

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

May 7, 2026
Date

Committee on Appropriations.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB26-1429 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 3, strike lines 2 through 21.
- 2 Strike page 4.
- 3 Page 5, strike lines 1 through 16, and substitute:
 - 4 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
 - 5 finds and declares that:
 - 6 (a) Access to public benefits is fundamental to the health,
 - 7 stability, and economic security of Colorado residents; the systems used
 - 8 to administer those benefits must be accessible, efficient, and reliable;
 - 9 (b) Modern, integrated technology systems are necessary to
 - 10 support efficient program administration, improve client experience, and
 - 11 ensure timely and effective delivery of benefits and services;
 - 12 (c) The state's current benefits technology infrastructure is
 - 13 fragmented, difficult to navigate, and imposes administrative burdens on
 - 14 applicants, recipients, and staff who determine applicant eligibility, which
 - 15 may limit access to services for eligible individuals and families;
 - 16 (d) Colorado has the opportunity to redesign its benefits
 - 17 infrastructure through modular technology built on published, open
 - 18 standards—preserving state control of technology direction; ensuring
 - 19 ongoing development of a comprehensive, long-term plan to redesign the
 - 20 state's public benefits system to support cost mitigation; and increasing
 - 21 administrative efficiency and the delivery of high-quality services for
 - 22 individuals and families; and
 - 23 (e) To ensure effective change management and minimize
 - 24 disruption to services for individuals and families, the approach to
 - 25 redesigning the safety net must occur within established timelines and
 - 26 include structured planning processes, intentional stakeholder

1 engagement, and regular progress updates to the general assembly.
2 (2) The general assembly further declares that:
3 (a) The department of human services, the department of early
4 childhood, and the department of health care policy and financing, in
5 partnership with counties, front line workers, and other interested
6 stakeholders, shall conduct a structured, facilitated process to ensure that
7 Colorado operates a redesigned public benefits delivery model consisting
8 of no more than twelve cohorts of counties working together to
9 administer public assistance programs no later than July 1, 2028;
10 (b) The public benefits delivery system redesign:
11 (I) Replaces existing benefits technology with modular solutions
12 built on published, open standards to ensure adaptability, preserve state
13 control of technology direction, and enable continuous improvement in
14 service delivery;
15 (II) Ensures state-directed product management so the state retains
16 authority over strategy, roadmap, and measurement of user outcomes and
17 experience;
18 (III) Streamlines access through unified systems that are
19 integrated across programs to improve coordination and reduce
20 administrative burden on residents, applicants, and eligibility technicians;
21 (IV) Designs eligibility, enrollment, and redetermination
22 processes around the whole person using plain language and simple
23 processes so that seeking help is straightforward, dignified, and accessible
24 regardless of language or ability; and
25 (V) Adopts published, open standards and interoperability
26 requirements to ensure ongoing vendor competition and competitive
27 procurement that drives the best outcomes for residents; and
28 (c) The redesign of the state's benefits technology infrastructure
29 is a priority necessary to support improved program administration and
30 resident service delivery. State agencies responsible for benefits
31 administration should coordinate across programs, prioritize
32 implementation of redesign efforts, and report annually to the general
33 assembly, including working demonstrations of deployed service
34 improvements and measurable outcomes for residents."

35 Page 5, line 24, after "SERVICE." insert "PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF THE
36 CONTRACT, THE COUNTY ADMINISTERING THE CENTRALIZED MEMBER
37 INTEGRITY SERVICE MAY SUBCONTRACT WITH OTHER COUNTIES TO FULFILL
38 ITS OBLIGATIONS."

39 Page 6, strike line 3, and substitute "AND STATE-LEVEL FRAUD HEARINGS,
40 INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION WAIVERS, AND CRIMINAL COURT
41 PROCEEDINGS, CONCERNING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY".

1 Page 6, after line 10, insert:
2 "(b) THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN ESTABLISHED PURSUANT
3 TO ARTICLE 8 OF TITLE 25.5;"

4 Reletter succeeding paragraphs accordingly.

5 Page 7, line 13, strike "AND RECOVERIES," and substitute "RECOVERIES,
6 FRAUD DISPUTE RESOLUTION CONFERENCES, STATE-LEVEL FRAUD
7 HEARINGS, INTENTIONAL PROGRAM VIOLATION WAIVERS, AND CRIMINAL
8 COURT PROCEEDINGS,".

