



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee Members
From: Kelly Shen, JBC Staff (303-866-5434)
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026
Subject: Potential Legislation Packet 5

If the Committee would like to approve a bill draft for introduction, the motion should include:

- Approve for introduction in the House as a JBC bill LLS 25-XXXX;
- When the bill should be run (with the Long Bill package or otherwise);
- Prime sponsors and co-sponsors; and
- Grant staff permission to make technical changes.

This packet includes one new bill draft since a “preview” packet was sent on Friday – LLS 26-0753 on page P-21.

Each individual item has page numbers, but also a packet page number (P-XXX) to help navigate the whole document. The page numbers below refer to the packet page number that begins with a “P”.

Potential Legislation

Education – Amanda Bickel

LLS 26-0880 Reducing Frequency of READ Act Indep EvaluationsP-1
LLS 26-0881 Student State Assessment in Social StudiesP-5
LLS 26-0882 Eliminating State Assessment in Social StudiesP-9
LLS 26-0883 Reduce Science Teacher Prof Dev Program AppropP-13
LLS 26-0887 Repeal Academic Accelerator Grant ProgramP-16
LLS 26-0753 Healthy School Meals for All State Education FundP-21

Local Affairs – Andrea Uhl

LLS 26-0923 Public Defender and Prosecutor Behavioral Health ProgramP-29

Public Safety – Michelle Curry

LLS 26-0908 Maximum Reserve Requirement for Certain Cash FundsP-32
LLS 26-0911 Repeal Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant ProgramP-37
Memo: Adjustments to LLS 26-0807 (bill already approved for intro)P-39

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/10/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0880.01 Lindy Schaible x4215

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Reducing Frequency of READ Act Indep Evaluations
DEADLINES: File by: 3/16/2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REDUCING THE FREQUENCY OF "COLORADO READING**
102 **TO ENSURE ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT" INDEPENDENT**
103 **EVALUATIONS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN**
104 **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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill changes the requirement for an independent evaluation of the use of "Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act" (READ Act) money from an annual

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Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

requirement to a biennial requirement. The bill maintains the requirement that local education providers report READ Act student data to the Colorado department of education (department) every year. The bill adds a requirement that the department issue an annual report that summarizes data from the local education providers and includes any department input on proposed program changes.

The bill reduces the appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education from the state education fund for the early literacy program external evaluation.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1209, **amend**
3 (8)(a) and (8)(e) as follows:

4 **22-7-1209. State board - rules - department - duties -**
5 **independent evaluations.**

6 (8) (a) (I) ~~By October 1, 2019,~~ The department shall ~~issue a~~
7 ~~request for proposals to~~ contract with an entity to act as an independent
8 evaluator to provide independent evaluations of the use of per-pupil
9 intervention money and money received through the early literacy grant
10 program by local education providers and to conduct a multi-year
11 evaluation to determine whether the student outcomes achieved by local
12 education providers in implementing this part 12 meet the goals of this
13 part 12 as described in section 22-7-1202 (2) and (3)(a). BEGINNING IN
14 THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR, THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS MUST
15 OCCUR BIENNIALY.

16 (II) LOCALEUCATION PROVIDERS SHALL CONTINUE TO ANNUALLY
17 SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SECTION
18 22-7-1208 (8)(a).

19 (III) IN ADDITION TO POSTING THE INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY
20 SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY

1 POST A REPORT ON ITS WEBSITE THAT SUMMARIZES THE DATA FROM THE
2 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND INCLUDES ANY DEPARTMENT INPUT ON
3 PROPOSED PROGRAM CHANGES.

4 (e) ~~The independent evaluator contracted pursuant to this~~
5 ~~subsection (8) shall complete the evaluation of the implementation of this~~
6 ~~part 12 as described in subsection (8)(c) of this section by July 1, 2021.~~
7 ~~The department shall include a report of the evaluation in the hearing~~
8 ~~before the joint education committee held pursuant to section 2-7-203 in~~
9 ~~November or December 2021.~~ BEGINNING IN THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR,
10 AND BIENNIALLY THEREAFTER, the independent evaluator shall ~~continue~~
11 ~~evaluations of~~ EVALUATE the growth in reading achieved by local
12 education providers' use of per-pupil intervention money and money
13 received through the early literacy grant program.

14 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

15 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this
16 act, the cash funds appropriation from the state education fund created in
17 section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution made in the annual
18 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
19 department of education for use by student learning for the early literacy
20 program external evaluation is decreased by \$750,000.

21 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of
22 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27
23 state fiscal year if:

24 (a) The amount of the cash fund appropriation from the state
25 education fund made in the annual general appropriation act for the
26 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education for use by student
27 learning for the early literacy program external evaluation is less than the

1 amount of the adjustment required in subsection (1) of this section; or
2 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
3 fiscal year does not include an appropriation from the state education
4 fund to the department of education for use by student learning for the
5 early literacy program external evaluation.

