

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0166.01 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 24-055

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Will,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Hartsook,

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING SUPPORTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE OF
102 INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE.

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 the agricultural and rural community behavioral health liaison (liaison) position in the behavioral health administration (BHA) to serve as a liaison between the BHA, department of agriculture (department), behavioral health-care providers, rural community leaders, agricultural communities, and nonprofit organizations that serve agricultural communities. The liaison shall:

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.

- Engage in statewide community outreach to educate communities on the impact of behavioral health issues facing farmers, ranchers, and other individuals involved in agricultural or rural communities;
- Establish interdepartmental relationships; and
- Develop an understanding of and address the root causes of behavioral health issues in the agricultural industry and in rural communities.

The bill creates the agricultural behavioral health community of practice work group (work group) in the department. The purpose of the work group is to convene a group of leaders and experts in agriculture and behavioral health care to improve access to behavioral health care for those involved in agriculture. The work group consists of at least 7 members and shall:

- Compile best practices to provide behavioral health care to those involved in agriculture;
- Identify gaps in access to comprehensive behavioral health care for those involved in agriculture;
- Engage with other stakeholders involved in behavioral health care focused on those involved in agriculture; and
- Collect data on behavioral health-care outcomes in agricultural communities and steps taken to support those involved in agriculture through behavioral health initiatives and programs.

The work group is scheduled for sunset review and repeal on September 1, 2029.

The bill establishes the agricultural behavioral health grant program (grant program) in the department. The purpose of the grant program is to:

- Continue existing programs or create new programs that address the root causes of behavioral health issues in the agricultural industry or in rural communities;
- Strengthen collaborative efforts between organizations and communities in addressing the root causes of behavioral health issues in the agricultural industry or in rural communities; and
- Improve access to health, wellness, and behavioral health care for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural industry workers.

The bill requires the department to contract with a statewide agricultural organization to convene an in-person annual summit for organizations with an interest in promoting and providing behavioral health care to agricultural communities.

The department and the BHA are required to enter into an interagency agreement to share data collected in the course of addressing

behavioral health-care issues in the agricultural industry and in rural communities.

On or before January 1, 2026, and each January 1 thereafter, the department is required to submit a report summarizing data collected by the work group, and data collected from grant recipients, to the agriculture, water, and natural resources committee and the health and human services committee of the house of representatives and the agriculture and natural resources committee and the health and human services committee of the senate, or their successor committees, and the BHA. On or before January 1, 2027, and each January 1 thereafter, the department shall include in the report a summary of the data collected regarding the in-person annual summit.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-303, **add** (1.5)
3 as follows:

4 **27-60-303. Behavioral health administration - additional**
5 **duties - collaboration with other agencies.** (1.5) (a) THE BHA SHALL
6 CREATE THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
7 HEALTH LIAISON POSITION TO DESIGNATE A LIAISON BETWEEN THE BHA,
8 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS,
9 RURAL COMMUNITY LEADERS, AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES, AND
10 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES.
11 THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
12 LIAISON SHALL:

13 (I) ENGAGE IN STATEWIDE COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO EDUCATE
14 COMMUNITIES ON THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES FARMERS, RANCHERS,
15 OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WORKERS, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES
16 EXPERIENCE;

17 (II) ESTABLISH INTERDEPARTMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS; AND

18 (III) DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND ADDRESS THE ROOT
19 CAUSES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

1 AND IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

2 (b) THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
3 HEALTH LIAISON SHALL COORDINATE TRAINING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
4 PROVIDERS TO SERVE FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL
5 INDUSTRY WORKERS EXPERIENCING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES.

6 (c) THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
7 HEALTH LIAISON SHALL SERVE ON THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL
8 HEALTH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WORK GROUP, CREATED IN SECTION
9 35-1-121, AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE WORK GROUP AS NEEDED.

10 (d) THE BHA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SHALL
11 ENTER INTO AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT TO SHARE DATA COLLECTED IN
12 THE COURSE OF UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING THE BEHAVIORAL
13 HEALTH-CARE ISSUES IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND IN RURAL
14 COMMUNITIES.