9 Page 9, strike lines 14 through 18, and substitute:
10 "(b) "CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN" MEANS A FORMAL PLAN FOR
11 WHEN A COUNTY DEPARTMENT FAILS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF A
12 PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT IN WHICH THE COUNTY IS A PARTY,
13 PERFORMANCE METRICS, OR APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW OR
14 REGULATION.".

15 Page 9, line 21, strike "TITLE 25.5," and substitute "TITLE 25.5; THE
16 CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 8 OF
17 TITLE 25.5;"

18 Page 10, line 4, strike "SEPTEMBER 1, 2026," and substitute "FEBRUARY
19 1, 2027,".

20 Page 10, line 8 and 9, strike "SEPTEMBER 1, 2026," and substitute
21 "FEBRUARY 1, 2027,".

22 Page 10, line 12, strike "JANUARY 1, 2027," and substitute "JULY 1,
23 2027,".

24 Page 11, strike lines 6 through 9.

25 Reletter succeeding sub-subparagraphs.

26 Page 11, line 10, strike "ASSESSING" and substitute "THRESHOLDS FOR".

27 Page 11, line 12, strike "ASSESSING" and substitute "THRESHOLDS FOR".

28 Page 11, after line 15, insert:
29 "(D) REQUIREMENTS CURRENTLY INCLUDED IN CONTRACTS,
30 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS BETWEEN
31 THE STATE DEPARTMENTS AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS;"

- 1 Renumber succeeding sub-subparagraphs accordingly.
- 2 Page 11, line 16, strike "REQUIRING" and substitute "REQUIRED".
- 3 Page 11, line 19, strike "ASSESSING" and substitute "THRESHOLDS FOR".
- 4 Page 11, line 22, strike "THRESHOLDS," and substitute "THRESHOLDS
5 IDENTIFIED IN THE PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT,".
- 6 Page 12, after line 4, insert:
7 "(D) REQUIREMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT MANAGEMENT
8 EVALUATIONS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEWS;".
- 9 Renumber succeeding sub-subparagraphs.
- 10 Page 12, line 9, strike "ON A REGULAR BASIS." and substitute "IN
11 ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 26-1-144.".
- 12 Page 13, line 2, strike "IDENTIFIES".
- 13 Page 13, line 24, strike "DAYS" and substitute "DAYS, UNLESS AND
14 EXTENSION IS GRANTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE,".
- 15 Page 16, line 12, strike "26-1-144" and substitute "25.5-1-137".
- 16 Page 16, line 14, strike "**26-1-144.**" and substitute "**25.5-1-137.**".
- 17 Page 16, after line 21, insert:
18 "(b) "DEPARTMENTS" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE
19 POLICY AND FINANCING, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE
20 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.".
- 21 Reletter succeeding paragraphs.
- 22 Page 16, line 24, after "TITLE 25.5;" insert "THE CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH
23 PLAN ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 8 OF TITLE 25.5;".
- 24 Page 17, strike lines 4 through 13, and substitute:
25 "(2) BEGINNING JANUARY 2027, AND MONTHLY THEREAFTER, THE
26 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING, IN
27 COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND THE
28 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, SHALL ESTABLISH A SINGLE, SHARED
29 ONLINE DASHBOARD USED TO PUBLISH COUNTY-LEVEL AND STATEWIDE

- 1 PERFORMANCE ON THE METRICS FOR EACH OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
2 PROGRAMS:".
- 3 Page 17, line 15, strike "TITLE 25.5:" and substitute "TITLE 25.5 AND THE
4 CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 8 OF
5 TITLE 25.5:".
- 6 Page 18, strike lines 9 through 12.
- 7 Renumber succeeding sub-subparagraphs accordingly.
- 8 Page 18, strike lines 16 through 19, and substitute:
9 "(V) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INITIAL APPLICATIONS AND RENEWAL
10 APPLICATIONS THAT ARE PENDING DETERMINATION AND THE TOTAL
11 NUMBER DEEMED UNTIMELY BASED ON THE TIMELINES REQUIRED BY
12 FEDERAL LAW AND REGULATION FOR APPLICATIONS BASED ON DISABILITY,
13 AND FOR ALL OTHER APPLICATIONS;".
- 14 Page 19, line 8, after "BELOW;" insert "AND".
- 15 Page 19, strike lines 9 through 11.
- 16 Reletter succeeding subparagraph accordingly.
- 17 Page 19, line 12, strike "EIGHTY-FIVE" and substitute "THIRTY".
- 18 Page 20, line 1, after "METHODS;" insert "AND".
- 19 Page 20, strike lines 2 and 3.
- 20 Renumber succeeding subparagraph accordingly.
- 21 Page 20, line 4, strike the first "THE" and substitute "ON A QUARTERLY
22 BASIS, THE".
- 23 Page 20, strike lines 6 through 9, and substitute:
24 "(3) (a) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)(f)(III) OF THIS
25 SECTION, THE DATA REPORTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS
26 SECTION MUST:
27 (b) BE PUBLISHED ON EACH OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE'S IN A
28 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE FORMAT;
29 (c) BE UPDATED MONTHLY AND PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
30 DATA PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS OF THE STATE; AND

