

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0281.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 25-1283

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES THAT IMPLEMENT THE WILD HORSE WORKING**
102 **GROUP'S LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.**

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 wild horse working group is given the duty in statute to study wild horse management in Colorado and make recommendations. The group has made a report with its preliminary recommendations. The bill adds many of these recommendations in the wild horse statutes.

Under current law, the wild horse project is a nonprofit, state-owned corporate entity that manages and operates programs

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.*

benefitting wild horses and supports wild horse management. The bill repeals the wild horse project and transfers the statutory duties concerning wild horses to the department of agriculture (department). The bill repeals and replaces the wild horse stewardship program and the wild horse fertility program with support efforts managed by the department and with an immunocontraception program managed by the department.

The bill authorizes the department to provide immunocontraception and material support in herd management areas to keep wild horse populations at appropriate management levels. The material support may include:

- Using state employees or contracting with others to administer immunocontraception;
- Providing funding to or administrative support to other state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit entities to hire employees or contract with agents to administer immunocontraception;
- Coordinating events where immunocontraception is administered;
- Buying or funding the purchase of equipment or technology; and
- Coordinating with educational institutions to provide training, certification, or internships to individuals administering immunocontraception.

The department may primarily address federally protected wild horses but may also address other wild horses.

The department may, when reasonable and effective:

- Expand efforts to engage nonprofit organizations and foundations that are not normally associated with wild horse advocacy organizations;
- Engage individuals and businesses for funding, promotion, and education using iconic wild horse imagery; and
- Develop a logo and brand.

The department may provide staff, resources, or information to:

- Develop a system of shared equipment and staff expertise to loan out;
- Develop training programs and certifications;
- Cooperate with the federal bureau of land management to develop additional training, holding, or adoption opportunities; and
- Cooperate with the department of corrections to create and expand opportunities for people confined in a correctional facility.

The bill creates a wild horse advisory committee. The wild horse advisory committee has the same makeup as the current wild horse working group, but legislative appointments are changed to at large

appointment and the mandatory appointments are made by the commissioner of agriculture. The advisory committee will meet at least once every year and may have additional meetings as necessary. The advisory committee shall advise the commissioner of agriculture and the department concerning:

- Financial and material support for wild horse adopters, sanctuaries, preserves, and refuges;
- The content and delivery of outreach, education, training, and certification;
- Working with the federal bureau of land management and wild horse preserves, sanctuaries, and refuges to coordinate the movement of wild horses off herd management areas and other lands into temporary holding, adoption events, and other options;
- Coordinating or assisting with compliance checks to ensure that adopted wild horses are well cared for and that wild horse adopters have the support needed to successfully care for wild horses;
- Coordinating and cooperating with other entities to ensure comprehensive information about adoption and adoption success is widely publicized and is available to the public; and
- Any different or additional scientifically proven immunocontraceptive fertility control method the department may consider using.

The wild horse advisory committee sunsets on September 1, 2030, which is in 5 years. Before the repeal, the advisory committee is scheduled for sunset review.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-1-119, **repeal** (2)
3 as follows:

4 **35-1-119. Wild horse population management.** (2) ~~This section~~
5 ~~is repealed, effective December 31, 2025.~~

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-66-101, **amend**
7 (6); and **repeal** (4), (5), (7), and (9) as follows:

8 **35-66-101. Definitions.** As used in this article 66, unless the
9 context otherwise requires:

- 1 (4) ~~"Director" means the director of the wild horse project.~~
- 2 (5) ~~"Fertility control program" means the wild horse fertility~~
3 ~~control program created in section 35-66-107 (1).~~
- 4 (6) "Fund" means the wild horse ~~project~~ fund created in section
5 35-66-104 (1).
- 6 (7) ~~"Stewardship program" means the wild horse stewardship~~
7 ~~program created in section 35-66-106 (1).~~
- 8 (9) ~~"Wild horse project" means the Colorado wild horse project~~
9 ~~created in section 35-66-102 (1).~~

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 35-66-102,
11 35-66-106, and 35-66-107.

