

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0814.01 Shelby Ross x4510

SENATE BILL 23-138

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, Bridges

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Sirota, Bockenfeld

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Senate Committees  
Appropriations

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE  
102 POLICY AND FINANCING TO DISTRIBUTE MONEY TO THE DENVER  
103 HEALTH AND HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, AND, IN CONNECTION  
104 THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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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/>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, the bill appropriates \$5 million from the general fund to the department of health care policy and financing to distribute to the Denver health and

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.

hospital authority.

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

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

4 (a) Denver health and hospital authority (Denver Health) is the  
5 largest safety net provider in the state, providing services to patients from  
6 63 counties, and is experiencing significant financial hardship;

7 (b) Denver Health's financial duress is due to a  
8 lower-than-expected volume of services covered by commercial  
9 insurance, which typically pays higher rates than medicaid, and increasing  
10 payroll costs necessary to remain competitive with other providers and  
11 retain and recruit staff;

12 (c) As a safety net hospital on the front line of providing  
13 health-care services for the uninsured and underserved, it is important for  
14 the health of Coloradans that Denver Health is financially sustainable and  
15 able to remain a valuable health-care resource; and

16 (d) The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact  
17 on Denver Health because Denver Health operates on a very thin margin  
18 compared to other Colorado hospitals and has a low reserve of cash on  
19 hand of less than 100 days of operating revenue.

20 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is important  
21 to provide authority to the department of health care policy and financing  
22 to help Denver Health remain financially stable.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25.5-4-427 as  
24 follows:

25 **25.5-4-427. Supplemental state payment to the Denver health**

1     **and hospital authority - repeal.** (1) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
2     DISTRIBUTE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT TO  
3     THE DENVER HEALTH AND HOSPITAL AUTHORITY CREATED IN SECTION  
4     25-29-103.

5             (2) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

6             **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2022-23 state fiscal year,  
7     \$5,000,000 is appropriated to the department of health care policy and  
8     financing for use for other medical services. This appropriation is from  
9     the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this  
10    appropriation for payments to Denver health and hospital authority.

11            **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
12    determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
13    preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.