1 (c) BE MAINTAINED FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS IN A PUBLICLY
2 ACCESSIBLE MANNER."

3 Page 20, line 13, strike "(2)(a)(VI)" and substitute "(2)(a)(V)".

4 Page 20, strike lines 14 through 16, and substitute "RESPECTIVE
5 DEPARTMENT."

6 Page 20, strike lines 17 and 18 and substitute:
7 "(5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND THE".

9 Page 20, line 22, strike "STATE".

10 Strike page 21 and 22.

11 Page 23, strike lines 1 through 8, and substitute:
12 **"26-1-801. Legislative declaration.**
13 (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
14 (a) IN ADDITION TO NEAR-TERM POLICY CHANGES NEEDED TO
15 STABILIZE THE SAFETY NET, COLORADO SHOULD DEVELOP A
16 COMPREHENSIVE, LONG-TERM PLAN TO REDESIGN THE STATE'S PUBLIC
17 BENEFITS SYSTEM TO SUPPORT COST MITIGATION, INCREASED
18 ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY, AND THE DELIVERY OF HIGHER-QUALITY
19 SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES;
20 (b) TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE CHANGE MANAGEMENT AND TO
21 MINIMIZE DISRUPTION TO SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, THE
22 APPROACH TO REDESIGNING THE SAFETY NET MUST OCCUR WITHIN
23 ESTABLISHED TIMELINES AND INCLUDE STRUCTURED PLANNING
24 PROCESSES, INTENTIONAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, AND REGULAR
25 PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
26 (c) IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
27 THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
28 HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COUNTIES,
29 FRONT LINE WORKERS, AND OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS, TO
30 CONDUCT A STRUCTURED, FACILITATED PROCESS IN ORDER TO ENSURE
31 THAT ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, COLORADO WILL OPERATE A
32 REDESIGNED PUBLIC BENEFITS DELIVERY MODEL CONSISTING OF NO MORE
33 THAN TWELVE COHORTS OF COUNTIES WORKING TOGETHER TO
34 ADMINISTER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS; AND
35 (d) BECAUSE ACCESS TO PUBLIC BENEFITS IS FUNDAMENTAL TO
36 THE HEALTH, STABILITY, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF COLORADO
37 RESIDENTS, THE SYSTEMS USED TO ADMINISTER THOSE BENEFITS MUST BE

1 ACCESSIBLE, EFFICIENT, AND RELIABLE.

2 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

3 (a) THE STATE'S CURRENT BENEFITS TECHNOLOGY

4 INFRASTRUCTURE IS FRAGMENTED, DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE, AND IMPOSES

5 ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS ON APPLICANTS, RECIPIENTS, AND STAFF WHO

6 DETERMINE APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY, WHICH MAY LIMIT ACCESS TO

7 SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES;

8 (b) MODERN, INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS ARE NECESSARY

9 TO SUPPORT EFFICIENT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, IMPROVE RECIPIENT

10 EXPERIENCE, AND ENSURE TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF BENEFITS

11 AND SERVICES;

12 (c) COLORADO HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REDESIGN ITS BENEFITS

13 TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A

14 STATE-OWNED, MODULAR, AND INTEROPERABLE PLATFORM TO IMPROVE

15 COORDINATION ACROSS PROGRAMS AND ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY;

16 AND

17 (d) REDESIGNING THE STATE'S BENEFITS TECHNOLOGY

18 INFRASTRUCTURE IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE PROGRAM

19 ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE DELIVERY UNDER THE REDESIGNED PUBLIC