6 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
7 except that section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
8 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
9 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
10 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever
11 is later.

12 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
15 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
16 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/9/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0881.01 Ken Fowler x2372

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Student State Assessment in Social Studies
DEADLINES: File by: 3/20/2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING STATE-ADMINISTERED SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENTS,
102 AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING 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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill eliminates the requirement for the department of education (department) to administer a state assessment in social studies to elementary school students and specifies that the department is only required to administer a state assessment in social studies to students enrolled in seventh grade in a public school.

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

The bill also eliminates the requirement that the department administer a state assessment in social studies in a representative sample of public schools each year.

The bill reduces the appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education from the state education fund for the statewide assessment program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1006.3, **amend**
3 (1) introductory portion and (1)(a)(III) as follows:

4 **22-7-1006.3. State assessments - administration - rules -**
5 **definitions.**

6 (1) (a) ~~Beginning in the 2015-16 school year,~~ The department of
7 education, in collaboration with local education providers, shall
8 administer the state assessments in the instructional areas of English
9 language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, as adopted by the
10 state board pursuant to section 22-7-1006, as follows:

11 (III) The department shall administer a state assessment in social
12 studies to students enrolled in ~~public elementary and middle schools~~
13 ~~throughout the state. The department shall select the specific grades in~~
14 ~~which to administer the state social studies assessment, ensuring that~~
15 ~~students take the state social studies assessment once in elementary~~
16 ~~school and once in middle school. The department shall administer the~~
17 ~~social studies assessment required by this subsection (1)(a)(III) in a~~
18 ~~representative sample of public schools each school year, ensuring that it~~
19 ~~administers the social studies assessment in each public school at least~~
20 ~~once every three years. A school district, for one or more of the schools~~
21 ~~of the school district that are not included in the representative sample, or~~
22 ~~a charter school that is not included in the representative sample, may~~

1 ~~request that the department administer the assessment in the district~~
2 ~~school or charter school. The department shall administer the social~~
3 ~~studies assessment in the requested school in the school year following~~
4 ~~the school year in which it receives the request~~ SEVENTH GRADE IN PUBLIC
5 SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

6 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

7 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to
8 implement this act, the cash funds appropriation from the state education
9 fund created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution
10 made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal
11 year to the department of education for the statewide assessment program
12 is decreased by \$302,835.

13 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of
14 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27
15 state fiscal year if:

16 (a) The amount of the cash funds appropriation from the state
17 education fund made in the annual general appropriation act for the
18 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education for the statewide
19 assessment program is less than the amount of the adjustment required in
20 subsection (1) of this section; or

21 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
22 fiscal year does not include a cash funds appropriation from the state
23 education fund to the department of education for the statewide
24 assessment program.

25 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
26 except that section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
27 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which

1 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
2 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever
3 is later.

4 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
7 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
8 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/9/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0882.01 Ken Fowler x2372

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Eliminating State Assessment in Social Studies
DEADLINES: File by: 3/20/2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE
102 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ADMINISTER A STATE ASSESSMENT
103 IN SOCIAL STUDIES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,
104 REDUCING AN 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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill eliminates the requirement that the department of education administer a state assessment in social studies to elementary and middle school students.

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Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

The bill reduces the appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education from the state education fund for the statewide assessment program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1006.3, **amend**
3 (1)(a) introductory portion; and **repeal** (1)(a)(III) as follows:

4 **22-7-1006.3. State assessments - administration - rules -**
5 **definitions.**

6 (1) (a) ~~Beginning in the 2015-16 school year,~~ The department of
7 education, in collaboration with local education providers, shall
8 administer the state assessments in the instructional areas of English
9 language arts, mathematics, AND science, ~~and social studies,~~ as adopted
10 by the state board pursuant to section 22-7-1006, as follows:

11 ~~(III) The department shall administer a state assessment in social~~
12 ~~studies to students enrolled in public elementary and middle schools~~
13 ~~throughout the state. The department shall select the specific grades in~~
14 ~~which to administer the state social studies assessment, ensuring that~~
15 ~~students take the state social studies assessment once in elementary~~
16 ~~school and once in middle school. The department shall administer the~~
17 ~~social studies assessment required by this subsection (1)(a)(III) in a~~
18 ~~representative sample of public schools each school year, ensuring that it~~
19 ~~administers the social studies assessment in each public school at least~~
20 ~~once every three years. A school district, for one or more of the schools~~
21 ~~of the school district that are not included in the representative sample, or~~
22 ~~a charter school that is not included in the representative sample, may~~
23 ~~request that the department administer the assessment in the district~~

1 ~~school or charter school. The department shall administer the social~~
2 ~~studies assessment in the requested school in the school year following~~
3 ~~the school year in which it receives the request.~~

4 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

5 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this
6 act, the cash funds appropriation from the state education fund created in
7 section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution made in the annual
8 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
9 department of education for the statewide assessment program is
10 decreased by \$836,563.

