

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 25B-0010.01 Rebecca Bayetti x4348

SENATE BILL 25B-005

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A REALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM THE DIVISION OF**
102 **PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOR THE REINTRODUCTION OF GRAY**
103 **WOLVES TO THE COLORADO HEALTH INSURANCE**
104 **AFFORDABILITY ENTERPRISE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
105 **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>.)

The bill reduces by \$264,268 an appropriation for the 2025-26 state fiscal year from the general fund to the department of natural

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.

resources division of parks and wildlife (division) for the reintroduction of gray wolves. The bill requires the state treasurer to transfer a corresponding amount from the general fund to the Colorado health insurance affordability enterprise cash fund on September 1, 2025.

The bill also prohibits the division from using the money appropriated from the general fund in state fiscal year 2025-26 (appropriated money) for the acquisition and reintroduction of gray wolves or from taking any action to acquire or reintroduce gray wolves during state fiscal year 2025-26. The division may use the appropriated money to assist owners of livestock in preventing and resolving conflicts between gray wolves and livestock and to pay fair compensation to owners of livestock for any losses of livestock caused by gray wolves.

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) Through the narrow passage of Proposition 114 by Colorado
5 voters in 2020, the division of parks and wildlife and the parks and
6 wildlife commission were directed to develop and implement a plan to
7 reintroduce gray wolves to Western Colorado while ensuring fair
8 compensation for livestock losses;

9 _____ (b) Now, with ongoing inflationary pressure, a substantial
10 reduction in available federal money for state operations due to the
11 passage of H.R. 1 by the United States Congress, the expiration of health
12 insurance affordability tax credits that will cause insurance costs for
13 Coloradans to spike, and Colorado's balanced budget requirement, the
14 state of Colorado is faced with a challenging fiscal situation and Colorado
15 families are at risk of losing access to health insurance.

16 (c) Programmatically, Colorado's legal requirement to reintroduce
17 and establish a self-sustaining population of gray wolves is on a trajectory
18 to establish a sustainable population of wolves in Colorado: According
19 to the division of parks and wildlife, the wolves reintroduced into

1 Colorado in late 2023 and early 2025 have formed multiple packs and
2 produced multiple litters of offspring and, as of August 2025, there are 21
3 collared adult wolves, at least one known uncollared adult wolf, and an
4 estimated 9 or more pups from 4 breeding pairs in Colorado with that
5 number anticipated to grow as more offspring from the current breeding
6 season are confirmed.

7 (d) Therefore, in the context of this extraordinary session called
8 to address an emerging budget and health insurance affordability crisis,
9 other sources of funding outside of the general fund should be used
10 instead to procure new wolves from other states or other countries, to
11 enable the state to lower costs for Coloradans' everyday expenses.
12 Colorado should spend general fund money originally allocated for the
13 procurement, capture, transport, and release of new wolves on matters
14 more immediately impactful and beneficial to Colorado families while
15 retaining funding to support the wolf reintroduction and management
16 plan, including support for livestock producers and communities being
17 impacted by Colorado's existing and expanding wolf population.

18 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

19 (a) In his Executive Order D 2025 009, "Call for the First
20 Extraordinary Session of the Seventy-Fifth General Assembly and
21 Directing a Statewide Hiring Freeze", Governor Polis directed the general
22 assembly to consider and pass legislation concerning, among other topics,
23 "adjustments to the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HIAE) to
24 facilitate a reduction in premium increases and avoid health insurance
25 coverage loss for those in the individual market and those unable to
26 purchase health insurance through Connect for Health Colorado";

27 (b) As noted in the executive order and extraordinary session call

1 by the governor, "Congress's failure to extend enhanced Health Insurance
2 Premium Tax Credits, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of
3 2021 (ARPA) and extended by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
4 (IRA), in concert with the 2025 Marketplace Integrity and Affordability
5 Final Rule and individual market changes set forth in H.R.1, will have a
6 significant impact on health insurance rates in Colorado's individual
7 health insurance market, as well as broader market impacts. July 2025
8 rate filings by insurance carriers with the Colorado Division of Insurance
9 are, on average, 28% higher than 2025 rates with some requested rate
10 increases on Colorado's Western Slope of almost 40%. While the State
11 cannot extend federal premium tax credits, we can add funds to
12 Colorado's Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HIAE) in order to
13 mitigate the impact of these extraordinary individual health insurance
14 requested rate increases on individuals and families across the State.
15 Without this additional support, projected coverage losses will be
16 devastating for families and the health care system."

