A BILL FOR AN ACT

Concerning measures to ensure the state's compliance with the requirements related to the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund created in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021".

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.)

In 2021, the state received $3,828,761,790 from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund as part of the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021". For purposes of complying with the
requirements established by the United States department of the treasury (treasury), the general assembly established administrative requirements related to the expenditure of this federal money. **Section 1** of the bill modifies these requirements by:

- Establishing deadlines for a subrecipient, which is a person that carries out a program or project on behalf of the state, to expend or obligate this money, and if not, to return this money to the state for the state to either expend or return to treasury, depending on the timing;
- Requiring the state controller to transmit to treasury any money that was obligated by December 31, 2024, but not expended by December 31, 2026;
- Requiring the department of revenue to provide the state controller with any information about any increases in the state's net tax revenue, which is necessary for calculating the state's revenue reductions for 2022 and 2023;
- Clarifying that the compliance, reporting, record-keeping, and program evaluation requirements established by the office of state planning and budgeting and the state controller apply to a person regardless of whether the person is a beneficiary or a subrecipient and regardless of whether the person receives the money directly from a department or from a subrecipient; and
- Permitting the state controller to report any expenditures to treasury as a government service to the extent of the reduction in the state's revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to the revenues the state collected for the state fiscal year 2018-19. **Sections 3 through 6** make conforming amendments related to this change.

The bill also substitutes money from the general fund or from a cash fund that included money that originated from the general fund for money that was allocated in 2021 legislation from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund, as follows:

- $29.5 million from the housing development grant fund (**section 7**);
- $36.5 million from the highway users tax fund that was distributed to counties, cities, and incorporated towns, which is accomplished by replenishing and reclassifying the federal funds that were initially used (**section 8**);
- $10 million from the Colorado startup loan program fund (**section 9**), with the freed up federal funds being transferred to the revenue loss restoration cash fund (**section 6**); and
- $98.5 million from the affordable housing and home
ownership cash fund (section 10).

Sections 2 and 6 include conforming amendments related to the reclassification of the money paid to the counties, cities, and incorporated towns.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-226, amend (4)(d), (5)(a), and (5)(f); and add (1)(a.5), (1)(f), and (5)(g) as follows:

24-75-226. "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" cash fund - creation - recipient funds - limitations - reporting - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a.5) "CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND" MEANS THE FEDERAL FUND CREATED IN 42 U.S.C. SEC. 802, OR ANY SUCCESSOR FUND.

(f) "SUBRECIPIENT" MEANS A PERSON THAT RECEIVES MONEY FROM THE FUND OR A RECIPIENT FUND TO CARRY OUT A PROGRAM OR PROJECT ON BEHALF OF THE STATE BUT THAT IS NOT A BENEFICIARY OF THE SERVICES OR BENEFITS PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM OR PROJECT.

(4)(d)(I) Money in the fund or a recipient fund must be expended or obligated by December 31, 2024. Any money obligated by December 31, 2024, must be expended by December 31, 2026. Just prior to the close of business on December 30, 2024, any unexpended appropriations from a recipient fund that are not for expenditures obligated TO BE MADE after December 31, 2024, THAT WERE OBLIGATED BEFORE THAT DATE, revert to the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" cash fund, and the state treasurer shall transfer the unexpended and unobligated balance in the fund to the unemployment compensation fund created in section 8-77-101.
(1) Any money obligated by December 31, 2024, must be expended by December 31, 2026. Effective December 31, 2026, the state controller shall transmit any unexpended money in the fund or a recipient fund to the United States department of the treasury.

(II) A subrecipient must spend or obligate money received from the fund or a recipient fund by November 30, 2024, and, by December 13, 2024, shall notify the state agency from which the subrecipient received the money of the status of the money that is obligated or expended. The subrecipient shall return to the state any unexpended and unobligated money under terms dictated by the state controller, and the state treasurer shall transfer the amount returned to the unemployment compensation fund created in section 8-77-101 (1). Any money obligated by November 30, 2024, must be expended by December 11, 2026. On or before December 11, 2026, the subrecipient shall return to the state any remaining money under terms dictated by the state controller and thereafter the state controller shall transmit the money to the United States department of the treasury in accordance with the treasury’s requirements.