15 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-1-121 as
16 follows:

17 **35-1-121. Agricultural behavioral health community of**
18 **practice work group - creation - grant program - reporting - rules -**
19 **definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
20 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

21 (a) "AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF
22 PRACTICE WORK GROUP" OR "WORK GROUP" MEANS THE AGRICULTURAL
23 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WORK GROUP CREATED IN
24 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

25 (b) "AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM" OR
26 "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
27 GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

1 (c) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION" MEANS THE
2 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
3 27-50-102.

4 (2) (a) THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF
5 PRACTICE WORK GROUP IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE PURPOSE OF
6 THE WORK GROUP IS TO CONVENE A GROUP OF LEADERS AND EXPERTS IN
7 AGRICULTURE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO
8 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND OTHER
9 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WORKERS.

10 (b) (I) NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, THE COMMISSIONER,
11 OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE, SHALL APPOINT AT LEAST SEVEN
12 MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE WORK GROUP, WHICH MUST INCLUDE THE
13 AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LIAISON
14 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 27-60-303 (1.5). THE COMMISSIONER, OR THE
15 COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE, MAY ADD ADDITIONAL MEMBERS, IF
16 NECESSARY, TO REPRESENT THE DIVERSITY OF THE AGRICULTURAL
17 COMMUNITY. THE COMMISSIONER, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE,
18 SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT:

19 (A) STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL
20 ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERIENCE PROVIDING ACCESS, SERVICES, AND
21 RESOURCES FOR THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THOSE INVOLVED IN
22 AGRICULTURE;

23 (B) STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE
24 PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES;

25 (C) STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADDRESS MENTAL OR
26 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES;

27 (D) RURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS; AND

1 (E) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH MENTAL
2 HEALTH ISSUES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES, OR SUBSTANCE USE
3 DISORDERS AND RECOVERY.

4 (II) THE COMMISSIONER, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE,
5 SHALL SELECT A MEMBER OF A STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION
6 TO CHAIR, FACILITATE, AND LEAD THE WORK GROUP MEETINGS.

7 (c) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2025, THE WORK GROUP SHALL
8 CONVENE THE FIRST MEETING AND ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS,
9 INCLUDING PROCEDURES TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP TO
10 PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS REMOTELY. THE WORK GROUP SHALL MEET
11 AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH.

12 (d) THE CHAIR, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE, SHALL OPEN THE
13 MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC, PROVIDE ADVANCE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE
14 MEETINGS, AND ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENTS AT THE MEETINGS. THE CHAIR,
15 OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE, SHALL CONDUCT OUTREACH AND ENCOURAGE
16 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

17 (e) THE CHAIR, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE, SHALL ORGANIZE
18 TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR EACH MEETING HELD PURSUANT TO
19 SUBSECTION (2)(d) OF THIS SECTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP
20 AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ATTEND THE MEETINGS.

21 (f) MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP WHO ARE COMPENSATED BY AN
22 ORGANIZATION TO SERVE ON THE WORK GROUP SERVE WITHOUT
23 COMPENSATION. MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP WHO ARE NOT
24 COMPENSATED BY AN ORGANIZATION TO SERVE ON THE WORK GROUP
25 MUST RECEIVE COMPENSATION.

26 (g) THE WORK GROUP SHALL:

27 (I) COMPILE BEST PRACTICES TO PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

1 CARE TO FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY
2 WORKERS;

3 (II) IDENTIFY GAPS IN THE PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
4 CARE TO FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY
5 WORKERS;

6 (III) ENGAGE WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN
7 AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE;

8 (IV) COLLECT DATA ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE OUTCOMES IN
9 AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND STEPS TAKEN TO SUPPORT FARMERS,
10 RANCHERS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY WORKERS THROUGH
11 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS; AND

12 (V) REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
13 ADMINISTRATION ON THE DATA COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
14 (2)(g)(IV) OF THIS SECTION AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE OR POLICY
15 CHANGES TO FURTHER IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
16 CARE.

17 (h) THIS SUBSECTION (2) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
18 2029. BEFORE THE REPEAL, THE WORK GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW
19 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-3-1203.