11 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of
12 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27
13 state fiscal year if:

14 (a) The amount of the cash funds appropriation from the state
15 education fund made in the annual general appropriation act for the
16 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education for the statewide
17 assessment program is less than the amount of the adjustment required in
18 subsection (1) of this section; or

19 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
20 fiscal year does not include a cash funds appropriation from the state
21 education fund to the department of education for the statewide
22 assessment program.

23 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
24 except that section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
25 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
26 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
27 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever

1 is later.

2 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
3 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
4 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
5 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
6 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/12/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0883.01 Conrad Imel x2313

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Reduce Science Teacher Profl Dev Program Approp

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING REDUCING SPENDING FOR A SCIENCE TEACHER
102 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION
103 THEREWITH, REDUCING AN 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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, the general assembly appropriated \$3 million from the state education fund for a professional development program for science teachers. The money is available for expenditure through the 2026-27 state fiscal year.

The bill reduces the appropriation to \$1.5 million.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-146.8, **amend**
3 (4)(b) as follows:

4 **22-2-146.8. Department of education - improving science**
5 **outcomes - teacher professional development - report - appropriation**
6 **- legislative declaration - definitions.**

7 (4) (b) ~~For the 2024-25 budget year, the general assembly shall~~
8 ~~appropriate three million dollars from the state education fund to the~~
9 ~~department. Any money appropriated pursuant to this section FOR THE~~
10 ~~PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION FOR THE 2024-25 BUDGET YEAR that is not~~
11 ~~expended prior to July 1, 2025, remains available for expenditure for the~~
12 ~~same purpose in the 2026-27 budget year without further appropriation.~~
13 ~~At the end of the 2026-27 budget year, the money that is unexpended or~~
14 ~~unencumbered reverts to the state education fund. <{The draft does not~~
15 ~~repeal the program, but reduces the funding so that the program can~~
16 ~~wrap up during FY26-27. If the program will not be funded going~~
17 ~~forward, can the bill repeal the program so that there is not an~~
18 ~~unfunded program in statute?>~~

19 **SECTION 2.** In Session Laws of Colorado 2024, **amend** section
20 3 of chapter 239 (HB 24-1446) as follows:

21 Section 3. **Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
22 ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$1,500,000 is appropriated to the department of education for
23 use by student learning. This appropriation is from the state education
24 fund created in section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution. To
25 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for
26 professional development for science teachers.

1 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
2 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
3 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
4 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
5 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/13/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0887.01 Conrad Imel x2313

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Repeal Academic Accelerator Grant Program

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REPEALING THE COLORADO ACADEMIC ACCELERATOR**
102 **GRANT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING**
103 **AN 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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill repeals the Colorado academic accelerator grant program (program), effective January 1, 2027. The bill reduces the amount of the appropriation for the program and clarifies that the money appropriated for the program that was available for expenditure through the 2026-27 state fiscal year is only available through December

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
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31, 2026.

Other existing law cites the definitions in the repealed program. The bill makes conforming amendments to maintain the meaning of the terms in the other existing law.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-146.6, **amend**
3 (9); and **add** (10) as follows:

4 **22-2-146.6. Colorado academic accelerator grant program -**
5 **report - rules - definitions - repeal.**

6 (9) ~~For the 2023-24 budget year, the general assembly shall~~
7 ~~appropriate twenty-four million five hundred thousand dollars to the~~
8 ~~department.~~ The department shall have the authority to spend funds
9 APPROPRIATED FOR THE 2023-24 BUDGET YEAR continuously ~~through the~~
10 ~~2026-27 budget year~~ UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2026, for the purposes of this
11 section. Any unexpended funds that remain ~~at the end of the 2026-27~~
12 ~~budget year~~ AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2026, revert back to the general fund.

13 (10) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Session Laws of Colorado 2023, **amend** section
15 introductory portion and section 15(b) of chapter 190 (HB 23-1231) as
16 follows:

17 Section 15. **Appropriation.** For the 2023-24 state fiscal year,
18 ~~\$26,694,530~~ \$18,282,988 is appropriated to the department of education.
19 This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the
20 department may use this appropriation as follows:

21 (b) ~~\$24,500,000~~ \$16,088,458 for the Colorado academic
22 accelerator grant program, which amount is based on an assumption that
23 the department will require an additional 2.6 FTE; and

1 units, district charter schools, institute charter schools, and boards of
2 cooperative services that participate in the educator training.

3 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-14-109.5, **amend**
4 (4)(b)(II); and **add** (1)(a.5) as follows:

5 **22-14-109.5. Ninth-grade success grant program - created -**
6 **criteria - use of grant money - appropriation - report - rules -**
7 **definitions.**

8 (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

9 (a.5) "EVIDENCE-INFORMED" MEANS A PROGRAM OR PRACTICE IN
10 MATHEMATICS THAT RELIES ON PEER-REVIEWED EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH
11 A BASIS FOR ACCELERATING LEARNING. "EVIDENCE-INFORMED" INCLUDES
12 EVIDENCE-INFORMED CURRICULA, INTERVENTIONS, AND ASSESSMENT
13 OPTIONS.