17 (c) While these health insurance increases would significantly and
18 negatively burden every part of Colorado, the price increases are
19 particularly acute for Western Slope counties-the same counties,
20 communities, businesses, and individuals being directly impacted by the
21 wolf reintroduction program.

22 (3) It is therefore the intent of the general assembly, in order to
23 address the governor's directive in the call for this extraordinary session,
24 to redirect general funds from the procurement of new wolves in the
25 2025-26 state fiscal year and reallocate that money to the health insurance
26 affordability enterprise, which will help Coloradans and their families
27 save money on their health insurance premiums while protecting funding

1 for the implementation of the wolf reintroduction and management plan,
2 including the ongoing administration of wolf-livestock conflict
3 minimization and depredation compensation.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-1206, **amend**
5 (1)(g) and (1)(h); and **add** (1)(i) and (5) as follows:

6 **10-16-1206. Health insurance affordability cash fund -**
7 **creation - repeal.** (1) There is created in the state treasury the health
8 insurance affordability cash fund. The fund consists of:

9 (g) The federal share of the medical assistance payments received
10 pursuant to section 25.5-4-503 (2); ~~and~~

11 (h) Gifts, grants, or donations received from private or public
12 sources; AND

13 (i) ANY OTHER MONEY THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATED OR
14 TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND.

15 (5) (a) ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
16 TRANSFER TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED
17 SIXTY-EIGHT DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FUND.

18 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

19 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-2-105.8, **add** (4.7)
20 as follows:

21 **33-2-105.8. Reintroduction of gray wolves on designated lands**
22 **west of the continental divide - public input in commission**
23 **development of restoration plan - compensation to owners of**
24 **livestock - definitions - repeal.** (4.7) (a) THE DIVISION SHALL NOT USE
25 MONEY APPROPRIATED FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR
26 2025-26 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING OR REINTRODUCING GRAY
27 WOLVES. THE DIVISION MAY USE MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR STATE FISCAL

1 YEAR 2025-26 FOR THE PURPOSES LISTED IN SUBSECTIONS (2)(e)(I) AND
2 (2)(e)(II) OF THIS SECTION.
3 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (4.7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

	ITEM & SUBTOTAL	TOTAL	APPROPRIATION FROM				
			GENERAL FUND	GENERAL FUND EXEMPT	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	SECTION 4. Appropriation to the department of natural resources for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. In Session Laws of Colorado 2025, section 2 of chapter						
2	476, (SB 25-206), amend Part XV (5)(A), the affected totals, and footnote 79 as follows:						
3	Section 2. Appropriation.						
4	PART XV						
5	DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES						
6							
7	(5) DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE						
8	(A) Colorado Parks and Wildlife Operations						
9	State Park Operations	64,834,343			63,934,343 ^a		900,000(I) ^b
10	(332.1 FTE)						
11	Wildlife Operations ^{79, 80}	134,373,507	2,147,712		97,525,795 ^c		34,700,000(I)
12		134,109,239	1,883,444				
13	(731.8 FTE)						