(III) The state controller shall determine whether money is obligated for purposes of determining the deadline for expenditures and the reversion or repayment of money in accordance with this subsection (4)(d).

(5) (a) (I) The state controller shall provide periodic reports to the secretary as required by the secretary under the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021". The department of revenue shall provide the state controller
with any information required by the secretary about any reductions or increases in net tax revenue.

(II) The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(A) Under 42 U.S.C. sec. 802 (c)(1)(C), the state is permitted to use money received from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in the state’s revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to the revenues the state collected for the state fiscal year 2018-19;

(B) The United States Department of the Treasury has promulgated a rule to establish the methodology for the state to calculate a recipient government’s annual reduction in revenue for the four calendar years beginning in 2020;

(C) As of the effective date of this subsection (5)(a)(II), the state reported a reduction for the 2020 and 2021 calendar years that totals three billion six hundred ninety-four million six hundred fifty-three thousand two hundred forty-nine dollars;

(D) This amount exceeds the total of all the funds that have yet to be reported to the United States Department of the Treasury; and

(E) Therefore, any money in the fund or transferred from the fund to a recipient fund is available to be reported as being an expenditure for the provision of government services.

(III) The State Controller may report the expenditure of any money in or transferred from the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" that originated from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund as a government service to the extent of the
REDUCTION IN THE STATE'S REVENUE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATIVE TO THE REVENUES THE STATE COLLECTED FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2018-19, IF THE DESCRIPTION IS APPLICABLE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPENDITURE IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS BEING TO RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO COVID-19 OR ITS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS.

(f) The general assembly may appropriate money from a recipient fund that includes money that may be used for government services to the department of personnel for use by the state controller and to the office for any direct or indirect expenses related to the administration of this subsection (5).

(g) The compliance, reporting, record-keeping, and program evaluation requirements established by the office of state planning and budgeting and the state controller apply to a person regardless of whether the person is a beneficiary or a subrecipient and regardless of whether the person receives the money directly from a department or from a subrecipient.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-227, add (2)(b)(III) as follows:

24-75-227. Revenue loss restoration cash fund - creation - allowable uses - definitions - repeal. (2) (b) (III) The fund also includes the amounts transferred to the fund in accordance with sections 24-75-228 (3.5) and 43-4-205 (6.8)(d)(II)(B).

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-228, amend (2)(a) introductory portion; and add (3.5) as follows:

24-75-228. Economic recovery and relief cash fund - creation
allowable uses - interim task force - report - legislative declaration

definitions - repeal. (2)(a) The economic recovery and relief cash fund is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money credited to the fund in accordance with subsection (3) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts OR FOR THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, the general assembly may appropriate or transfer money from the fund to a department for the following uses:

(3.5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, WITHIN THREE BUSINESS DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (3.5), THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE FUND THAT ORIGINS FROM MONEY THE STATE RECEIVED FROM THE FEDERAL CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND TO THE REVENUE LOSS RESTORATION CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-227 (2)(a).

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-229, amend (3)(a) as follows:

24-75-229. Affordable housing and home ownership cash fund - creation - allowable uses - task force - legislative declaration - definitions - repeal. (3)(a) The affordable housing and home ownership cash fund is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money deposited in the fund in accordance with subsection (3)(b) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts OR FOR THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, the general assembly may
appropriate or transfer money from the fund to a department or cash fund for programs or services that benefit populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency to obtain affordable housing, focusing on programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable and workforce housing, or homelessness. Money from the fund may be expended to support the task force created in subsection (5)(a) of this section. Permissible uses of such money include costs associated with the creation and administration of the task force and related expenses for research and evaluation undertaken by the task force.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-230, amend (2)(a) as follows:

24-75-230. Behavioral and mental health cash fund - creation - allowable uses - task force - definitions - repeal. (2) (a) The behavioral and mental health cash fund is created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money credited to the fund in accordance with subsection (2)(b) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts OR FOR THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, the general assembly may appropriate money from the fund to a department for mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, and other behavioral health services BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-231, amend (2)(a) introductory portion; and add (2)(b)(III) as follows:

24-75-231. Workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund - creation - allowable uses - definitions - repeal. (2) (a) The
workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money credited to the fund in accordance with subsection (2)(b) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund. To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, The general assembly may appropriate money from the fund to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency OR FOR THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, including for the following purposes:

(b)(III) THE FUND ALSO INCLUDES THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 43-4-205 (6.8)(d)(II)(A).