12 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-66-103, **amend**
13 (1) as follows:

14 **35-66-103. Wild horse management report - repeal.** (1) On or
15 before January 31, 2024, and on or before January 31 of each year
16 thereafter, the department shall submit a written report to the governor
17 and the appropriate committees of reference as determined in accordance
18 with section 2-7-203 (1). The department shall also present the report to
19 the appropriate joint committee of reference, in accordance with section
20 2-7-203 (2), as part of the department's "SMART Act" hearing. The
21 report must include a description of the money spent, grants made, and
22 actions taken to implement this article 66, including the number of horses
23 treated, ~~under the fertility control program~~, the number of foals born the
24 prior year in each herd management area, and the actions taken and
25 accomplished in accordance with ~~the stewardship program~~ THIS ARTICLE
26 66.

27 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 35-66-104, **amend**

1 (1)(b) and (4); and **repeal** (2)(a) and (2)(b)(II) as follows:

2 **35-66-104. Wild horse fund - legislative declaration - repeal.**

3 (1) (b) The wild horse ~~project~~ fund is created in the state treasury. The
4 fund consists of gifts, grants, and donations; payments from the federal
5 government in connection with assisting in the management of wild
6 horses; and any other money that the general assembly may appropriate
7 or transfer to the fund.

8 (2) (a) ~~State money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the~~
9 ~~department for use by the wild horse project to implement and administer~~
10 ~~this article 66.~~

11 (b) (II) ~~This subsection (2)(b) will be repealed when the~~
12 ~~department creates the wild horse project. The commissioner shall notify~~
13 ~~the revisor of statutes in writing of the date on which the condition~~
14 ~~specified in this subsection (2)(b) has occurred by e-mailing the notice to~~
15 ~~revisorofstatutes.ga@colleg.gov. This subsection (2)(b) is repealed,~~
16 ~~effective upon the date identified in the notice that the department has~~
17 ~~created the wild horse project or, if the notice does not specify that date,~~
18 ~~upon the date of the notice to the revisor of statutes.~~

19 (4) ~~The wild horse project~~ DEPARTMENT may seek and accept
20 gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the purposes
21 of SECTION 35-1-119 AND this article 66. ~~The wild horse project shall~~
22 ~~transmit all money received as gifts, grants, or donations under this~~
23 ~~subsection (4) to~~ The state treasurer ~~who~~ shall credit the ~~money~~ GIFT,
24 GRANT, OR DONATION to the fund.

25 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 35-66-108,
26 35-66-109, and 35-66-110 as follows:

27 **35-66-108. Wild horse fertility - immunocontraception - grants**

1 - **annual reporting.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY IMPLEMENT AN
2 IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE
3 STAFF AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION FOR WILD
4 HORSES IN HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS TO KEEP WILD HORSE POPULATIONS
5 AT THE DESIGNATED APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT LEVELS IN EACH HERD
6 MANAGEMENT AREA. THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER USING DIFFERENT
7 OR ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN IMMUNOCONTRACEPTIVE
8 FERTILITY CONTROL METHODS AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE WILD HORSE
9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE MATERIAL SUPPORT MAY INCLUDE:

10 (a) USING STATE EMPLOYEES TO OR CONTRACTING WITH AGENTS
11 TO ADMINISTER IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION;

12 (b) PROVIDING FUNDING TO OR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO
13 OTHER STATE AGENCIES, FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND NONPROFIT ENTITIES TO
14 HIRE EMPLOYEES OR CONTRACT WITH AGENTS TO ADMINISTER
15 IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION;

16 (c) COORDINATING EVENTS WHERE IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION IS
17 ADMINISTERED;

18 (d) BUYING OR FUNDING THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS
19 VEHICLES, OR TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS EQUINE FACIAL RECOGNITION
20 SOFTWARE, TO SUPPORT IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION; AND

21 (e) COORDINATING WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE
22 TRAINING OF, CERTIFICATION OF, OR INTERNSHIPS TO INDIVIDUALS
23 ADMINISTERING IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION.

