First Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0464.02 Pierce Lively x2059

HOUSE BILL 23-1302

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ortiz and Lieder, Bacon, Garcia, Jodeh, Joseph, Mabrey, Vigil

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Senate Committees

Transportation, Housing & Local Government

	A BILL FOR AN ACT
101	CONCERNING ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING, AND, IN
102	CONNECTION THEREWITH, MODIFYING THE STANDARDS FOR
103	ACCESSIBLE HOUSING, UPDATING THE PROHIBITION ON UNFAIR
104	OR DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS
105	WITH DISABILITIES, AND AUTHORIZING A COURT TO EXTEND THE
106	DATE FOR A COURT HEARING UPON RECEIVING A WRITTEN
107	REQUEST FOR A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION PURSUANT TO
108	PROHIBITED UNFAIR HOUSING PRACTICES.

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 modifies the accessible housing standards and specifications exception process for housing for which building plans are submitted to a governmental unit on or after July 1, 2023. A governmental unit may only grant exceptions to any particular accessible housing standard or specification when the governmental unit determines that the standard or specification is technically infeasible and would create an undue hardship. The determination must be in writing and must articulate the relevant undue hardship.

Similarly, the bill requires that the alteration of walls or defining boundaries in housing that was under construction prior to July 1, 2023, must comply with certain minimum alteration requirements, unless there is a determination of undue hardship by the relevant governmental unit. However, even if a governmental unit makes a determination of undue hardship, the alterations must still comply with the minimum alteration requirements to the maximum extent feasible.

The bill establishes that failure to comply with certain standards for accessible housing constitutes discrimination on the basis of a disability jointly and severally by the owner of the relevant property and any construction professionals who participate in the noncompliant construction or alteration of the relevant property. The bill creates a civil action for an individual with a disability subject to a failure or the attorney general.

The bill requires that certain new construction projects and alterations provide a certain number of type B dwelling units or type B multistory dwelling units, and in some cases at least one type A dwelling unit or type A multistory dwelling unit, based on the number of dwelling units in the construction project or alteration.

The bill prohibits a landlord from refusing a request by an individual with a disability to make modifications, at the individual's own expense, necessary to afford the individual the full enjoyment of the property.

The bill requires newly constructed housing to have:

- At least one building entrance on an accessible route, unless doing so would be an undue hardship;
- Fire alarms that are accessible to individuals with a disability, so long as the dwelling unit does not require individuals to purchase their own fire alarms; and
- Emergency exits that are accessible to individuals with a disability.

The bill also states that a failure to ensure the following qualifies as discrimination against an individual with a disability:

• That all mailboxes assigned to dwelling units are fully accessible to any individual with a disability who lives in

-2- HB23-1302

- those dwelling units; and
- That all signage in dwelling units, including directories and elevator buttons, is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Lastly, the bill authorizes a court to extend:

- The answer date in an eviction proceeding if the defendant files a written request with the court for a reasonable accommodation pursuant to prohibited unfair housing practices; and
- The hearing date for a hearing required during a foreclosure proceeding if the borrower files a written request with the court for a reasonable accommodation pursuant to prohibited unfair housing practices.

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

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2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

- (a) Hundreds of thousands of Coloradans have one or more disabilities and this number is increasing as the population ages;
- (b) As of 2023, approximately twenty-six percent of adults in the United States live with a disability and approximately sixteen percent of individuals in the United States are over the age of sixty-five;
- (c) Historically, societies have tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities from their own homes and communities;
- (d) The "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" did not become law until 1990, and was only a start to try and secure basic access and civil rights for individuals with disabilities;
- (e) Individuals with disabilities continually encounter various forms of discrimination, including outright intentional exclusion, the discriminatory effects of architectural, transportation, and communication barriers, overprotective and paternalistic rules and policies, unequal treatment resulting from stereotypical assumptions not indicative of an