20 BENEFITS DELIVERY MODEL. THE REDESIGN OF THE PUBLIC BENEFITS

21 DELIVERY MODEL WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN THE STATE AGENCIES

22 RESPONSIBLE FOR BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COORDINATE ACROSS

23 PROGRAMS, PRIORITIZE IMPLEMENTATION OF REDESIGN EFFORTS, AND

24 PROVIDE REPORTS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING PROGRESS

25 TOWARD THESE GOALS.

26 (3) THEREFORE, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 THAT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES GUIDE BENEFITS TECHNOLOGY

28 REDESIGN:

29 (a) THE STATE SHOULD DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A STATE-OWNED

30 BENEFITS PLATFORM THAT SUPPORTS MODULAR DESIGN,

31 INTEROPERABILITY, AND LONG-TERM ADAPTABILITY THAT ENABLE THE

32 MEASUREMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND USER EXPERIENCE;

33 (b) THE STATE SHOULD DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A CENTRALIZED

34 SYSTEM THROUGH WHICH RESIDENTS MAY ACCESS, APPLY FOR, AND

35 MANAGE BENEFITS ACROSS MULTIPLE PROGRAMS IN A MANNER THAT IS

36 ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS OF ALL ABILITIES, LANGUAGES, AND LEVELS

37 OF DIGITAL ACCESS;

38 (c) THE STATE SHOULD IMPLEMENT A WHOLE-PERSON APPROACH

39 TO BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION BY STREAMLINING AND INTEGRATING

40 INTAKE, ELIGIBILITY, AND ENROLLMENT PROCESSES TO IMPROVE

41 COORDINATION AND REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON APPLICANTS,

42 RECIPIENTS, AND STAFF WHO DETERMINE APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY; AND

43 (d) THE STATE SHOULD ENSURE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND

- 1 RESPONSIVENESS BY ADOPTING MODERN PRODUCT MANAGEMENT
2 PRACTICES IN ITS APPROACH TO BENEFITS TECHNOLOGY REDESIGN,
3 INCLUDING ONGOING USER RESEARCH, STATE-LED PRIORITIZATION OF
4 SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS, AND ITERATIVE, AGILE
5 DEVELOPMENT INFORMED BY PERFORMANCE METRICS AND USER
6 EXPERIENCE DATA."
- 7 Page 23, line 23, strike "TITLE 25.5," and substitute "TITLE 25.5;
8 CHILDREN'S BASIC HEALTH PLAN ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 8 OF
9 TITLE 25.5,".
- 10 Page 23, lines 26 and 27, strike "TITLE 26.5," and substitute "TITLE 26.5;".
- 11 Page 24, line 1, strike "TITLE 26," and substitute "TITLE 26;".
- 12 Page 24, line 3, strike "CONSTITUTION," and substitute "CONSTITUTION;".
- 13 Page 24, strike lines 20 and 21, and substitute:
14 "(c) SECURITY ADMINISTRATION SERVICES TO MANAGE THE
15 PROVISION AND REVOCATION OF ACCESS BY COUNTY PERSONNEL TO
16 STATE-PROVIDED TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS AND SYSTEMS."
- 17 Page 25, line 18, after "SERVICES" insert "AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
18 PROGRAM".
- 19 Page 28, line 15, after the second "DEPARTMENTS," insert "FRONT LINE
20 WORKERS,".
- 21 Page 29, line 14, strike "CONSULTATION WITH AND INPUT FROM".
- 22 Page 29, line 15, strike "ADVOCATES" and substitute "ADVOCATES, FRONT
23 LINE WORKERS,".
- 24 Page 29, lines 15 and 16, strike "COUNTIES THAT VARY IN SIZE." and
25 substitute "COUNTIES, INCLUDING COUNTIES WITH RURAL, URBAN,
26 SUBURBAN, AND RESORT COMMUNITIES AND COUNTIES WITH VARYING
27 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CASELOADS. THE THIRD-PARTY
28 CONTRACTOR MUST HAVE A DEMONSTRATED RECORD OF EXPERTISE IN
29 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, FISCAL MODELING,
30 FACILITATION OF MULTIPLE WORKING AND ADVISORY GROUP STRUCTURES;
31 IN STRUCTURED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT; AND A DEMONSTRATED
32 ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY OPERATE AND ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS
33 THE STATE TO ARRIVE AT RECOMMENDATIONS THAT REFLECT A