24 **35-66-109. Duties and powers.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT MAY
25 PRIMARILY ADDRESS FEDERALLY PROTECTED WILD HORSES BUT MAY ALSO
26 ADDRESS NONFEDERALLY PROTECTED WILD HORSES.

27 (2) TO IMPLEMENT THIS ARTICLE 66, THE DEPARTMENT MAY, WHEN

1 REASONABLE AND EFFECTIVE:

2 (a) EXPANDEFFORTS TO ENGAGE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND
3 FOUNDATIONS, SUCH AS COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS AND VETERANS'
4 ORGANIZATIONS, THAT ARE NOT NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH WILD
5 HORSE ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS;

6 (b) ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES FOR FUNDING,
7 PROMOTION, AND EDUCATION THROUGH HORSE SPONSORSHIPS THAT
8 LICENSE, LEVERAGE, OR USE ICONIC WILD HORSE IMAGERY; AND

9 (c) DEVELOP AN ENGAGING LOGO AND BRAND TO EMOTIONALLY
10 AND FINANCIALLY CONNECT THE PUBLIC AND POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS TO
11 THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THIS ARTICLE 66.

12 (3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE STAFF, RESOURCES, OR
13 INFORMATION TO:

14 (a) DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF SHARED EQUIPMENT AND STAFF
15 EXPERTISE TO LOAN TO PRIVATE ADOPTERS, SANCTUARIES, PRESERVES,
16 AND REFUGES;

17 (b) DEVELOP TRAINING PROGRAMS AND CERTIFICATIONS FOR
18 HORSE TRAINERS TO ASSIST IN MAKING HORSES MORE ADOPTABLE AND IN
19 TRAINING PEOPLE TO BE SUCCESSFUL HORSE ADOPTERS;

20 (c) COOPERATE WITH THE BUREAU TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL
21 TRAINING, HOLDING, OR ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES; AND

22 (d) COOPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO
23 CREATE AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS CONFINED IN A
24 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO HELP THE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENT THIS
25 ARTICLE 66.

26 **35-66-110. Wild horse advisory committee - membership -**
27 **definition - repeal - subject to review.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,

1 "ADVISORY COMMITTEE" MEANS THE WILD HORSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (2) THE WILD HORSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS CREATED IN THE
4 DEPARTMENT TO ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER AND THE DEPARTMENT ON
5 ISSUES CONCERNING WILD HORSES IN COLORADO BEGINNING ON JULY 1,
6 2026.

7 (3) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF AT LEAST FOURTEEN
8 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATION:

9 (a) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL APPOINT:

10 (I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE;

11 (II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
12 RESOURCES;

13 (III) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLORADO TOURISM OFFICE;

14 (IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT;

15 (V) AN AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, APPOINTED AFTER
16 CONSULTING WITH THE MAJORITY LEADER;

17 (VI) AN AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE, APPOINTED AFTER
18 CONSULTING WITH THE MINORITY LEADER;

19 (VII) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF NONPROFIT ADVOCACY
20 ORGANIZATIONS THAT ADVOCATE FOR WILD HORSES;

21 (VIII) A RESIDENT OF THE WESTERN SLOPE;

22 (IX) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A NONPROFIT ENVIRONMENTAL
23 CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION;

24 (X) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RANCHING AND GRAZING
25 PERMIT HOLDER COMMUNITY, APPOINTED AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE
26 MAJORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;

27 (XI) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE LOCAL ON-RANGE

1 WILD HORSE ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAINTAIN MEMORANDA OF
2 UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BUREAU TO CONDUCT ON-RANGE ACTIVITIES,
3 APPOINTED AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE
4 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND

5 (XII) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF LAND
6 COMMISSIONERS; AND

7 (b) (I) THE COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU MAY
8 REPRESENT THE BUREAU OR MAY APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
9 BUREAU;

10 (II) THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE MAY APPOINT A
11 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TRIBE;

12 (III) THE UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE MAY APPOINT A
13 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TRIBE; AND

14 (IV) THE REGION TWO REGIONAL FORESTER OF THE UNITED
15 STATES FOREST SERVICE MAY APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED
16 STATES FOREST SERVICE.