-3- HB23-1302

1	individual's actual abilities, failure to make modifications to existing
2	facilities and practices, exclusionary qualification standards and criteria,
3	segregation, and relegation to lesser services, programs, activities,
4	benefits, jobs, or other opportunities;
5	(f) Individuals with disabilities are more likely to live near or
6	below the poverty line and there is a shortage of dwellings accessible to
7	individuals with disabilities, making accessible housing more difficult to
8	obtain for individuals with disabilities than for many others;
9	(g) It is the policy of the state of Colorado to provide for fair
10	housing throughout Colorado;
11	(h) Ensuring fair and accessible housing not only benefits
12	individuals with disabilities, but also provides safer working conditions
13	for home health-care workers; and
14	(i) Allowing Coloradans with disabilities and older Coloradans to
15	remain in their homes and communities will benefit such individuals,
16	enrich their communities, and lessen burdens on the medical and nursing
17	home systems.
18	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 9-5-101, amend (10),
19	(11), (12), and (13); repeal (1) and (14); and add (2.5) and (16) as
20	follows:
21	9-5-101. Definitions. As used in this article 5, unless the context
22	otherwise requires:
23	(1) "Accessibility point" means a unit of value exchanged for
24	different levels of accessible dwelling types to satisfy the requirements
25	for dwelling accessibility contained in this article.
26	(2.5) "ALTERATION" MEANS A CHANGE TO A PROJECT, PROPERTY,
27	OR RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNIT THAT AFFECTS OR COULD AFFECT THE

-4- HB23-1302

1	USABILITY OF THE PROJECT, PROPERTY, OR RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNIT,
2	OR ANY PART THEREOF, AND INCLUDES REMODELING, RENOVATION,
3	REHABILITATION, RECONSTRUCTION, HISTORIC RESTORATION, CHANGES OR
4	REARRANGEMENT IN STRUCTURAL PARTS OR ELEMENTS, AND CHANGES OR
5	REARRANGEMENT IN THE PLAN CONFIGURATION OF WALLS AND
6	FULL-HEIGHT PARTITIONS. NORMAL MAINTENANCE, REROOFING, PAINTING
7	OR WALLPAPERING, ASBESTOS REMOVAL, OR CHANGES TO MECHANICAL
8	AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS ARE NOT ALTERATIONS UNLESS THEY AFFECT
9	THE USABILITY OF THE BUILDING OR FACILITY.
10	(10) "Type A dwelling unit" means a dwelling unit designed in
11	accordance with ICC/ANSI A117.1, section 1002 SECTION 1103, or any
12	successor section within ICC/ANSI A117.1.
13	(11) "Type A multistory dwelling unit" means a multiple-story
14	dwelling unit with a ground story level designed in accordance with
15	ICC/ANSI A117.1, section 1002 SECTION 1103, or any successor section
16	within ICC/ANSI A117.1, and, if provided, accessible laundry facilities
17	on the ground story level.
18	(12) "Type B dwelling unit" means a dwelling unit with a ground
19	floor level designed in accordance with ICC/ANSI A117.1, section 1003
20	SECTION 1104, or any successor section within ICC/ANSI A117.1.
21	(13) "Type B multistory dwelling unit" means a multiple-story
22	dwelling unit with a ground story level that is designed in accordance
23	with ICC/ANSI A117.1, section 1003 SECTION 1104, or any successor
24	section within ICC/ANSI A117.1, and, if provided, accessible laundry
25	facilities on the ground story level.
26	(14) "Type B visitable ground floor" means a multiple-story
27	dwelling unit with an accessible entrance and toilet facility designed in

-5- HB23-1302

accordance with ICC/ANSI A117.1, section 1003, or any successor section within ICC/ANSI A117.1.

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(16) "Unit with communication features" means a residential dwelling unit that provides communication features for people with communication disabilities in accordance with ICC/ANSI A117.1, section 1106.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 9-5-103, **amend** (1) and (3) as follows:

9-5-103. Applicability of standards - enforcement. (1) The standards and specifications set forth in this article shall ARTICLE 5 apply to all buildings and facilities used for housing that are constructed in whole or in part by the use of state, county, or municipal funds MONEY or the funds MONEY of any political subdivision of the state or that are constructed with private funds MONEY. All such buildings and facilities to be constructed from plans on which architectural drawings are started after July 1, 1975 SUBMITTED TO THE DIVISION OF HOUSING OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION'S BUILDING DEPARTMENT, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-5-104, AFTER JULY 1, 2023, from any one of these funds or any combination thereof shall conform to each of the standards and specifications prescribed in this article ARTICLE 5. The governmental unit responsible for the enforcement of this article ARTICLE 5 shall grant exceptions to or modify any particular standard or specification when it is determined DETERMINES that it THE STANDARD OR SPECIFICATION is impractical TECHNICALLY INFEASIBLE and would create an undue hardship. Any such exception or modification of the provisions of this article shall ARTICLE 5 MUST be made in writing as a matter of public record and must articulate the undue hardship determined

