A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING PROGRAMS TO PRESERVE MOBILE HOME COMMUNITIES,
AND, IN CONNECTION THERewith, ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING
LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST MOBILE HOME OWNERS
SEEKING TO PURCHASE THEIR COMMUNITIES.

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 revolving loan and grant program to provide assistance and financing to mobile home owners seeking to organize and purchase their mobile home parks. The division of housing (division) in
the department of local affairs (department) is required to contract with at least 2, and not more than 3, loan program administrators, unless the division determines that there is only one qualified applicant during an open and competitive selection process, in which case the division may contract with a single administrator.

The administrators are required to use money provided by the loan program to make loans to mobile home owners seeking to purchase their mobile home parks. The division is required to establish a grant program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that provide technical and other assistance to eligible home owners seeking to organize to purchase their mobile home parks. The division is also required to establish a grant program to provide grants to eligible home owners to support programs to ensure the long term affordability of a resident-owned park, including by stabilizing lot rents and limiting rent increases.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-32-726 as follows:

24-32-726. Mobile home park resident empowerment loan program - fund - creation - policies - report - legislative declaration - definitions. (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating and uneven economic and health consequences across the state;

(b) Communities that faced economic, health, and social vulnerabilities before the pandemic began have been disproportionately affected by the public health and economic consequences of the pandemic;

(c) The pandemic and the recession following the pandemic have increased housing insecurity among vulnerable and low-income communities;

(d) Residents and home owners in mobile home parks are
AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE FACED INCREASED ECONOMIC AND HOUSING INSECURITY IN THE WAKE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC;

(e) OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE IN COLORADO LIVE IN MOBILE HOME PARKS, INCLUDING MANY OF THE STATE'S LOW-INCOME WORKERS, IMMIGRANTS, OLDER ADULTS, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, AND VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES;

(f) WHILE MOBILE HOME PARKS ARE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LOW-INCOME HOME OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS, THE BUSINESS MODEL ASSOCIATED WITH MOBILE HOME PARKS CREATES UNIQUE AND SIGNIFICANT RISKS FOR MOBILE HOME OWNERS AND RESIDENTS;

(g) BECAUSE MOBILE HOME OWNERS OFTEN RENT THE LAND UNDER THEIR HOMES FROM A MOBILE HOME PARK OWNER OR LANDLORD, HOME OWNERS MAY EXPERIENCE UNPREDICTABLE HOUSING COST INCREASES, FACE COSTLY MOVES, OR LOSE THE VALUE OF THEIR HOME IF THE MOBILE HOME PARK OWNER SELLS THE PARK OR CHANGES THE USE OF THE LAND;

(h) RESIDENTS AND HOME OWNERS IN MOBILE HOME PARKS ARE THEREFORE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO HOUSING INSECURITY AND FACE DISPROPORTIONATE RISKS OF HOMELESSNESS OR EVICTION AS A RESULT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC;

(i) COLORADO LAW PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOBILE HOME OWNERS TO PURCHASE THEIR MOBILE HOME PARKS WHEN THE PARK OWNER OR LANDLORD DECIDES TO SELL THE PARK TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGES IN MOBILE HOME PARK OWNERSHIP;

(j) HOWEVER, MOBILE HOME OWNERS FACE OBSTACLES IN OBTAINING FINANCING THROUGH TRADITIONAL SOURCES, STOPPING
MOBILE HOME OWNERS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THEIR MOBILE HOME PARKS;

(k) COLORADO IS EXPERIENCING A LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT CRITICAL LEVELS. THE STATE CONTINUES TO ATTRACT NEW RESIDENTS AND JOBS, BUT WITH THIS GROWTH HAS COME EVER-INCREASING HOUSING PRICES, PLACING UNSUSTAINABLE DEMANDS ON THE STATE'S LIMITED HOUSING STOCK. THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS HAS ONLY BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC;

(l) IN 2021, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTED HOUSE BILL 21-1329, WHICH DIRECTED THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO MEET DURING THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM AND ISSUE A REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNOR ON POLICIES TO CREATE TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES IN THE AREA OF HOUSING;

