

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 24-0043.01 Yelana Love x2295

**HOUSE BILL 24-1259**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING PRICE GOUGING IN HOUSING RENTAL PRICES DURING A**  
102 **DECLARED DISASTER.**

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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 prohibits price gouging in the provision of housing during a declared disaster.

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

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.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 11, 2024

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 8, 2024

1           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 6-1-735** as  
2 follows:

3           **6-1-735. Rental price gouging during declared disaster**  
4 **prohibited - deceptive trade practice - definitions.** (1) A PERSON  
5 ENGAGES IN A DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE WHEN, DURING A DISASTER  
6 PERIOD AND WITHIN THE DESIGNATED AREA, THE PERSON ENGAGES IN  
7 PRICE GOUGING IN THE PROVISION OF OR OFFER TO PROVIDE RENT-BASED  
8 HOUSING.

9           (2) (a) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BE ENFORCED BY THE  
10 ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WITH JURISDICTION  
11 OVER THE CONDUCT AT ISSUE OR BY AN AGGRIEVED PARTY.

12           (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 6-1-113, A TENANT AFFECTED BY  
13 A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION TO RESTRAIN  
14 FURTHER VIOLATIONS AND TO RECOVER DAMAGES, COSTS, AND  
15 REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES. IF A COURT OR JURY FINDS THAT A  
16 VIOLATION OCCURRED, THE TENANT MUST BE AWARDED STATUTORY  
17 DAMAGES EQUAL TO THE TENANT'S ACTUAL DAMAGES, ATTORNEY FEES,  
18 AND COSTS THAT MAY BE OWED.

19           (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

20           (a) "DESIGNATED AREA" MEANS A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREA  
21 IDENTIFIED IN A DISASTER DECLARATION.

22           (b) "DISASTER" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION  
23 24-33.5-703 (3).

24           (c) "DISASTER DECLARATION" MEANS A DECLARATION OF ONE OF  
25 THE FOLLOWING, WHICH RESULTS IN A MATERIAL DECREASE IN  
26 RESIDENTIAL HOUSING UNITS:

27           (I) A NATIONAL EMERGENCY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED

1 STATES PURSUANT TO THE "NATIONAL EMERGENCIES ACT", 50 U.S.C.  
2 SEC. 1601 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED; OR

3 (II) A DISASTER EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO  
4 SECTION 24-33.5-704 (4).

5 (d) "DISASTER PERIOD" MEANS THE DATE A DISASTER  
6 DECLARATION BEGINS AND CONTINUING FOR TWO YEARS AFTER THE DATE  
7 OF THE INITIAL DISASTER.

8 (e) "PRICE GOUGING" MEANS:

9 (I) FOR DWELLINGS THAT WERE ON THE MARKET IMMEDIATELY  
10 PRECEDING THE DISASTER, AN INCREASE IN RENT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL  
11 DWELLING IN A DESIGNATED AREA THAT IS MORE THAN THE GREATER OF  
12 THE PERCENTAGE OF THE RENT INCREASE FOR THE IMMEDIATELY  
13 PRECEDING YEAR OR TEN PERCENT COMPARED TO THE RENT FOR THE  
14 INDIVIDUAL DWELLING IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DISASTER; OR

15 (II) FOR DWELLINGS THAT WERE NOT ON THE MARKET  
16 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DISASTER, RENT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL  
17 DWELLING IN A DESIGNATED AREA THAT IS MORE THAN THE GREATER OF  
18 THE PERCENTAGE OF THE RENT INCREASE FOR THE IMMEDIATELY  
19 PRECEDING YEAR OR TEN PERCENT HIGHER THAN RENT FOR SIMILAR  
20 DWELLINGS LOCATED IN THE DESIGNATED AREA AND THAT WERE ON THE  
21 MARKET IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DISASTER.

22 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
25 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
26 institutions.