14 (4) (b) The department and the state board, in recommending and
15 awarding grants, shall prioritize applicants that:

16 (II) Propose programming focused on evidence-informed ~~as~~
17 ~~defined in section 22-2-146.6,~~ mathematics skills, intervention strategies,
18 and acceleration strategies, including a focus on students who are below
19 grade level or struggling in mathematics; and

20 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-121, **amend**
21 (2)(h); and **add** (1)(b.5) as follows:

22 **22-60.5-121. Educator preparation programs - requirements**
23 **- advisory committee - report - rules - legislative declaration -**
24 **definitions.**

25 (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

26 (b.5) "EVIDENCE-INFORMED" MEANS A PROGRAM OR PRACTICE IN
27 MATHEMATICS THAT RELIES ON PEER-REVIEWED EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH

1 A BASIS FOR ACCELERATING LEARNING. "EVIDENCE-INFORMED" INCLUDES
2 EVIDENCE-INFORMED CURRICULA, INTERVENTIONS, AND ASSESSMENT
3 OPTIONS.

4 (2) The state board shall adopt rules establishing the requirements
5 for educator preparation programs, which, at a minimum, must ensure that
6 each educator preparation program includes:

7 (h) A requirement that candidates for an elementary education
8 endorsement, a middle school mathematics endorsement, or a secondary
9 mathematics endorsement are trained in evidence-informed practices in
10 mathematics, ~~as defined in section 22-2-146.6~~, including interventions to
11 help students who are below grade level or struggling in mathematics;
12 children with disabilities, as defined in section 22-20-103; and students
13 who are English language learners;

14 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
17 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
18 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/10/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0753.01 Pierce Lively x2059

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Healthy School Meals for All State Education Fund

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE USE OF STATE EDUCATION FUND MONEY TO FUND**
102 **THE HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL PROGRAM.**

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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. During the 2023-24 and 2025-26 state fiscal years, the general assembly appropriated money from the state education fund for expenditures related to the healthy school meals for all program. The bill directs the state treasurer to transfer \$31 million from the healthy school meals for all program fund to the state education fund on July 1, 2026.

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

Under current law, beginning July 1, 2026, and each July 1 thereafter, the state treasurer is required to transfer money from the state education fund to the healthy school meals for all program fund account (account) within the fund. The bill repeals that requirement, the account, the descriptions of the expenditure of money in the account, and a related reporting requirement.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-82.9-209, **add** (3)
3 as follows:

4 **22-82.9-209. Program - funding.**

5 (3) (a) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
6 THIRTY-ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE FUND TO THE STATE EDUCATION
7 FUND.

8 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-82.9-211, **amend**
10 (3)(a) introductory portion, (3)(d) introductory portion, (3)(e) introductory
11 portion, (3)(f) introductory portion, (3)(g), and (3)(h)(I); and **repeal**
12 (1)(a.5), (1)(d), (2)(b), (3)(a.5), (3)(c), (4.5) and (8) as follows:

13 **22-82.9-211. Healthy school meals for all program cash fund**
14 **- creation - uses - reporting requirements - legislative declaration -**
15 **definitions - repeal.**

16 (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

17 (a.5) "~~Account~~" ~~means the healthy school meals for all program~~
18 ~~fund account created in subsection (2)(b) of this section.~~

19 (d) "~~State education fund healthy school meals for all revenue~~"
20 ~~means the amount of additional tax revenue deposited in the state~~
21 ~~education fund as a result of limiting, for income tax years commencing~~
22 ~~on or after January 1, 2026, the amount of deductions that taxpayers who~~

1 ~~claim itemized deductions as defined in section 63 (d) of the internal~~
2 ~~revenue code or the standard deduction as defined in section 63 (c) of the~~
3 ~~internal revenue code and who have a federal adjusted gross income in~~
4 ~~the income tax year equal to or greater than three hundred thousand~~
5 ~~dollars may claim to the following:~~

6 <{*I've assumed that, even though the account consists of money from*
7 *the SEF "and any other money that the general assembly may*
8 *appropriate or transfer to the fund" that the GA will not so appropriate*
9 *or transfer money. So, I have repealed the account and related*
10 *subsections/language.*>

11 (2) (b) ~~The healthy school meals for all program fund account is~~
12 ~~created in the fund. The account consists of money transferred by the~~
13 ~~treasurer from the state education fund in accordance with subsection~~
14 ~~(4.5) of this section and any other money that the general assembly may~~
15 ~~appropriate or transfer to the fund. The state treasurer shall credit all~~
16 ~~interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of money in~~
17 ~~the account to the account.~~

18 (3) (a) Subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly,
19 money may be expended from the fund that is not in the account for the
20 following purposes:

21 <{*The draft strikes subsection (3)(a.5) below, since that subsection only*
22 *spent money in the account which this bill is repealing. This subsection*
23 *ensured that there was a minimum amount of money spent on the*
24 *non-meals programs of the Healthy School Meals for All program.*
25 *Would you like to preserve some alternative required amount of*
26 *funding for these programs?*>

27 (a.5) (f) ~~Subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly,~~

1 the department may expend money from the account for the following
2 purposes:

3 ~~(A) Awarding local food purchasing grants pursuant to sections~~
4 ~~22-82.9-205 and 22-82.9-302;~~

5 ~~(B) Distributing money to a participating school food authority to~~
6 ~~increase wages or provide stipends for individuals whom the participating~~
7 ~~school food authority employs to directly prepare and serve food for~~
8 ~~school meals pursuant to section 22-82.9-206 (1);~~

9 ~~(C) Awarding local school food purchasing technical assistance~~
10 ~~and education grants pursuant to sections 22-82.9-207 and 22-82.9-303;~~
11 ~~and~~

12 ~~(D) The direct and indirect costs of administering the programs~~
13 ~~described in this subsection (3)(a.5), so long as these costs do not exceed~~
14 ~~one and one-half percent of the total amount the general assembly~~
15 ~~annually appropriates in the same fiscal year for the other purposes~~
16 ~~described in subsection (3)(a) of this section and this subsection (3)(a.5).~~

17 ~~(H) The department shall, as practicable, expend all of the~~
18 ~~estimated amount of money in the account for the purposes described in~~
19 ~~this subsection (3)(a.5) and in accordance with the distribution methods~~
20 ~~established in subsections (3)(c) to (3)(h) of this section.~~

21 ~~(c) Notwithstanding subsection (3)(b) of this section, if the~~
22 ~~department expending money from the fund as follows would result in a~~
23 ~~reserve calculation amount equal to less than ten percent, then the~~
24 ~~department shall expend money from the account as follows:~~

25 ~~(I) Awarding local school food purchasing grants pursuant to~~
26 ~~section 22-82.9-302 in amounts determined by the department that, in~~
27 ~~combination with the expenditures from the account described in~~

1 subsections (3)(c)(II) and (3)(c)(III) of this section, result in expending
2 all of the estimated amount in the account;

3 (II) ~~Distributing the greater of three thousand dollars or an amount~~
4 ~~equal to six cents multiplied by the number of school lunches that~~
5 ~~qualified as eligible meals that the participating school food authority~~
6 ~~provided in the school year two school years prior to a participating~~
7 ~~school food authority to increase wages or provide stipends for~~
8 ~~individuals whom the participating school food authority employs to~~
9 ~~directly prepare and serve food for school meals pursuant to section~~
10 ~~22-82.9-206 (1); and~~

11 (III) ~~Awarding two hundred fifty thousand dollars in local school~~
12 ~~food purchasing technical assistance and education grants pursuant to~~
13 ~~section 22-82.9-303.~~

14 (d) If the department expending money from the fund as follows
15 would result in a reserve calculation amount equal to or greater than ten
16 percent and less than twenty-five percent, then the department shall
17 expend money from the fund ~~including money in the account in~~
18 ~~accordance with subsection (3)(a.5)(II) of this section~~, as follows:

19 (e) If the department expending money from the fund as follows
20 would result in a reserve calculation amount equal to or greater than
21 twenty-five percent and less than thirty-five percent, then the department
22 shall expend money from the fund ~~including money in the account in~~
23 ~~accordance with subsection (3)(a.5)(II) of this section~~, as follows:

24 (f) If the department expending money from the fund as follows
25 would result in a reserve calculation amount equal to or greater than
26 thirty-five percent, then the department shall expend money from the fund
27 ~~including money in the account in accordance with subsection (3)(a.5)(II)~~

1 ~~of this section~~, as follows:

2 (g) If, upon awarding money according to subsection (3)(f) of this
3 section, the department determines that awarding money pursuant to this
4 subsection (3)(g) would result in a reserve calculation amount equal to
5 thirty-five percent or more, then money may be expended from the fund
6 ~~including money in the account in accordance with subsection (3)(a.5)(II)~~
7 ~~of this section~~ by awarding and distributing amounts from the fund as
8 described in subsection (3)(f) of this section and then funding the
9 implementation of the supplemental nutritional assistance program in a
10 manner that supplements and does not supplant the state's expenditures,
11 as of July 1, 2025, to implement the supplemental nutritional assistance
12 program; outreach related to the supplemental nutritional assistance
13 program; and community-based nutrition education.