(m) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUBSEQUENTLY CONVENE D THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRANSFORMATIONAL TASK FORCE AND SUBPANEL (TASK FORCE), MADE UP OF LEGISLATORS, EXECUTIVE BRANCH MEMBERS, AND DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING INDUSTRY EXPERTS;

(n) THE TASK FORCE EVALUATED PROPOSALS AND MADE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE A NEW VISION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING, SEEKING TO CREATE AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING SYSTEM THAT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IS AFFORDABLE, OVERCOMES DISPARITIES, BUILDS WEALTH, IS SUSTAINABLE, AND REMOVES OBSTACLES IN ORDER TO SUPPORT COLORADANS AND THEIR HOUSING NEEDS;

(o) THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDED THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CREATE A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOW-INTEREST
LOANS OR GRANTS, OR BOTH, FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURALLY
OCCURRING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, SUCH AS MOBILE HOME PARKS,
INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF SUCH AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY MOBILE
HOME OWNERS OR COMMUNITY OR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT EVICTION AND DISPLACEMENT, AND BUILD
CAPACITY, ESPECIALLY AMONG COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY
DISADVANTAGED AND IMPACTED BY COVID-19;

(p) ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT FUND TO HELP
PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SECURE FINANCING FOR MOBILE
HOME OWNERS TO ORGANIZE AND PURCHASE THEIR MOBILE HOME PARKS
CAN SUPPORT LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING SECURITY IN THE STATE
BY ALLOWING MOBILE HOME OWNERS TO PURCHASE THE LAND THAT THEIR
MOBILE HOMES OCCUPY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE RISKS AND
INSECURITIES THEY CURRENTLY FACE WITH THE TURNOVER IN MOBILE
HOME PARK OWNERSHIP;

(q) PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM HOUSING SECURITY,
INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE
PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE UNBANKED AND
UNDERBANKED, ARE ESSENTIAL TO ADDRESS THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING
CRISIS IN COLORADO AND TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE COLORADO'S
LARGEST SOURCE OF UNSUBSIDIZED AFFORDABLE HOUSING;

(r) CREATING A REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM FOR
MOBILE HOME PARK RESIDENTS TO ORGANIZE AND PURCHASE THEIR
MOBILE HOME PARKS Responds to the Negative Economic Impacts of
the COVID-19 PANDEMIC BY HELPING RESIDENTS WHO ARE OFTEN LOW
INCOME AND WHO FACE DISPROPORTIONATE RISKS OF HOUSING
INSECURITY BECOME MORE SECURE WHILE DEVELOPING LONG-TERM
AFFORDABLE HOUSING SECURITY FOR COLORADO;

(s) BY CREATING LONG-TERM, SUSTAINABLE SOURCES OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS, THE REVOLVING LOAN
AND GRANT PROGRAM SERVES AN IMPORTANT AND DISCRETE PUBLIC
PURPOSE IN SECURING THE STATE'S ECONOMIC AND OVERALL RECOVERY
FROM THE CRISIS CAUSED BY COVID-19; AND

(t) SUPPORTING THE STATE'S RECOVERY FROM THE CRISIS CAUSED
BY COVID-19 AND SUPPORTING LONG-TERM HOUSING SECURITY
THROUGH THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE
HOUSING IS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT
PROGRAM AND OUTWEIGHS ANY BENEFIT TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR
ENTITIES.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
REQUIRES:

(a) "ADMINISTRATOR" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT THE DIVISION
CONTRACTS WITH PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION TO
ADMINISTER THE LOAN PROGRAM.

(b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.

(c) "ELIGIBLE HOME OWNERS" MEANS A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION
OF MOBILE HOME OWNERS OR THEIR ASSIGNEES SEEKING TO PURCHASE A
MOBILE HOME PARK PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-12-217.

(d) "FUND" MEANS THE MOBILE HOME PARK RESIDENT
EMPOWERMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED IN
SUBSECTION (10) OF THIS SECTION.

