

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0649.01 Renee Leone x2695

HOUSE BILL 25-1074

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHANGING CONFINEMENT STANDARDS FOR EGG-LAYING**
102 **HENS WHOSE EGGS ARE SOLD.**

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 repeals standards created in House Bill 20-1343, enacted in 2020, regarding confinement standards for egg-laying hens whose eggs are sold.

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.

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

3 (a) House Bill 20-1343 regarding egg-laying hen confinement
4 standards was enacted in statute as part 2 of article 21 of title 35,
5 Colorado Revised Statutes;

6 (b) Starting in January 2023, the statute required an egg facility to
7 have 144 square inches of space per hen;

8 (c) Starting in January 2025, the statute changes that requirement
9 to mandate that any eggs sold or distributed in Colorado come from a
10 fully cage-free facility;

11 (d) The Colorado Egg Producers Association estimates that the
12 cost of producing cage-free eggs is roughly 16%-18% higher than the cost
13 of producing eggs in a caged environment due in part to the amount of
14 labor, the cost of reconstructing hen houses, and the potential spread of
15 illnesses in a larger environment;

16 (e) The bureau of labor statistics shows egg prices increased
17 39.6% between September 2023 and September 2024, which was the
18 largest increase of any food tracked;

19 (f) Since January 2022, the average national cost of a dozen eggs
20 rose 75% from \$1.92 to \$3.37 in October 2024, with a peak of \$4.82 in
21 January 2023. As of December 2024, a dozen large white eggs at a
22 grocery store costs \$5.49.

23 (g) The Colorado Egg Producers Association has always
24 prioritized responsible and humane practices.

25 (2) Therefore the general assembly declares that:

26 (a) Part 2 of article 21 of title 35, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
27 out of step with the economic realities facing Coloradans today, as

1 Colorado's cage-free egg law is driving up prices at a time when families
2 can least afford it;

3 (b) With inflation pushing grocery bills to record high amounts,
4 forcing producers to shift to expensive cage-free systems only adds to the
5 financial strain on consumers;

6 (c) Eggs are a basic staple for households across the state with
7 approximately 6 grams of protein per egg;

8 (d) Increased prices disproportionately impact low-income
9 families, who are already struggling to keep up with rising costs; and

10 (e) At a time when inflation is driving up the cost of housing, fuel,
11 and everyday essentials, many people in this state cannot afford to have
12 policies that make it more difficult for them to put food on the table.

13 (3) The general assembly further declares that:

14 (a) Changing the cage-free mandate will provide immediate relief
15 to consumers and help stabilize egg prices for Coloradans who rely on
16 eggs as a source of affordable protein; and

17 (b) Colorado families should not have to choose between paying
18 bills and buying groceries; therefore, it is necessary to focus on keeping
19 Colorado eggs affordable and ensuring that government regulations do
20 not add unnecessary burdens during an already challenging economic
21 period.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** part 2 of
23 article 21 of title 35.

24 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
25 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
26 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
27 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V

1 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
2 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
3 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
4 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
5 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.