17 (4) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL MAKE THE INITIAL APPOINTMENTS
18 TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2026.

19 (5) EACH MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WHO IS
20 APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION SERVES AT THE
21 PLEASURE OF THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY. THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS
22 FOUR YEARS; EXCEPT THAT THE TERM OF EACH MEMBER INITIALLY
23 APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTIONS (3)(a)(I), (3)(a)(III), (3)(a)(V),
24 (3)(a)(VII), AND (3)(a)(IX) OF THIS SECTION IS TWO YEARS.

25 (6) MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SERVE WITHOUT
26 COMPENSATION AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES FROM THE
27 STATE; EXCEPT THAT MEMBERS WHO ARE STATE EMPLOYEES MAY BE

1 COMPENSATED AS STATE EMPLOYEES, AND MEMBERS WHO ARE
2 LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ARE PAID IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED IN
3 SECTION 2-2-307 (3).

4 (7) (a) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ORGANIZE AND CALL THE FIRST
5 MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

6 (b) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM
7 AMONG ITS MEMBERS TO SERVE FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED TWO YEARS,
8 AS DETERMINED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

9 (c) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY
10 YEAR. THE CHAIR OR THE COMMISSIONER MAY CALL SUCH ADDITIONAL
11 MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
12 COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

13 (8) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER
14 AND THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING:

15 (a) FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR WILD HORSE
16 ADOPTERS, SANCTUARIES, PRESERVES, AND REFUGES IN COLORADO;

17 (b) THE CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF OUTREACH, EDUCATION,
18 TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATION REGARDING WILD HORSES IN COLORADO;

19 (c) WORKING WITH THE BUREAU AND WILD HORSE PRESERVES,
20 SANCTUARIES, AND REFUGES TO COORDINATE THE MOVEMENT OF WILD
21 HORSES OFF HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS AND OTHER LANDS INTO
22 TEMPORARY HOLDING, ADOPTION EVENTS, AND OTHER OPTIONS;

23 (d) COORDINATING OR ASSISTING WITH COMPLIANCE CHECKS TO
24 ENSURE THAT ADOPTED WILD HORSES ARE WELL CARED FOR AND THAT
25 WILD HORSE ADOPTERS HAVE THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO SUCCESSFULLY
26 CARE FOR WILD HORSES;

27 (e) COORDINATING AND COOPERATING WITH THE BUREAU AND

1 OTHER PEOPLE TO ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT
2 ADOPTION AND ADOPTION SUCCESS IS WIDELY PUBLICIZED AND IS
3 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND WILD HORSE ADOPTERS IN A TIMELY
4 MANNER; AND

5 (f) ANY DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN
6 IMMUNOCONTRACEPTIVE FERTILITY CONTROL METHOD THE DEPARTMENT
7 MAY CONSIDER USING.

8 (9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2030.
9 BEFORE THE REPEAL, THIS SECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW IN
10 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-3-1203.

11 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **add**
12 (21)(a)(II) as follows:

13 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative**
14 **declaration - definition - repeal.** (21) (a) The following statutory
15 authorizations for designated advisory committees will repeal on
16 September 1, 2030:

17 (II) THE WILD HORSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED IN SECTION
18 35-66-110.

19 **SECTION 8. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
22 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
23 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
24 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
25 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
26 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.