(e) "PROGRAM" OR "LOAN PROGRAM" MEANS A MOBILE HOME
PARK RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT LOAN PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.
(3) (a) The division shall contract with at least two and
not more than three administrators to establish a mobile home
park resident empowerment loan program in accordance with
this section; except that, if the division finds that there is only
one qualified applicant in an open and competitive selection
process, the division may contract with a single administrator.
The purpose of the program is to provide both acquisitions and
capital improvement financing to eligible home owners in order
to allow them to purchase their mobile home park pursuant to
section 38-12-217. An administrator must be a business nonprofit
organization, nondepository community development financial
institution, business development corporation, or other entity
as determined by the division. The division shall use an open and
competitive process to select the administrator or
administrators for the program.

(b) In selecting an administrator or administrators, the
division shall give priority to applicants that demonstrate:

(I) Operational capacity to deploy the program money for
the intended purpose;

(II) Proficiency in financial management and public
reporting systems;

(III) The ability to leverage additional public or private
capital to provide loans to eligible home owners; and

(IV) A track record of distributing grant or loan funds
in an efficient manner.

(4) (a) Notwithstanding any restriction on the investment
of state money set forth in section 24-36-113 or any other
PROVISION OF LAW, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF MONEY IN THE FUND
AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE DIVISION MAY TRANSFER
MONEY FROM THE FUND TO AN ADMINISTRATOR PURSUANT TO A
CONTRACT TO ESTABLISH A LOAN PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
SECTION. AN ADMINISTRATOR SHALL USE THE MONEY PROVIDED TO MAKE
LOANS TO ELIGIBLE HOME OWNERS.

(b) A CONTRACT WITH AN ADMINISTRATOR MAY INCLUDE AN
ADMINISTRATION FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE DIVISION AT AN AMOUNT
REASONABLY CALCULATED TO COVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE
DIVISION IN IMPLEMENTING AND OVERSEEING THE PROGRAM. A CONTRACT
WITH AN ADMINISTRATOR MAY REQUIRE THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REPAY
ALL LENDING CAPITAL THAT IS NOT COMMITTED TO LOANS UNDER THE
PROGRAM AND ALL PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST THAT IS REPAID BY
BORROWERS UNDER THE PROGRAM AT THE END OF THE CONTRACT PERIOD
IF, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE DIVISION, THE ADMINISTRATOR HAS NOT
PERFORMED SUCCESSFULLY UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT. THE
DIVISION MAY REDEPLOY MONEY REPAID UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b)
THROUGH A CONTRACT WITH ANOTHER NEW OR EXISTING ADMINISTRATOR.

(c) IN DEVELOPING PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS AND
PERFORMANCE REVIEWS FOR ADMINISTRATORS, THE DIVISION SHALL
CONSULT WITH ELIGIBLE HOME OWNERS AND INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS
SUPPORTING ELIGIBLE HOME OWNERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE
SUCCESSFULLY PURCHASED THEIR MOBILE HOME PARK OR WHO HAVE
ATTEMPTED TO PURCHASE THEIR MOBILE HOME PARK UNDER SECTION
38-12-217.

(5) (a) AN ADMINISTRATOR SHALL ESTABLISH AND PUBLISH
POLICIES FOR THE LOAN PROGRAM, WHICH MUST MEET ANY CRITERIA OR
 TERMS ESTABLISHED BY THE DIVISION. AT A MINIMUM, THE POLICIES MUST
ADDRESS:

(I) THE PROCESS AND DEADLINES FOR APPLYING FOR AND
RECEIVING A LOAN UNDER THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE INFORMATION
AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THE APPLICATION;
(II) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE HOME OWNERS APPLYING
TO THE PROGRAM;
(III) MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE LEVELS FOR LOANS;
(IV) LOAN TERMS, INCLUDING INTEREST RATES AND REPAYMENT
TERMS;
(V) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS;
(VI) PROGRAM FEES, INCLUDING THE APPLICATION FEE,
ORIGINATION FEE, AND CLOSING COSTS POLICIES;
(VII) UNDERWRITING AND RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES;
(VIII) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE LOAN TERMS WILL RESULT IN
AFFORDABLE RENTS AND MINIMAL DISPLACEMENT FOR CURRENTLY
ELIGIBLE HOME OWNERS;
(IX) THE FEASIBILITY AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF
GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES SUPPORTED BY HOME
OWNER PURCHASE LOANS, AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH STRUCTURES,
LOAN TERMS, AND ADMINISTRATION MAY DISADVANTAGE SOME
COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS; AND
(X) ANY ADDITIONAL POLICIES NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE
PROGRAM.
(b) THE POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY AN ADMINISTRATOR MUST
ALLOW A PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED APPLICATION OR AN APPROVED LOAN TO
BE TRANSFERRED TO AN ASSIGNEE IF A GROUP OR ASSOCIATION OF HOME
OWNERS PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE OF AN ASSIGNMENT EXECUTED
PURSUANT TO SECTION 38-12-217 (8).

