

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 23-0023.02 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 23-1200**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ricks and Bockenfeld,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR PERSONS WITH BEHAVIORAL**  
102 **HEALTH DISORDERS.**

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**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 creates a behavioral health treatment voucher pilot program (program) to allow persons experiencing a behavioral health crisis who cannot find treatment with a behavioral health administration safety net provider to receive a voucher to use for payment with a private treatment provider (provider). The provider submits the voucher to the appropriate regional behavioral health administrative service organization

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

for reimbursement. The bill allows one year for development of the program, then the program will operate through July 1, 2027. At the conclusion of the program, the behavioral health administration (BHA), in connection with the department of health care policy and financing and the department of human services, shall prepare a one-time report for the public and behavioral health and human services committee of the house of representatives and the health and human services committee of the senate. The bill grants the BHA authority to promulgate rules related to the creation of the program.

The bill requires the behavioral health administration to create a family input form and require all behavioral health entities, recovery support services organizations, controlled substance licensed facilities, medicaid providers, hospitals, and emergency rooms to accept the family input form. The family input form allows a family member or friend of an individual to provide information or background on an individual needing mental health or behavioral health services.

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

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3 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 27-50-109** as  
4 follows:

5 **27-50-109. Bill of rights for family and friends of persons with**  
6 **mental and behavioral health disorders - family input form -**  
7 **permissions.** (1) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE BHA SHALL  
8 CREATE A FAMILY INPUT PROCESS TO ALLOW A PARENT, A LEGAL OR  
9 CUSTODIAL GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL, OR A FRIEND OF THE INDIVIDUAL  
10 TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OR BACKGROUND ON AN INDIVIDUAL NEEDING  
11 MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT  
12 LIMITED TO, INFORMATION ABOUT PAST HOSPITALIZATIONS, PREFERENCES,  
13 DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES, CURRENT AND PAST PROVIDERS, CURRENT  
14 AND PAST MEDICATIONS, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT  
15 THE INDIVIDUAL. THE FAMILY INPUT PROCESS MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE  
16 WITH THE FEDERAL "HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND

1 ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996", AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT STATE AND  
2 FEDERAL STATUTES. THE FAMILY INPUT PROCESS MUST INCLUDE  
3 GUIDANCE TO PROVIDERS CONCERNING HOW TO TREAT INFORMATION  
4 RECEIVED FROM A PARENT, A LEGAL GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAN OR A  
5 FRIEND; DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WHO  
6 ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING SERVICES FROM THE PROVIDER AND THOSE  
7 WHO ARE NOT; AND SPECIFY THAT PROVIDERS CANNOT USE THE  
8 INFORMATION TO FORCE A FAMILY MEMBER INTO TREATMENT.

9 (b) TO DEVELOP THE FAMILY INPUT PROCESS, THE BHA SHALL  
10 CONVENE A STAKEHOLDER GROUP COMPRISED OF MEMBERS OF THE BHA  
11 ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE; BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
12 PROVIDERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES; REPRESENTATIVES OF  
13 CONSUMER GROUPS; AND INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN STATE AND  
14 FEDERAL PRIVACY LAW PLUS ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVES THE BHA  
15 DEEMS NECESSARY. THE STAKEHOLDER GROUP SHALL EXAMINE VARYING  
16 SITUATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, POTENTIAL INTERSECTION  
17 WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT, AND  
18 THOSE SITUATIONS IN WHICH A CLIENT HAS CEASED OR REFUSED CARE.

19 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
22 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
23 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
24 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
25 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
26 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.