-6-

HB23-1302

TO SUPPORT SUCH EXCEPTION OR MODIFICATION. These standards and specifications shall be adhered to in those buildings and facilities that are constructed or proposed on or after April 29, 2003. This article shall apply ARTICLE 5 APPLIES to permanent buildings INCLUDING FACTORY-BUILT RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES BUT EXCLUDING TINY HOMES, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION 24-32-3302.

- (3) Any building or facility that would have been subject to this article 5 but was under construction OR UNDERGOING ALTERATION prior to July 1, 1976, JULY 1, 2023, must comply with the following:
- (a) If the walls or defining boundaries of an element or space are altered, then the altered element or space shall comply with the applicable provisions of section 9-5-105, unless such alteration is technically infeasible DETERMINED TO BE AN UNDUE HARDSHIP PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION. If full compliance with this article ARTICLE 5 is technically infeasible DETERMINED TO BE AN UNDUE HARDSHIP PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, compliance shall be implemented up to the point of technical infeasibility TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE, AS DETERMINED BY THE DIVISION OF HOUSING OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION'S BUILDING DEPARTMENT, OR ITS EQUIVALENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 9-5-104. No alteration shall be undertaken that negatively impacts accessibility of a building or facility pursuant to ICC/ANSI A117.1. This subsection (3)(a) shall not be construed to require the moving of any existing walls not otherwise planned to be moved.
- (b) Any additions AND ALTERATIONS to a building or facility shall be treated as ARE new construction for the purposes of enforcement of this article ARTICLE 5.

-7- HB23-1302

1	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 9-5-104, add (2), (3),
2	and (4) as follows:
3	9-5-104. Responsibility for enforcing standards. (2) FAILURE
4	TO CONSTRUCT ANY BUILDING OR FACILITY SUBJECT TO THIS ARTICLE $5\mathrm{IN}$
5	ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 5 CONSTITUTES DISCRIMINATION ON THE
6	BASIS OF DISABILITY JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY BY THE OWNER OF THE
7	SUBJECT PROPERTY AND ANY CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS, AS DEFINED
8	IN SECTION 13-20-802.5 (4), WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE NONCOMPLIANT
9	CONSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, IN VIOLATION
10	OF SECTIONS 24-34-502.2 AND 24-34-802.
11	(3) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION TO THE CONTRARY, AN
12	INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY SUBJECT TO A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE
13	5 MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION
14	AND IS ENTITLED TO ANY OF THE REMEDIES SET FORTH IN SECTION
15	24-34-505.6 (6) ordered by the court rather than the commission.
16	(4) Whenever the attorney general has probable cause to
17	BELIEVE THAT ANY PERSON HAS VIOLATED OR CAUSED ANOTHER TO
18	VIOLATE THIS ARTICLE 5 OR THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN DENIED ANY
19	OF THE RIGHTS GRANTED BY THIS ARTICLE 5, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
20	MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE STATE PURSUANT TO
21	SECTION 24-34-306.
22	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal and reenact,
23	with amendments, 9-5-105 as follows:
24	9-5-105. Exemptions for certain privately funded projects -
25	minimum construction and alteration requirements. (1) ACCESSIBLE
26	RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS MUST BE PROVIDED AS REQUIRED IN THIS
27	ARTICLE 5; EXCEPT THAT THIS ARTICLE 5 DOES NOT APPLY TO EITHER:

-8- HB23-1302

1	(a) PRIVATELY FUNDED PROJECTS THAT ARE INTENDED TO AND DO
2	PROVIDE THREE OR FEWER DETACHED RESIDENCES; OR
3	(b) A RESIDENCE THAT CONSTITUTES AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AS
4	DEFINED IN SECTION 29-32-101 (2), IS BUILT BY A NONPROFIT AFFORDABLE
5	HOMEOWNERSHIP BUILDER, HAS A PROSPECTIVE OWNER WHO HAS BEEN
6	IDENTIFIED AND SELECTED BY THE NONPROFIT AFFORDABLE
7	HOMEOWNERSHIP BUILDER, AND IS RESTRICTED BY A DEED THAT
8	MAINTAINS THE RESIDENCE AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AS DEFINED IN
9	SECTION 29-32-101 (2).
10	(2) (a) A NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OR ALTERATION SUBJECT
11	TO THIS ARTICLE 5 AND CONSISTING OF BETWEEN FOUR AND TEN DWELLING
12	UNITS MUST PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE TYPE B DWELLING UNIT OR TYPE B
13	MULTISTORY DWELLING UNIT.
14	(b) A NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OR ALTERATION SUBJECT TO
15	THIS ARTICLE 5 AND CONSISTING OF BETWEEN ELEVEN AND TWENTY
16	DWELLING UNITS MUST PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE TYPE B DWELLING UNIT OR
17	TYPE B MULTISTORY DWELLING UNIT AND AT LEAST ONE TYPE A
18	DWELLING UNIT OR TYPE A MULTISTORY DWELLING UNIT.
19	(c) A NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OR ALTERATION SUBJECT TO
20	THIS ARTICLE 5 AND CONSISTING OF MORE THAN TWENTY DWELLING UNITS
21	MUST COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS
22	SECTION AND MUST ALSO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL TYPE B
23	DWELLING UNIT OR TYPE B MULTISTORY DWELLING UNIT FOR EVERY TEN
24	DWELLING UNITS IN THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT OR ALTERATION,
25	ROUNDING TO THE NEAREST NUMBER OF TEN DWELLING UNITS, BEYOND
26	THE FIRST TWENTY DWELLING UNITS.
27	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 9-5-106 as

-9- HB23-1302

follows:

9-5-106. Implementation plan. The builder of any project
regulated by this article ARTICLE 5 shall create an implementation plan
that guarantees the timely and evenly phased delivery of the required
number of accessible units. Such plan shall clearly specify the number
and type of units required and the order in which they are to be
completed. Such implementation plan shall be subject to approval by the
entity with enforcement authority in such project's jurisdiction. The
implementation plan shall not be approved if more than thirty percent of
the project is intended to be completed without providing a portion of
accessible units required by section 9-5-105; except that, if an undue
hardship can be demonstrated, or IS DETERMINED PURSUANT TO SECTION
9-5-103 (1) AND other guarantees provided are deemed sufficient, the
jurisdiction having responsibility for enforcement may grant exceptions
to this requirement. The implementation plan shall be approved by the
governmental unit responsible for enforcement before a building permit
is issued. The failure of the governmental unit responsible for
ENFORCEMENT TO REQUIRE AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OR TO ENSURE
COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE 5, NOTWITHSTANDING THE GRANT OF ANY
UNDUE HARDSHIP EXCEPTION, BEFORE A BUILDING PERMIT IS ISSUED
CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF SECTION 24-34-802 BY THE
GOVERNMENTAL UNIT.
SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-40-111, amend
(1) as follows:
13-40-111. Issuance and return of summons. (1) Upon filing
the complaint as required in section 13-40-110, the clerk of the court or

the attorney for the plaintiff shall issue a summons. The summons must

-10- HB23-1302

command the defendant to appear before the court at a place named in the
summons and at a time and on a day not less than seven days but not more
than fourteen days from the day of issuing the same SUMMONS to answer
the complaint of plaintiff; EXCEPT THAT THE COURT MAY EXTEND THE
ANSWER DATE IN THE SUMMONS MORE THAN FOURTEEN DAYS FROM THE
DATE OF THE SUMMONS IF THE DEFENDANT FILES A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR
A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WITH THE COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION
24-34-502.2. A court shall not enter a default judgment for possession
before the close of business on the date upon which an appearance is due.
The summons must also contain a statement addressed to the defendant
stating: "If you do not respond to the landlord's complaint by filing a
written answer with the court on or before the date and time in this
summons or appearing in court at the date and time in this summons, the
judge may enter a default judgment against you in favor of your landlord
for possession. A default judgment for possession means that you will
have to move out, and it may mean that you will have to pay money to the
landlord. In your answer to the court, you can state why you believe you
have a right to remain in the property, whether you admit or deny the
landlord's factual allegations against you, and whether you believe you
were given proper notice of the landlord's reasons for terminating your
tenancy before you got this summons. When you file your answer, you
must pay a filing fee to the clerk of the court. If you are claiming that the
landlord's failure to repair a residential premises is a defense to the
landlord's allegation of nonpayment of rent, the court will require you to
pay into the registry of the court, at the time of filing your answer, the
rent due less any expenses you have incurred based upon the landlord's
failure to repair the residential premise; unless the court determines that

-11- HB23-1302

you qualify to have this requirement waived due to your income."