14 (h) (I) Notwithstanding subsections (3)(d) to (3)(f) of this section,
15 the department shall not reduce from one state fiscal year to the next the
16 amount multiplied by the number of lunches that qualify as eligible meals
17 or the dollar amount alternative used to calculate the amount the
18 department awards for the purposes described in subsections (3)(a)(II)
19 ~~AND (3)(a)(III) (3)(a.5)(I)(A), and (3)(a.5)(I)(B)~~ of this section or the total
20 amount the department awards for the purpose described in ~~subsections~~
21 ~~SUBSECTION (3)(a)(IV) and (3)(a.5)(I)(C)~~ of this section. This subsection
22 (3)(h)(I) does not apply in a fiscal year when the department expends
23 money from the fund. ~~including money in the account, pursuant to~~
24 ~~subsections (3)(c) and (3)(g) of this section.~~

25 (4.5) (a) ~~On July 1, 2026, and each July 1 thereafter, the state~~
26 ~~treasurer shall transfer an amount from the state education fund to the~~
27 ~~account equal to the amount reported by the office of state planning and~~

1 budgeting pursuant to subsection (4.5)(b) of this section.

2 (b) ~~Before July 1, 2026, and before each July 1 thereafter, the~~
3 ~~office of state planning and budgeting shall, in collaboration with the~~
4 ~~department of revenue, prepare an estimate of the amount of state~~
5 ~~education fund healthy school meals for all revenue for the following~~
6 ~~fiscal year and report that estimate to the state treasurer.~~

7 (c) (I) ~~On July 1, 2026, in addition to the amount described in~~
8 ~~subsection (4.5)(a) of this section, the state treasurer shall transfer an~~
9 ~~amount from the state education fund to the fund equal to the amount~~
10 ~~reported by the office of state planning and budgeting pursuant to~~
11 ~~subsection (4.5)(c)(II) of this section.~~

12 (II) ~~Before July 1, 2026, the office of state planning and budgeting~~
13 ~~shall, in collaboration with the department of revenue, prepare an estimate~~
14 ~~of the amount of state education fund healthy school meals for all revenue~~
15 ~~for the immediately preceding fiscal year and report that estimate to the~~
16 ~~state treasurer.~~

17 (d) ~~The general assembly finds and declares that for purposes of~~
18 ~~section 17 of article IX of the state constitution, healthy school meals are~~
19 ~~an essential component to student learning. The programs described in~~
20 ~~subsection (3)(a.5) of this section are an important component of an~~
21 ~~accountable program to meet state academic standards, and may therefore~~
22 ~~receive money from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of~~
23 ~~article IX of the state constitution.~~

24 (8) (a) ~~On or before January 15, 2027, the department, in~~
25 ~~consultation with the office of state planning and budgeting, shall report~~
26 ~~to the joint budget committee of the general assembly on whether there~~
27 ~~is a sufficient balance in the cash fund for:~~

1 ~~(I) The state treasurer to transfer an amount from the cash fund to~~
2 ~~the state education fund equal to the total amount of expenditures from~~
3 ~~the state education fund for the purposes of subsection (3) of this section~~
4 ~~minus the amount of additional tax revenue deposited in the state~~
5 ~~education fund as a result of section 39-22-104 (3)(p.5) for state fiscal~~
6 ~~years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26; and~~

7 ~~(H) The department to provide reimbursements to a participating~~
8 ~~school food authority for offering eligible meals without charge pursuant~~
9 ~~to section 22-82.9-204 (1).~~

10 ~~(b) This subsection (8) is repealed, effective July 1, 2027.~~

11 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
12 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
14 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
15 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/12/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0923.01 Owen Hatch x2698

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Pub Defender & Prosecutor Behavioral Hlth Prog

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING DIRECTING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FUNDING FOR**
102 **THE PUBLIC DEFENDER AND PROSECUTOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
103 **SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 TO THE**
104 **OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER.**

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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. For state fiscal year 2026-27, the public defender and prosecutor behavioral health support program allocation split is altered to direct 100% of the program's funds to the office of the

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

state public defender.

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

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

4 (a) The Colorado district attorneys' council has sufficient unspent
5 funds available from prior appropriations to administer the behavioral
6 health support grant program in state fiscal year 2026-27; and

7 (b) It is therefore reasonable not to direct additional funds to the
8 Colorado district attorneys' council for this purpose for the 2026-27 fiscal
9 year. <{**Would you like to include this staff suggested language for a leg**
10 **dec?**}>

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-3502, **add**
12 (1)(c) as follows:

13 **24-32-3502. Public defender and prosecutor behavioral health**
14 **support program - policies - report - fund - repeal.**

15 (1)(c)(I) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION,
16 FOR THE 2026-27 STATE FISCAL YEAR THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOCATE
17 ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM
18 AND ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT
19 FOR THE PROGRAM TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER.

20 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER
21 31, 2027.

22 **SECTION 3. 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

- 1 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 2 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/9/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0908.01 Conrad Imel x2313

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Maximum Reserve Requirement for Certain Cash Funds

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING SUBJECTING SPECIFIED CASH FUNDS TO A THREE-YEAR**
102 **MAXIMUM RESERVE LIMITATION INSTEAD OF THE ANNUAL**
103 **MAXIMUM RESERVE LIMITATION, AND, IN CONNECTION**
104 **THEREWITH, SUBJECTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**
105 **AND INSPECTION CASH FUND AND THE HEALTH FACILITY**
106 **CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION CASH FUND TO THE**
107 **THREE-YEAR LIMITATION.**

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/>.)

