

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 24-0812.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 24-153

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Danielson,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Business, Labor, & Technology
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING FREE AUDIO NEWS SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE**
102 **PRINT-DISABLED, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
103 **APPROPRIATION.**

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 authorizes the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado to expand its current offerings for blind and print-disabled Coloradans through the NFB-NEWSLINE and Project Literacy. The expansion includes providing an expanded array of information and literacy support services throughout the state, such as a variety of

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.*

communication-related assistive technologies and blindness-related services, introductory training, and methods to find and use additional resources in or near communities; adding a technical assistance line; and adding a full-time staff member.

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

2 SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-90-105.5, amend
3 (5); and add (6) as follows:

4 24-90-105.5. Literacy support services for persons who are
5 blind or print-disabled - authority of state librarian - fund. (5) The
6 general assembly hereby recognizes the importance of privately operated
7 reading services to enable those persons who cannot effectively read
8 newspapers or other printed documents ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED to
9 gain access to such otherwise inaccessible print materials. The state
10 librarian shall have HAS the authority to administer funds MONEY in the
11 reading services for the blind cash fund, which is hereby created IN THE
12 STATE TREASURY, for the support of said privately operated reading
13 services. The fund shall consist CONSISTS of any public or private moneys
14 MONEY transferred, appropriated, or otherwise credited thereto TO THE
15 FUND. All moneys MONEY credited to the fund and all interest earned on
16 the investment of moneys MONEY in the fund shall be IS a part of the fund
17 and shall MUST not be transferred or credited to the general fund or to any
18 other fund except as directed by the general assembly acting by bill. The
19 general assembly shall make annual appropriations from the reading
20 services for the blind cash fund to the state librarian to carry out the
21 purposes of this subsection (5) SECTION.

22 (6) THE SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH PROVIDERS OF
23 ON-DEMAND NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO COLORADANS WHO

1 ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED MUST BE EXPANDED TO ENHANCE THE
2 ABILITY OF COLORADANS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED TO USE THE
3 ON-DEMAND AND INFORMATION SERVICES, AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER
4 OF COLORADANS WHO ARE BLIND OR PRINT-DISABLED WHO ARE AWARE OF
5 SUCH SERVICES. THE ON-DEMAND NEWS AND INFORMATION SERVICES
6 MUST BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE AN ENLARGED ARRAY OF INFORMATION
7 AND LITERACY SUPPORT SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, SUCH AS THE
8 PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT A VARIETY OF
9 COMMUNICATION-RELATED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND
10 BLINDNESS-RELATED SERVICES, INTRODUCTORY TRAINING, AND METHODS
11 TO FIND AND USE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN OR NEAR COMMUNITIES
12 WHERE A PERSON LIVES. THE EXPANDED SERVICES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE
13 NOT LIMITED TO:

14 (a) INFORMATION SHARING, MARKETING OF EXPANDED SERVICES,
15 AND OTHER METHODS FOR INFORMING PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR
16 PRINT-DISABLED ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE SERVICES;

17 (b) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR USERS TO RESOLVE TECHNICAL
18 QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SERVICES OR THE DEVICES THAT MIGHT BE USED TO
19 ACCESS THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE THROUGH THESE SERVICES; AND

20 (c) THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT
21 COMMUNICATION-RELATED ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

22 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
23 \$200,000 is appropriated to the department of education for use by library
24 programs. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this
25 act, the division may use this appropriation for reading services for the
26 blind.

27 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,

1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
3 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
4 institutions.