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-502.2, **amend**3 (2)(a), (2)(c) introductory portion, (2)(c)(III), and (2)(c)(IV); **repeal** (3)
4 and (4); and **add** (2)(c)(V), (2)(c)(VI), (2)(d), and (2)(e) as follows:

- 24-34-502.2. Unfair or discriminatory housing practices against individuals with disabilities prohibited. (2) For purposes of this section, "discrimination" includes both segregate and separate and includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) A refusal to permit, at the expense of an individual with a disability, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by the individual if the modifications are necessary to afford the individual with full enjoyment of the premises; except that, in the case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so, condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted;
- multifamily dwellings for first occupancy after the date that is thirty months after the date of enactment of the federal "Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988" PROPERTY, PROJECTS, AND RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION 9-5-101, SUBJECT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 9, THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THAT ARTICLE, AND a failure to design and construct those dwellings in such a manner that the public use and common use portions of the dwellings are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. At least one building entrance must be on an accessible route unless it is impractical to do so because of the terrain or

-12- HB23-1302

1	the unusual characteristics of the site AN EXCEPTION RESULTING FROM A
2	FINDING OF UNDUE HARDSHIP IS MADE IN WRITING AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC
3	RECORD BY THE RELEVANT POLITICAL SUBDIVISION'S BUILDING
4	DEPARTMENT. All doors designed to allow passage into and within all
5	premises within the dwellings must be sufficiently wide to allow passage
6	by individuals with disabilities using mobility devices, NO LESS THAN
7	THIRTY-TWO INCHES WIDE and all premises within the dwellings must
8	contain the following features of adaptive design IN COMPLIANCE WITH
9	THE REQUIREMENTS OF ICC/ANSI A117.1, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
10	9-5-101 (5.5):
11	(III) Reinforcements in bathroom walls to allow later installation
12	of grab bars; and
13	(IV) Usable kitchens and bathrooms such that an individual using
14	a mobility device can maneuver about the space;
15	(V) FIRE ALARMS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH A
16	DISABILITY, SO LONG AS THE DWELLING UNIT DOES NOT REQUIRE
17	INDIVIDUALS TO PURCHASE THEIR OWN FIRE ALARMS; AND
18	(VI) EMERGENCY EXITS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS
19	WITH A DISABILITY.
20	(d) FAILURE TO ENSURE THAT ALL MAILBOXES ASSIGNED TO
21	DWELLING UNITS SUBJECT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 9 ARE FULLY ACCESSIBLE
22	TO ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO LIVES IN THOSE DWELLING
23	UNITS; AND
24	(e) FAILURE TO ENSURE THAT ALL SIGNAGE IN THE DWELLING
25	UNITS, INCLUDING DIRECTORIES AND ELEVATOR BUTTONS, IS ACCESSIBLE
26	TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.
27	(3) Compliance with the appropriate requirements of the

-13- HB23-1302

1	"Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities" standard, or any
2	successor standard, promulgated and amended from time to time by the
3	international code council (commonly cited as ICC/ANSI A117.1)
4	suffices to satisfy the requirements of subsection (2)(c) of this section.
5	(4) As used in this section, "covered multifamily dwellings"
6	means:
7	(a) Buildings consisting of four or more units if such buildings
8	have one or more elevators; and
9	(b) Ground floor units in other buildings consisting of four or
10	more units.
11	SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 38-38-105, add (3.5)
12	as follows:
13	38-38-105. Court order authorizing sale mandatory - notice of
14	hearing for residential properties - definition. (3.5) THE COURT MAY
15	EXTEND THE HEARING DATE FOR A HEARING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS
16	ARTICLE 38 IF THE BORROWER FILES A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR A
17	REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WITH THE COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION
18	24-34-502.2.
19	SECTION 10. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
20	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21	preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

-14- HB23-1302