(c) The policies required by this subsection (5) shall be
developed and implemented with a goal of generating enough
return to replenish the program for future loan allocations.

(6) In determining the eligibility of applicants and the size
and terms of loans, the administrator shall prioritize
low-income communities and other communities that have faced
disproportionate impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

(7) (a) The division shall establish a grant program to
provide grants to one or more nonprofit organizations to
provide technical and other assistance to eligible home owners
seeking to organize and purchase their mobile home park.

(b) The division shall establish and publicize policies for
the grant program. At a minimum, the policies must address:

(I) The process and any deadlines for applying for and
receiving a grant under the program, including the information
and documentation required for the application;

(II) Eligibility and selection criteria for nonprofit
organizations applying to receive grants;

(III) Maximum grant sizes;

(IV) Any additional specifications or criteria for the uses
of the grant money allowed by subsection (7)(c) of this section;

(V) Any reporting requirements for recipients; and

(VI) Any additional policies necessary to administer the
program.

(c) Grant recipients may use grant money:
(I) To provide technical assistance to eligible home owners seeking to organize to purchase their mobile home park in accordance with this section;

(II) To provide additional assistance to eligible home owners, including by conducting assessments of the physical condition of mobile home parks subject to purchase, procuring or providing legal or law-related services, providing earnest deposits or pre-paid escrow, providing supplemental financial services, or providing additional technical and administrative assistance after a successful purchase; and

(III) For other related uses identified by the division.

(d) Subject to available appropriations, grants may be paid from the fund and from any additional funding source for which the division has spending authority for this purpose.

(8) (a) The division shall establish a grant program to provide grants to eligible home owners in order to support and maintain the long-term affordability of a resident owned mobile home park.

(b) The division shall establish and publicize policies for the grant program. At a minimum, the policies must address:

(I) The process and any deadlines for applying for and receiving a grant under the program, including the information and documentation required for the application;

(II) Eligibility and selection criteria for eligible home owners applying to receive grants;

(III) Maximum grant sizes;

(IV) Reporting requirements for recipients;
(V) Criteria for the types of rent stabilization and affordability programs supported by the program; and

(VI) Any additional policies necessary to administer the program.

(c) Grant recipients may use grant money for programs to stabilize lot rents and limit rent increases in the park in order to ensure the long-term affordability of the park.

(d) Subject to available appropriations, grants may be paid from the fund and from any additional funding source for which the division has spending authority for this purpose.

(9) The division may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes of this section. The division shall transmit all money received through gifts, grants, or donations to the state treasurer, who shall credit the money to the fund.

(10) (a) The mobile home park resident empowerment loan and grant program fund is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund consists of any money that the general assembly appropriates or transfers to the fund and any gifts, grants, or donations credited to the fund pursuant to subsection (9) of this section.

(b) The state treasurer shall credit all interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in the fund to the fund.

(c) Money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the department for the purposes specified in this section. The department may use up to five percent of the money
APPROPRIATED, TRANSFERRED, OR REPAID UNDER A CONTRACT WITH AN
ADMINISTRATOR TO THE FUND TO PAY FOR ITS DIRECT AND INDIRECT
COSTS IN ADMINISTERING THIS SECTION.

(d) On July 1, 2022, the state treasurer shall transfer
THIRTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE FUND.

(11) The department shall annually report on the loan
and grant programs established in this section as part of its
"STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND
TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT" PRESENTATION REQUIRED
BY SECTION 2-7-203.

SECTION 2. 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.