1 CONSENSUS, WHEN POSSIBLE."

2 Page 30, strike lines 10 through 16 and substitute:

3 "(2) THE IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP IS COMPOSED OF THE
4 FOLLOWING FIFTEEN MEMBERS:

5 (a) SIX MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNTIES, APPOINTED BY A
6 COLORADO ORGANIZATION THAT ASSISTS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
7 MAYORS, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ENCOURAGES COUNTIES TO WORK
8 TOGETHER, WHO MUST BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
9 AND INCLUDE:

10 (I) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO MUST BE A COUNTY
11 COMMISSIONER, HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR, OR A DESIGNEE OF A COUNTY
12 COMMISSIONER OR HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR, WHO HAS RELEVANT
13 SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE IN HUMAN SERVICES;

14 (II) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO MUST REPRESENT A RURAL
15 COUNTY; AND

16 (III) AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS WHO MUST BE COUNTY
17 REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTING COUNTIES WITH HIGH HUMAN SERVICES
18 CASELOADS;

19 (b) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
20 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

21 (c) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE
22 POLICY AND FINANCING, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
23 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING;

24 (d) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
25 SERVICES, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
26 OF HUMAN SERVICES;

27 (e) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY
28 CHILDHOOD, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
29 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD; AND

30 (f) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM PHILANTHROPIC
31 ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, OR MEMBER EXPERIENCE
32 COUNCILS WHO ARE NOT STATE OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
33 AND HAVE RELEVANT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE:

34 (I) ONE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
35 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING;

36 (II) ONE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
37 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; AND

38 (III) ONE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
39 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD."

40 Page 31, line 1, strike "WORKERS, OR THEIR SUPERVISORS;" and substitute
41 "WORKERS;"

- 1 Page 31, after line 11, insert:
2 "(c) MEMBERS OF THE SUBGROUP MUST NOT BE MEMBERS WHO
3 SERVE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP.
4 (d) THE SUBGROUP FUNCTIONS IN AN ADVISORY ROLE TO THE
5 IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP.
6 (e) THE IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP SHALL SOLICIT INPUT ON
7 THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSITION PLAN AND
8 CORRESPONDING REPORT FROM THE SUBGROUP AND INCLUDE THE
9 SUBGROUP'S INPUT IN THE FINAL REPORT."
- 10 Page 31, strike line 14, and substitute "ON TOPICS THAT MAY INCLUDE:".
- 11 Page 31, line 19, strike "AND".
- 12 Page 31, line 20, strike "MEASURES." and substitute "MEASURES; OR".
- 13 Page 31, after line 20, insert:
14 "(f) ANY OTHER TOPIC THE IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP DEEMS
15 APPROPRIATE."
- 16 Page 32, line 4, after "MEMBERS." insert "THE IMPLEMENTATION WORK
17 GROUP MAY INCLUDE DIFFERENT APPROACHES AND MULTIPLE OPTIONS FOR
18 THE PUBLIC BENEFITS DELIVERY MODEL IN ITS REPORTS OR
19 RECOMMENDATIONS. A MEMBER OF THE IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP
20 MAY SUBMIT A MINORITY REPORT WITH AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH OR
21 RECOMMENDATIONS AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP'S
22 FINAL REPORT."
- 23 Page 33, line 6, after "MODEL." insert "THE TRANSITION PLAN MUST BE
24 DELIVERED TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE BY JANUARY 1, 2027."
- 25 Page 36, strike lines 16 through 19, and substitute:
26 "(d) INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ROLE, STRUCTURE,
27 AUTHORITY, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL MANAGERS
28 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-1-803, INCLUDING THE GEOGRAPHICAL
29 DISTRIBUTION OF THE REGIONAL MANAGERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, TO
30 SUPPORT PERFORMANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND COMMUNICATION OF
31 COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND COHORTS;".
- 32 Page 37, line 7, strike "COMMITTEES;" and substitute "COMMITTEES. THE
33 TRANSITION PLAN MUST ALSO INCLUDE PERFORMANCE DATA REPORTED
34 PURSUANT TO SECTION 25.5-1-138 AND THE FOLLOWING METRICS:
35 (I) FOR THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