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

Joint Budget Committee. Under existing law, cash funds are subject to a maximum amount of uncommitted funds that may be held in reserve at the end of each fiscal year (maximum reserve). If a fund's uncommitted reserves exceed the maximum reserve, the entity that imposes fees that are deposited in the fund shall reduce the amount of one or more of the fees to an amount calculated to reduce the uncommitted reserves to an amount that does not exceed the maximum reserve.

The bill exempts the public school construction and inspection cash fund and the health facility construction and inspection cash fund from the annual maximum reserve limitations. Instead, the funds are subject to the same substantive requirements if the uncommitted reserves of the fund exceed the maximum reserve for 3 consecutive fiscal years.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend**
3 24-33.5-1207.7 as follows:

4 **24-33.5-1207.7. Public school construction and inspection cash**
5 **fund - created - limit on uncommitted reserves - definitions.**

6 (1) THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION CASH
7 FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. All ~~moneys~~ MONEY collected
8 by the division pursuant to sections 22-32-124 (2), and 23-71-122 (1)(v),
9 ~~C.R.S., or section~~ AND 24-33.5-1213.3 shall be transmitted to the state
10 treasurer, who shall credit the same to the ~~public school construction and~~
11 ~~inspection cash fund, which is hereby created~~ FUND. All ~~moneys~~ MONEY
12 credited to the fund and all interest earned ~~thereon~~ ON THE MONEY IN THE
13 FUND are subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly for
14 paying the expenses of the public school construction and inspection
15 program. Any unexpended and unencumbered ~~moneys~~ MONEY remaining
16 in the fund at the end of a fiscal year ~~shall remain~~ REMAINS in the fund
17 and shall not be credited or transferred to the general fund or another
18 fund.

1 (2) (a) THE FUND IS EXCLUDED FROM THE LIMITATIONS SPECIFIED
2 IN SECTION 24-75-402.

3 (b) IF, FOR EACH OF THREE CONSECUTIVE FISCAL YEARS, THE
4 UNCOMMITTED RESERVES OF THE FUND AT THE CONCLUSION OF A FISCAL
5 YEAR EXCEED THE MAXIMUM RESERVE FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, THE
6 DIVISION SHALL REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ONE OR MORE OF THE FEES
7 CREDITED TO THE FUND TO AN AMOUNT CALCULATED TO RESULT IN AN
8 AMOUNT OF UNCOMMITTED RESERVES OF THE FUND FOR THE CURRENT
9 FISCAL YEAR THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM RESERVE. IF THE
10 DIVISION REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF A FEE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE
11 DIVISION MAY SUBSEQUENTLY RAISE THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE SO LONG AS
12 DOING SO WOULD NOT CAUSE THE PROJECTED AMOUNT OF UNCOMMITTED
13 RESERVES OF THE FUND TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM RESERVE.

14 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
15 REQUIRES:

16 (a) "FUND" MEANS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND
17 INSPECTION CASH FUND CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

18 (b) "MAXIMUM RESERVE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
19 SECTION 24-75-402 (2).

20 (c) "UNCOMMITTED RESERVES" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
21 SECTION 24-75-402 (2).

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend**
23 24-33.5-1207.8 as follows:

24 **24-33.5-1207.8. Health facility construction and inspection**
25 **cash fund - created - limit on uncommitted reserves - definitions.**

26 (1) THE HEALTH FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION CASH
27 FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. All ~~moneys~~ MONEY collected

1 by the division pursuant to section 24-33.5-1212.5 shall be transmitted to
2 the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the ~~health facility~~
3 ~~construction and inspection cash fund, which is hereby created~~ FUND. All
4 ~~moneys~~ MONEY credited to the fund and all interest earned ~~thereon~~ ON
5 THE MONEY IN THE FUND are subject to annual appropriation by the
6 general assembly for paying the expenses of the health facility
7 construction and inspection program. Any unexpended and
8 unencumbered ~~moneys~~ MONEY remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal
9 year ~~shall remain~~ REMAINS in the fund and shall not be credited or
10 transferred to the general fund or another fund.

11 (2) (a) THE FUND IS EXCLUDED FROM THE LIMITATIONS SPECIFIED
12 IN SECTION 24-75-402.