			APPROPRIATION FROM				
	ITEM & SUBTOTAL	TOTAL	GENERAL FUND	GENERAL FUND EXEMPT	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1 Vendor Commissions,							
2 Fulfillment Fees, and Credit							
3 Card Fees	11,684,700				11,684,700 ^d		
4	<u>210,892,550</u>						
5	210,628,282						
6							
7 ^a Of these amounts, \$49,667,313 shall be from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund created in Section 33-10-111 (1), C.R.S., \$8,800,000(I) shall be from the Great Outdoors							
8 Colorado Program established in Section 1 of Article XXVII of the State Constitution, \$2,459,306(I) shall be from Lottery proceeds pursuant to Section 3 of Article XXVII of the State							
9 Constitution, \$2,243,971 shall be from the Severance Tax Operational Fund created in Section 39-29-109 (2)(b), C.R.S., \$641,063 shall be from the Off-highway Vehicle Recreation							
10 Fund created in Section 33-14.5-106 (1), C.R.S., and \$122,690 shall be from the Snowmobile Recreation Fund created in Section 33-14-106 (1)(a), C.R.S. The appropriation from the							
11 Severance Tax Operational Fund is made in accordance with allocations specified in Section 39-29-109.3 (1)(f), C.R.S. Pursuant to Section 3 of Article XXVII of the State Constitution,							
12 amounts appropriated from the Great Outdoors Colorado Program and lottery proceeds are continuously appropriated and are shown for informational purposes only.							
13 ^b This amount shall be from various sources of federal funds, including funds anticipated to be received from the United States Bureau of Reclamation through a cost-sharing agreement							
14 to address the net operating deficit of Paonia, Vega, Rifle Gap, Crawford, Navajo, Mancos, and Ridgway State Parks, and is shown for informational purposes only.							

		APPROPRIATION FROM					
	ITEM & SUBTOTAL	TOTAL	GENERAL FUND	GENERAL FUND EXEMPT	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	° Of these amounts, \$84,110,795 shall be from the Wildlife Cash Fund created in Section 33-1-112 (1)(a), C.R.S., \$8,800,000(I) shall be from the Great Outdoors Colorado Program						
2	established in Section 1 of Article XXVII of the State Constitution, \$3,000,000 shall be from the Wildlife Management Public Education Fund created in Section 33-1-112 (3.5)(a), C.R.S.,						
3	\$700,000 shall be from the Wolf Depredation Compensation Fund created in Section 33-1-128 (2)(a), C.R.S., \$500,000 shall be from subscription revenues credited to the Colorado						
4	Outdoors Magazine Revolving Fund created in Section 33-1-114 (1), C.R.S., \$400,000 shall be from the Colorado Nongame Conservation and Wildlife Restoration Cash Fund created						
5	in Section 33-1-125 (1)(a), C.R.S., and \$15,000 shall be from the Federal Aid Projects Income Fund created in Section 33-1-119, C.R.S. Pursuant to Section 3 of Article XXVII of the						
6	State Constitution, amounts appropriated from the Great Outdoors Colorado Program and lottery proceeds are continuously appropriated and are shown for informational purposes only.						
7	d Of this amount, an estimated \$10,000,000 shall be from the Wildlife Cash Fund created in Section 33-1-112 (1)(a), C.R.S., an estimated \$1,350,000 shall be from the Parks and Outdoor						
8	Recreation Cash Fund created in Section 33-10-111 (1), C.R.S., an estimated \$250,000 shall be from the Off-highway Vehicle Recreation Fund created in Section 33-14.5-106 (1), C.R.S.,						
9	an estimated \$31,700 shall be from the sale of migratory waterfowl stamps pursuant to Section 33-4-102.5 (2), C.R.S., and an estimated \$53,000 shall be from the Snowmobile Recreation						
10	Fund created in Section 33-14-106 (1)(a), C.R.S.						
11							
12	TOTALS PART XV						
13	(NATURAL						
14	RESOURCES)	\$476,725,197	\$57,345,170		\$367,162,434 ^a	\$9,587,533 ^b	\$42,630,060 ^c
15		\$476,460,929	\$57,080,902				

	ITEM & SUBTOTAL	TOTAL	APPROPRIATION FROM				
			GENERAL FUND	GENERAL FUND EXEMPT	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

1

2 ^a Of this amount, \$35,474,230 contains an (I) notation and an estimated \$31,417,277 is from the Severance Tax Operational Fund pursuant to Section 39-29-109.3 (1), C.R.S.

3 ^b Of this amount, \$1,115,249 contains an (I) notation.

4 ^c This amount contains an (I) notation.

5

6 **FOOTNOTES** -- The following statements are referenced to the numbered footnotes throughout section 2.

7

8 79 Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Operations, Wildlife Operations -- It is the General Assembly's
9 intent that ~~\$2,100,000~~ \$1,835,732 General Fund appropriated for this line item be used for the implementation of Proposition 114 for the reintroduction and
10 management of gray wolves.

1 **SECTION 5. 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.