1 PURSUANT TO ARTICLES 4 TO 6 OF TITLE 25.5:
2 (A) THE PERCENTAGE OF INITIAL APPLICATIONS AND RENEWAL
3 APPLICATIONS DETERMINED ELIGIBLE DURING THE NINETY DAY
4 RECONSIDERATION PERIOD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH 42 CFR 435.916
5 (b)(2)(III); AND
6 (B) THE PERCENTAGE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGE
7 REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ENROLLMENT APPROVED WITHIN THE
8 FEDERALLY REQUIRED TIMELINES AND THE PERCENTAGE DENIED WITHIN
9 THE FEDERALLY REQUIRED TIMELINES; AND
10 (II) FOR EACH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE AVERAGE CALL
11 TIME, INCLUDING THE CALL TIME AND EXPERIENCE RATING FOR CALLS
12 THAT OCCUR AT A COHORT CALL CENTER."

13 Page 37, line 13, after "SERVICES," insert "FRONT LINE WORKERS,".

14 Page 42, line 13, strike "INVESTIGATIONS" and substitute
15 "INVESTIGATIONS, FRAUD CLAIMS, FRAUD RECOVERY, FRAUD DISPUTE
16 RESOLUTION CONFERENCES, STATE-LEVEL HEARINGS, INTENTIONAL
17 PROGRAM VIOLATION WAIVERS, AND CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS".

18 Page 42, line 15, after "COUNTY" insert "DEPARTMENT".

19 Page 65, line 10, strike "(3) (a) (VII)" and substitute "(3) (a) (VII) (A)".

20 Page 65, line 12, strike "OR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE".

21 Page 65, after line 20, insert:

22 "(B) MONEY WITHHELD FOR PAYMENT OF OBLIGATIONS OWED THE
23 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING FOR
24 OVERPAYMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS PAID PURSUANT TO THIS
25 SUBSECTION (3) MUST BE DEPOSITED WITH THE STATE TREASURER FOR
26 DISBURSEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND
27 FINANCING. FOR ALL NAMES AND ASSOCIATED AMOUNTS CERTIFIED BY THE
28 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING PURSUANT TO
29 SECTION 25.5-1-137, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
30 REVENUE SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY
31 AND FINANCING THE NAMES OF TAXPAYERS AND THE ASSOCIATED
32 AMOUNTS DEPOSITED WITH THE STATE TREASURER AND ANY OTHER
33 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
34 CARE POLICY AND FINANCING.

35 **SECTION 23. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2026-27 state fiscal
36 year, \$2,438,656 is appropriated to the department of health care policy
37 and financing for use by the executive director's office. This appropriation

1 consists of \$1,628,568 from the general fund and \$810,088 from the
2 healthcare affordability and sustainability hospital provider fee cash fund
3 created in section 25.5-4-402.4 (5)(a), C.R.S. To implement this act, the
4 office may use this appropriation as follows:

5 (a) \$447,737, which consists of \$297,166 from general fund and
6 \$150,571 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability hospital
7 provider fee cash fund, for personal services, which amount is based on
8 an assumption that the office will require an additional 8.5 FTE;

9 (b) \$35,173, which consists of \$23,527 from general fund and
10 \$11,646 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability hospital
11 provider fee cash fund, for operating expenses;

12 (c) \$907,419, which consists of \$606,718 from general fund and
13 \$300,701 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability hospital
14 provider fee cash fund, for general professional services and special
15 projects;

16 (d) \$868,590, which consists of \$580,997 from general fund and
17 \$287,593 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability hospital
18 provider fee cash fund, for member case integrity centralized service
19 related to eligibility determinations and client services;

20 (e) \$60,649, which consists of \$40,502 from general fund and
21 \$20,147 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability hospital
22 provider fee cash fund, for the purchase of information technology
23 services; and

24 (f) \$119,088, which consists of \$79,658 from general fund and
25 \$39,430 from the healthcare affordability and sustainability hospital
26 provider fee cash fund, for the purchase of legal services.

27 (2) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, the general assembly
28 anticipates that the department of health care policy and financing will
29 receive \$3,051,099 in federal funds for use by the executive director's
30 office to implement this act, which amount is subject to the "(I)" notation
31 as defined in the annual general appropriation act for the same fiscal year.
32 The appropriation in subsection (1) of this section is based on the
33 assumption that the office will receive this amount of federal funds to be
34 used as follows:

35 (a) \$460,423 for personal services;

36 (b) \$35,613 for operating expenses;

37 (c) \$1,375,231 for general professional services and special
38 projects;

39 (d) \$879,420 for member case integrity centralized service related
40 to eligibility determinations and client services;

41 (e) \$179,840 for the purchase of information technology services;

42 and

43 (f) \$120,572 for the purchase of legal services.

