

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0941.01 Rebecca Bayetti x4348

HOUSE BILL 24-1287

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Marshall and Soper,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING ACCESS TO STATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

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>.)

Section 1 of the bill creates an online database managed by the department of personnel that includes information on all grant opportunities that are funded by state money or administered by the state. The database must be created by December 31, 2025, and reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Section 2 creates the grant assistance to rural communities program. This program, administered by the department of local affairs, provides assistance in accessing state grants to entities in rural

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.

communities, which are defined as counties with populations of fewer than 25,000 residents and municipalities with populations of fewer than 10,000 residents that do not border another municipality with a population of 10,000 residents or more. The bill directs the department to designate at least one full-time equivalent employee, who resides in a rural community or whose principal place of employment is in a rural community, to implement the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-30-105 as
3 follows:

4 **24-30-105. Database of state grants - creation - definitions.**

5 (1) NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2025, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
6 THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
7 DESIGNEE SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A SEARCHABLE DATABASE OF ALL
8 STATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND SHALL MAKE THE DATABASE
9 ACCESSIBLE FROM ITS WEBSITE. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "STATE GRANT
10 OPPORTUNITIES" MEANS ALL GRANTS FUNDED BY STATE MONEY OR
11 ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE.

12 (2) (a) THE DATABASE CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
13 SECTION MUST BE EASILY NAVIGABLE AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
14 INFORMATION FOR EACH GRANT OPPORTUNITY:

- 15 (I) THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE GRANT;
- 16 (II) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR GRANT APPLICANTS;
- 17 (III) THE AVAILABLE GRANT AMOUNT PER APPLICANT, IF THERE IS
18 A SET GRANT AMOUNT, OR A RANGE OF AVAILABLE GRANT AMOUNTS;
- 19 (IV) APPLICATION PROCEDURES;
- 20 (V) TIMELINES FOR APPLICATION AND SELECTION;
- 21 (VI) ANY AVAILABLE GRANT WRITING AND APPLICATION
22 ASSISTANCE;

1 (VII) PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS;
2 AND

3 (VIII) CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE
4 GRANT OPPORTUNITY.

5 (b) THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (2) MAY BE
6 INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE AS REGULARLY UPDATED LINKS TO OTHER
7 STATE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT WEBSITES THAT INCLUDE THE REQUIRED
8 INFORMATION.

9 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
10 OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE SHALL CONTINUOUSLY REVIEW
11 AND UPDATE THE DATABASE CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

12 (4) UPON REQUEST, ANY STATE AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT SHALL
13 PROVIDE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
14 OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE WITH INFORMATION NECESSARY
15 TO CREATE AND UPDATE THE DATABASE CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-32-135 as
17 follows:

18 **24-32-135. Grant assistance to rural communities program -**
19 **creation - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
20 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

21 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.

22 (b) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
23 THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
24 DESIGNEE.

25 (c) "GRANT OPPORTUNITIES" MEANS ALL GRANTS FUNDED BY
26 STATE MONEY OR ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE.

27 (d) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE GRANT ASSISTANCE TO RURAL

1 COMMUNITIES PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

2 (e) "RURAL COMMUNITY" MEANS A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION
3 OF FEWER THAN TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND RESIDENTS OR A MUNICIPALITY
4 WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN TEN THOUSAND RESIDENTS IF THE
5 MUNICIPALITY IS NOT CONTIGUOUS TO A MUNICIPALITY WITH A
6 POPULATION OF TEN THOUSAND RESIDENTS OR MORE.

7 (f) "RURAL COMMUNITY ENTITY" MEANS ANY ENTITY THAT IS
8 ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN A
9 RURAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION,
10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

11 (2) THE GRANT ASSISTANCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES PROGRAM IS
12 CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
13 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

14 (3) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO
15 RURAL COMMUNITY ENTITIES IN ACCESSING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES. THE
16 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THIS ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE LIFE
17 CYCLE OF A GRANT, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE WITH:

18 (a) IDENTIFYING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WHICH THE RURAL
19 COMMUNITY ENTITY IS ELIGIBLE;

20 (b) APPLYING FOR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND WRITING GRANT
21 APPLICATIONS;

22 (c) CAPACITY BUILDING AS NECESSARY TO ADHERE TO GRANT
23 PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS; AND

24 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

25 (4) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY PROMULGATE RULES IN
26 ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 24 AS NECESSARY TO
27 IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

1 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME
2 EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM. THE EMPLOYEE OR
3 EMPLOYEES MUST RESIDE IN A RURAL COMMUNITY OR HAVE A PRINCIPAL
4 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT IN A RURAL COMMUNITY.

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