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-721, amend (2)(g)(I) and (2)(g)(II) as follows:

24-32-721. Colorado affordable housing construction grants and loans - housing development grant fund - creation - housing assistance for persons with behavioral, mental health, or substance use disorders - cash fund - appropriation - report to general assembly - rules - definitions - repeal. (2) (g) (I) Within three business days of June 26, 2021, the state treasurer shall transfer thirty million dollars from the affordable housing and home ownership cash fund created in section 24-75-229, that originates from money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund, to the housing development grant fund and transfer fifteen million dollars from the general fund to the affordable housing and home ownership cash fund created in section 24-75-229. WITHIN THREE BUSINESS DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF HOUSE BILL 22-1411, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER:
(A) One million five hundred thousand dollars to the Housing Development Grant Fund from the Affordable Housing and Home Ownership Cash Fund created in section 24-75-229 that originates from the General Fund;

(B) Twenty-eight million dollars to the Housing Development Grant Fund from the General Fund; and

(C) Twenty-nine million five hundred thousand dollars from the Housing Development Grant Fund to the Affordable Housing and Home Ownership Cash Fund created in section 24-75-229. The transfer required by this subsection (2)(g)(I)(C) is from money that was transferred on June 26, 2021, to the Housing Development Grant Fund from the Affordable Housing and Home Ownership Cash Fund that originated from money the state received from the Federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

(II) The division shall use money transferred from the affordable housing and home ownership cash fund created in section 24-75-229, that originates from money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery General fund, pursuant to subsection (2)(g)(I) of this section for the purposes allowed under subsection (2)(d)(VI)(A.5) of this section that are related to subsection (2)(d)(VII) of this section and for the purposes allowed by subsection (2)(d)(VII) of this section.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 43-4-205, add (6.8)(d) as follows:

43-4-205. Allocation of fund - legislative declaration.

(6.8) (d) (I) The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that, in order to ensure the state's compliance with the
requirements established by the United States Department of the Treasury for money that the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund, created in 42 U.S.C. sec. 802, that it is necessary to reclassify the money that was paid to counties, cities, and incorporated towns in accordance with subsection (6.8)(c) of this section as state money that did not originate from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund, which is accomplished by replenishing the expended federal funds as set forth in this subsection (6.8)(d).

(ii) Within three days of the effective date of this subsection (6.8)(d)(ii), the state treasurer shall transfer from the general fund:

(A) Thirty million nine hundred thousand dollars to the workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund created in section 24-75-231 (2)(a); and

(B) Five million six hundred thousand dollars to the revenue loss restoration cash fund created in section 24-75-227 (2)(a).

(iii) Upon the transfer required by subsection (6.8)(d)(ii) of this section:

(A) The money transferred in accordance with subsection (6.8)(c) of this section is to be treated as if it was from the general fund and it is not subject to any of the requirements set forth in section 24-75-226; and

(B) The money transferred from the general fund replaces money that was initially distributed from the coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund and for all purposes is
SECTION 9. In Session Laws of Colorado 2021, amend section 2 of chapter 487 (HB21-1288) as follows:

Section 2. Appropriation. For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, $10,000,000 is appropriated to the Colorado startup loan program fund created in section 24-48.5-131 (9)(a), C.R.S. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228 (2)(a), C.R.S, and of money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The office of the governor is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.

SECTION 10. In Session Laws of Colorado 2021, section 4 of chapter 347 (HB21-1329), amend (1) as follows:

Section 4. Appropriation. (1) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, $98,500,000 is appropriated to the department of local affairs for use by the division of housing. This appropriation is from the affordable housing and home ownership cash fund created in section 24-75-229 (3)(a), C.R.S., and of money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund. The office of the governor is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation. To implement this act, the division may use the appropriation for purposes authorized in section 24-75-229 (3), C.R.S. Any money appropriated in this subsection that is not expended or encumbered at the end of the 2021-22 state fiscal year remains available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years without further appropriation. subject to the requirements for obligating and expending money received under the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub. L. 117-2, as the act may be subsequently
amended as specified in section 24-75-226 (4)(d); C.R.S.

SECTION 11. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby
finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.