1 (3) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$212,593 is appropriated to
2 the department of health care policy and financing. This appropriation
3 consists of \$141,280 from the general fund, which is subject to the "(M)"
4 notation as defined in the annual general appropriation act for the same
5 fiscal year, and \$71,313 from the healthcare affordability and
6 sustainability hospital provider fee cash fund created in section 25.5-4-
7 402.4 (5)(a), C.R.S. To implement this act, the department may use this
8 appropriation for Colorado benefits management systems, operating and
9 contract expenses.

10 (4) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, the general assembly
11 anticipates that the department of health care policy and financing will
12 receive \$1,805,948 in federal funds for Colorado benefits management
13 systems, operating and contract expenses to implement this act. The
14 appropriation in subsection (3) of this section is based on the assumption
15 that the department will receive this amount of federal funds.

16 (5) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$240,489 is appropriated to
17 the office of the governor for use by the office of information technology.
18 This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the
19 department of health care policy and financing under subsections (1)(e)
20 and (2)(e) of this section. To implement this act, the office may use this
21 appropriation to provide information technology services for the
22 department of health care policy and financing.

23 (6) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$239,660 is appropriated to
24 the department of law. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds
25 received from the department of health care policy and financing under
26 subsection (1)(f) and 2(f) of this section and is based on an assumption
27 that the department of law will require an additional 1.3 FTE. To
28 implement this act, the department of law may use this appropriation to
29 provide legal services for the department of health care policy and
30 financing.

31 **SECTION 24. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2026-27 state fiscal
32 year, \$968,791 is appropriated to the department of human services for
33 use by the office of economic security. This appropriation is from the
34 general fund. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation
35 as follows:

36	Administration	
37	Administration	\$401,997
38	Colorado benefits management system; ongoing expenses	
39	Operating and contract expenses	\$146,694
40	Food and energy assistance	
41	Electronic benefits transfer services	\$59,850
42	County administration	
43	Member case integrity centralized service	\$360,250

1 (2) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$320,291 is appropriated to
2 the department of human services for use by the office of economic
3 security. This appropriation is from the healthy school meals for all
4 program fund created in section 22-82.9-211 (2)(a), C.R.S. To implement
5 this act, the office may use this appropriation as follows:

6	Administration	
7	Administration	\$143,287
8	Colorado benefits management system; ongoing expenses	
9	Operating and contract expenses	\$36,092
10	Food and energy assistance	
11	Electronic benefits transfer services	\$18,450
12	County administration	
13	Member case integrity centralized service	\$122,462

14 (3) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, the general assembly
15 anticipates that the department of human services will receive \$139,003
16 for use by the office of economic security. This appropriation is from the
17 old age pension fund created in section 1 of article XXIV of the state
18 constitution, which is subject to the "(I)" notation as defined in the annual
19 general appropriation act for the same fiscal year. To implement this act,
20 the office may use this appropriation as follows:

21	Administration	
22	Administration	\$36,833
23	Colorado benefits management system; ongoing expenses	
24	Operating and contract expenses	\$9,278
25	Food and energy assistance	
26	Electronic benefits transfer services	\$23,250
27	County administration	
28	Member case integrity centralized service	\$69,642

29 (4) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$189,149 is appropriated to
30 the department of human services for the office of economic security.
31 This appropriation is from federal temporary assistance for needy families
32 block grant funds. To implement this act, the office may use this
33 appropriation as follows:

34	Administration	
35	Administration	\$37,680
36	Colorado benefits management system; ongoing expenses	
37	Operating and contract expenses	\$75,531
38	Food and energy assistance	
39	Electronic benefits transfer services	\$17,550
40	County administration	
41	Member case integrity centralized service	\$58,388

42 (5) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, the general assembly
43 anticipates that the department of human services will receive \$554,880
44 in federal funds for use by the office of economic security to implement

1 this act, which amount is subject to the "(I)" notation as defined in the
2 annual general appropriation act for the same fiscal year. The
3 appropriations in subsections (1) and (2) of this section are based on the
4 assumption that the department will receive this amount of federal funds
5 to be used as follows:

6	Administration	
7	Administration	\$238,810
8	Colorado benefits management system; ongoing expenses	
9	Operating and contract expenses	\$80,758
10	Food and energy assistance	
11	Electronic benefits transfer services	\$30,900

12 **County administration**

13	Member case integrity centralized service	\$204,412
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14 (6) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$2,022,114 is appropriated
15 to the department of health care policy and financing for use by the
16 executive director's office. This appropriation is from reappropriated
17 funds received from the department of human services under subsections
18 (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this section. To implement this act, the office
19 may use this appropriation as follows:

20	General administration	
21	Personal services	\$198,952
22	Operating expenses	\$18,008
23	Legal services	\$60,966
24	Payments to OIT	\$61,180
25	General professional services	
26	and special projects	\$580,681
27	Information technology contracts and projects	
28	Colorado benefits management systems,	
29	operating and contract expenses	\$348,353

30 **Eligibility determinations and client services**

31	Member case integrity centralized service	\$753,974
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32 (7) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$61,180 is appropriated to
33 the office of the governor for use by the office of information technology.
34 This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the
35 department of health care policy and financing under subsection (6) of
36 this section for payments to OIT. To implement this act, the office may
37 use this appropriation to provide information technology services for the
38 department of health care policy and financing.

39 (8) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$60,966 is appropriated to
40 the department of law. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds
41 received from the department of health care policy and financing under
42 subsection (6) of this section for legal services. To implement this act, the
43 department of law may use this appropriation to provide legal services for

1 the department of health care policy and financing.

2 **SECTION 25. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2026-27 state fiscal
3 year, \$445,196 is appropriated to the department of early childhood. This
4 appropriation consists of \$222,598 from the general fund and \$222,598
5 from federal child care development funds. To implement this act, the
6 department may use this appropriation as follows:

7 (a) \$59,283, which consists of \$29,641 from general fund and
8 \$29,642 from federal child care development funds, for information
9 technology systems managed by other departments; and

10 (b) \$385,913, which consists of \$192,957 from general fund and
11 \$192,956 from federal child care development funds, for use by early
12 learning access and quality for county shared services.

13 (2) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$432,913 is appropriated to
14 the department of health care policy and financing for use by the
15 executive director's office. This appropriation is from reappropriated
16 funds received from the department of early childhood under subsection
17 (1) of this section. To implement this act, the office may use this
18 appropriation as follows:

19 **General administration**

20 Personal services	\$61,273
21 Operating expenses	\$4,936
22 Legal services	\$16,712
23 Payments to OIT	\$16,770
24 General professional services 25 and special projects	\$159,174

26 **Information technology contracts and projects**

27 Colorado benefits management systems, 28 operating and contract expenses	\$59,283
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29 **Eligibility determinations and client services**

30 Member case integrity centralized service	\$121,892
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31 (3) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$16,770 is appropriated to
32 the office of the governor for use by the office of information technology.
33 This appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the
34 department of health care policy and financing under subsection (2) of
35 this section for payments to OIT. To implement this act, the office may
36 use this appropriation to provide information technology services for the
37 department of health care policy and financing.

38 (4) For the 2026-27 state fiscal year, \$16,712 is appropriated to
39 the department of law. This appropriation is from reappropriated funds
40 received from the department of health care policy and financing under
41 subsection (6) of this section for legal services. To implement this act, the
42 department of law may use this appropriation to provide legal services for
43 the department of health care policy and financing.

1 **SECTION 26. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

2 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this
3 act, the appropriation from federal child care development funds made in
4 the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to
5 the department of early childhood for intrastate child care assistance
6 program redistribution is decreased by \$222,598.

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

10 (a) The amount of the federal child care development funds
11 appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the
12 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of early childhood for
13 intrastate child care assistance program redistribution is less than the
14 amount of the adjustment required in subsection (1) of this section; or

15 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
16 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of early
17 childhood for intrastate child care assistance program redistribution.

18 **SECTION 27. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
19 except that section 26 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
20 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
21 case section 26 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
22 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever
23 is later."

24 Renumber succeeding section accordingly.

25 Page 1, line 102, strike "**PROGRAMS.**" and substitute "**PROGRAMS, AND,**
26 **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING AN**
27 **APPROPRIATION.**".

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