-Gutierrez,

Senate Committees

Business, Labor, & Technology
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT**
102 **INSURANCE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING A**
103 **FEASIBILITY STUDY CONCERNING A WAGE REPLACEMENT**
104 **PROGRAM AND 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>.)

The bill establishes the left-behind workers program (program) in the division of unemployment insurance (division) in the department of labor and employment (department) for the purpose of providing

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.

unemployment assistance relief payments to eligible individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own, who meet specified criteria, and who are ineligible for regular unemployment benefits due to their immigration status. The bill requires the department to contract with a third-party administrator to administer the program. The third-party administrator must provide outreach to unemployed individuals who may be eligible to receive unemployment assistance relief payments, screen applicants for eligibility, and make payments to eligible individuals.

The bill establishes the left-behind workers fund (fund) as part of the enterprise that is administered by the division. The fund consists of a percentage of the premium currently assessed by the division and paid by employers.

The bill includes the employment support fund as part of the enterprise that is administered by the division.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 8-1-153 as
3 follows:

4 **8-1-153. Wage replacement program - department - new**
5 **American advisor - feasibility study - recommendations.** (1) THE
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE
7 DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, THE NEW AMERICAN ADVISOR
8 FROM THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, SHALL
9 STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CONTRACT WITH A
10 NONPROFIT, THIRD-PARTY ENTITY TO ADMINISTER A WAGE REPLACEMENT
11 PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED THROUGH NO FAULT
12 OF THEIR OWN AND WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT
13 BENEFITS DUE TO THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS. THE FEASIBILITY STUDY
14 MUST INCLUDE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF MONEY TO FUND A WAGE
15 REPLACEMENT PROGRAM, LEGAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES
16 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
17 PROGRAMS, DATA SHARING AND DATA PRIVACY, AND INPUT FROM

1 RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.

2 (2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2021, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3 AND THE NEW AMERICAN ADVISOR SHALL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO
4 THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE SENATE BUSINESS, LABOR, AND TECHNOLOGY
5 COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND
6 LABOR COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, article 3.7 of title 8
8 **as added by HB 21-1150, add 8-3.7-105 as follows:**

9 **8-3.7-105. Wage replacement program - executive director -**
10 **director of the ONA - feasibility study - recommendations.** (1) **THE**
11 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE**
12 **DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, THE DIRECTOR**
13 **OF THE ONA, AND THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, SHALL STUDY THE**
14 **FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CONTRACT WITH A NONPROFIT,**
15 **THIRD-PARTY ENTITY TO ADMINISTER A WAGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**
16 **FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR**
17 **OWN AND WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**
18 **DUE TO THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS. THE FEASIBILITY STUDY MUST**
19 **INCLUDE POTENTIAL SOURCES OF MONEY TO FUND A WAGE REPLACEMENT**
20 **PROGRAM, LEGAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT**
21 **OF LABOR'S REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS, DATA**
22 **SHARING AND DATA PRIVACY, AND INPUT FROM RELEVANT**
23 **STAKEHOLDERS.**

24 (2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2021, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
25 THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE ONA SHALL SUBMIT
26 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE SENATE BUSINESS,
27 LABOR, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE OF

1 REPRESENTATIVES BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND LABOR COMMITTEE, OR THEIR
2 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

3 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2021-22 state fiscal year,
4 \$75,000 is appropriated to the department of labor and employment for
5 use by the executive director's office. This appropriation is from the
6 general fund. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation
7 for a wage replacement program study.

8 **SECTION 4. Effective date. (1)** This act takes effect upon
9 passage; except that:

10 (a) Section 1 of this act takes effect only if House Bill 21-1150
11 does not become law; and

12 (b) Section 2 of this act takes effect only if House Bill 21-1150
13 becomes law and takes effect either upon the effective date of this act or
14 House Bill 21-1150, whichever is later.

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