13 (b) IF, FOR EACH OF THREE CONSECUTIVE FISCAL YEARS, THE
14 UNCOMMITTED RESERVES OF THE FUND AT THE CONCLUSION OF A FISCAL
15 YEAR EXCEED THE MAXIMUM RESERVE FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR, THE
16 DIVISION SHALL BY RULE OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW REDUCE
17 THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE CHARGED BY THE DIVISION PURSUANT TO
18 SECTION 24-33.5-1212.5 TO AN AMOUNT CALCULATED TO RESULT IN AN
19 AMOUNT OF UNCOMMITTED RESERVES OF THE FUND FOR THE CURRENT
20 FISCAL YEAR THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM RESERVE. IF THE
21 DIVISION REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,
22 THE DIVISION MAY SUBSEQUENTLY RAISE THE AMOUNT OF THE FEE SO
23 LONG AS DOING SO WOULD NOT CAUSE THE PROJECTED AMOUNT OF
24 UNCOMMITTED RESERVES OF THE FUND TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM
25 RESERVE.

26 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
27 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "FUND" MEANS THE HEALTH FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND
2 INSPECTION CASH FUND CREATED IN THIS SECTION.

3 (b) "MAXIMUM RESERVE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
4 SECTION 24-75-402 (2).

5 (c) "UNCOMMITTED RESERVES" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN
6 SECTION 24-75-402 (2).

7 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-402, **amend**
8 (5)(mmm); and **add** (5)(ooo) and (5)(ppp) as follows:

9 **24-75-402. Cash funds - limit on uncommitted reserves -**
10 **reduction in the amount of fees - exclusions - definitions.**

11 (5) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary,
12 the following cash funds are excluded from the limitations specified in
13 this section:

14 (mmm) The reentry services for justice-involved individuals
15 reinvestment cash fund created in section 25.5-4-505.7; and

16 (ooo) THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION CASH
17 FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1207.7; AND

18 (ppp) THE HEALTH FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION
19 CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1207.8.

20 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
21 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
23 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
24 institutions.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
3/11/26

DRAFT

LLS NO. 26-0911.01 Sam Anderson x4218

COMMITTEE BILL

Joint Budget Committee

BILL TOPIC: Repeal Wildfire Resilient Homes Grant Program
DEADLINES: File by: 3/20/2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF THE WILDFIRE RESILIENT HOMES GRANT**
102 **PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC**
103 **SAFETY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, TRANSFERRING THE**
104 **BALANCE OF THE WILDFIRE RESILIENT HOMES GRANT PROGRAM**
105 **CASH FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.**

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/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. Under existing law, the department of public safety administers the wildfire resilient homes grant program,

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

which provides grants to homeowners for the purposes of making their homes more resilient to wildfire risk. The grant program is funded through the wildfire resilient homes grant program cash fund (grant program cash fund).

The bill requires the state treasurer to transfer the balance of the grant program cash fund to the general fund on June 30, 2026, and repeals the wildfire resilient homes grant program, effective July 1, 2026.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1239, **add**
3 (4)(c) and (7) as follows:

4 **24-33.5-1239. Wildfire resilient homes grant program - fund**
5 **- rules - report - definitions - repeal.**

6 (4) (c) ON JUNE 30, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
7 THE UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED BALANCE OF THE WILDFIRE
8 RESILIENT HOMES GRANT PROGRAM CASH FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND.

9 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

10 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
13 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
14 institutions.



Memorandum

To: Joint Budget Committee
From: Michelle Curry, JBC Staff (303-866-2062)
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: Adjustments to LLS 26-0807 Public Safety Communication Funds

The Committee recently approved introduction for legislation that would clarify the uses of the Public Safety Communications Trust Fund and create a spillover for unexpended funds from the Public Safety Communications Revolving Fund. After approval, the Department identified concerns related to that spillover.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approving the following adjustments to the legislation as currently drafted:

- **Delaying the first transfer between funds until closeout of FY 2026-27.** The Department has indicated that they intend to spend down the current Revolving Fund balance in FY 2026-27, so transferring unencumbered amounts before the start of FY 2027-28 could result in significant supplemental requests.
- **Removing the current statutory cap on the Trust Fund's balance in exchange for reporting requirements.** Current law requires that, "the total amount of the principal in the fund shall not exceed fifty million dollars"¹. The Department has indicated that spillover revenue and movement of all ongoing capital projects to the Trust could result in the fund reaching the \$50.0 million limit. Currently, the "principal" in the fund includes dollars that have been reserved for projects but are not yet encumbered in contracts.

Analysis

The current balance cap seems to have originated from the Trust's creation when public safety communication functions resided in the Governor's Office of Information Technology. This office and the associated fund were moved to the Department of Public Safety via H.B. 22-1353 (Public Safety Communications Transfer). Staff believes that the intention of the cap was to limit the revenue to the fund through the DTRS common policy. Given the changes in funding for the Office and the expansion of the DTRS, Staff agrees with the Department that the cap could be reached with an influx of federal funding for long-term capital projects. Staff believes that inclusion of ongoing annual reports showing actual and anticipated expenditures and revenue would serve the same purpose of ensuring that the Department is not over-collecting from agencies or misusing fund transfers. The current reporting requirement for the office expired in November 2025.

¹ Section 24-33.5-2510 (2)(a)(I), C.R.S.