20 (3)(a) THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM
21 IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER
22 THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO
23 AWARD GRANT MONEY TO:

24 (I) CONTINUE EXISTING PROGRAMS OR CREATE NEW PROGRAMS
25 THAT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE
26 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY OR IN RURAL COMMUNITIES;

27 (II) STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN

1 ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF
2 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY OR IN
3 RURAL COMMUNITIES; AND

4 (III) IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND BEHAVIORAL
5 HEALTH CARE FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL
6 INDUSTRY WORKERS.

7 (b) IN ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
8 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

9 (I) DEVELOP THE GRANT APPLICATION;

10 (II) ESTABLISH A DISBURSEMENT TIMELINE FOR THE GRANTS;

11 (III) CREATE A RUBRIC TO EVALUATE GRANT APPLICATIONS;

12 (IV) AWARD GRANT MONEY TO ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS;

13 (V) REQUIRE GRANT RECIPIENTS TO REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT
14 ON THE PROGRESS OF GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS, FINDINGS, AND
15 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ESTABLISH A DEADLINE FOR THE
16 SUBMITTAL OF THE REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT; AND

17 (VI) COLLECT THE REPORTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(V)
18 FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS ON THE USE OF GRANT FUNDS.

19 (c) IN AWARDING GRANT MONEY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
20 (3)(b)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRIORITIZE
21 APPLICANTS THAT PRIMARILY SERVE INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN
22 AGRICULTURE. THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF MONEY A GRANT RECIPIENT
23 MAY RECEIVE ANNUALLY IS FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

24 (4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH A STATEWIDE
25 AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION THAT HAS ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS
26 ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES TO ORGANIZE, MANAGE, AND
27 CONVENE AN IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT FOR ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN

1 INTEREST IN PROMOTING AND PROVIDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE TO
2 AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES. THE STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION SHALL
3 CONVENE THE FIRST IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT NO LATER THAN
4 DECEMBER 2025. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH THE
5 STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
6 "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES 101 TO 112 OF TITLE 24.

7 (b) THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION SHALL
8 CONDUCT POST-EVENT SURVEYS OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ATTEND THE
9 IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT.

10 (c) THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION SHALL
11 ANNUALLY PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT:

12 (I) RECEIPTS DOCUMENTING FUNDS SPENT ON THE IN-PERSON
13 ANNUAL SUMMIT; AND

14 (II) A REPORT DESCRIBING THE IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMIT,
15 INCLUDING:

16 (A) THE NUMBER OF ATTENDEES;

17 (B) THE NAMES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ATTENDED;

18 (C) THE RESULTS OF THE POST-EVENT SURVEYS DESCRIBED IN
19 SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND

20 (D) ANY FINDINGS OR RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHANGES FOR
21 FUTURE IN-PERSON ANNUAL SUMMITS.

22 (d) THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION THAT
23 CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT BARRED FROM APPLYING TO
24 THE GRANT PROGRAM.

25 (5) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
26 ADMINISTRATION SHALL ENTER INTO AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT TO
27 SHARE DATA COLLECTED IN THE COURSE OF UNDERSTANDING AND

1 ADDRESSING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-CARE ISSUES IN THE
2 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

3 (6) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY
4 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

5 (7) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH JANUARY 1
6 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT SUMMARIZING
7 THE WORK GROUP REPORT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(g)(V) OF THIS
8 SECTION AND THE GRANT RECIPIENT REPORTS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO
9 SUBSECTION (3)(b)(VI) OF THIS SECTION TO THE AGRICULTURE, WATER,
10 AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN
11 SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
12 AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND THE HEALTH
13 AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
14 COMMITTEES, AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

15 (b) AS PART OF THE JANUARY 1, 2027, REPORT DESCRIBED IN
16 SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION, AND IN EACH JANUARY 1 REPORT
17 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT SUMMARIZING
18 THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION REPORT COLLECTED
19 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 24-1-136
21 (11)(a)(I), THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED IN THIS
22 SUBSECTION (7) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

23 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **add**
24 (20)(a)(V) as follows:

25 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative**
26 **declaration - definition - repeal.** (20) (a) The following statutory
27 authorizations for the designated advisory committees will repeal on

1 September 1, 2029:

2 (V) THE AGRICULTURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OF
3 PRACTICE WORK GROUP CREATED IN SECTION 35-1-121 (2).

4 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
5 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
6 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
7 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
8 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
9 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
10 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
11 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.