Second Regular Session Seventy-third General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0411.01 Alana Rosen x2606

HOUSE BILL 22-1395

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Larson and Young,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Simpson, Bridges

House Committees

Senate Committees

Education

		$\mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}$	ILL F	OR AN ACT	
101	CONCERNING	CREATING	THE	COMPETITIVE	TRANSPORTATION
102	INNOVA	ΓΙΟΝ GRANT I	PROGR	AM TO ADDRESS	THE PUBLIC SCHOOL
103	TRANSPO	ORTATION SI	IORTA	GE.	

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 creates the competitive transportation innovation grant program (grant program) in the department of education (department) to address the public school transportation shortage.

The bill allows school districts, charter schools, institute charter schools, the state charter school institute, boards of cooperative services,

a consortium of school districts, tribal governments, local governments, and community organizations that partner with school districts (eligible applicants) to apply to the grant program. The state board of education (state board) shall select grantees who develop and implement innovative solutions, strategies, and services to address the public school transportation shortage. Eligible applicants shall serve students of color and students from under-resourced communities who disproportionately impacted by the transportation shortage and struggle to access school districts of their choice and career pathway programs because of their limited access to transportation. The department operates the grant program. The grant program is a one-time grant program, but grantees have 2 years to spend the grant money.

If selected for a grant, a grantee is required to submit a report to the department on or before August 1, 2024, and to submit a second report on or before August 1, 2025. The report must include an explanation of the solutions, strategies, and services developed and implemented with the grant money as described in the grantee's grant application.

On or before August 30, 2024, and again on or before August 30, 2025, the department is required to submit a report summarizing information submitted by the grantee.

The bill requires the general assembly to appropriate money from the revenue loss restoration cash fund to address the public school transportation shortage resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill repeals the grant program, effective July 1, 2026.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 22-51-112 as

3 follows:

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4 22-51-112. Competitive transportation innovation grant 5 program - creation - report - rules - legislative declaration -6

definitions - repeal. (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SEVERELY EXACERBATED THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE SHORTAGE, LIMITING THE NUMBER OF BUSES AVAILABLE TO TRANSPORT PUPILS TO AND FROM SCHOOL IN COLORADO. IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS COLORADO,

11 APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN TO FORTY PERCENT OF BUS DRIVER POSITIONS

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2	(II) TO ADJUST TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION
3	SHORTAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE CONSOLIDATING
4	ROUTES, RESULTING IN FEWER STOPS AND LONGER ROUTES. PUPILS OF
5	COLOR AND PUPILS FROM UNDER-RESOURCED COMMUNITIES ARE
6	DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY THE TRANSPORTATION SHORTAGE
7	AND STRUGGLE TO ACCESS SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THEIR CHOICE AND
8	CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF THEIR LIMITED ACCESS TO
9	TRANSPORTATION.
10	(III) THERE IS A GROWING NEED FOR TRANSPORTATION TO OFF-SITE
11	CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS, INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS, AND
12	OTHER CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AS THESE
13	PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO EXPAND. DUE TO TRANSPORTATION
14	CHALLENGES, PUPILS LACK EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THESE PROGRAMS, EVEN
15	THOUGH THE STATE HAS RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE
16	PROGRAMS.
17	(IV) TO INCREASE EDUCATIONAL EQUITY, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
18	PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST PROVIDE PUPILS OF COLOR AND PUPILS FROM
19	UNDER-RESOURCED COMMUNITIES WITH ACCESS TO THE SAME
20	EDUCATIONAL AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS ARE AVAILABLE TO
21	PUPILS WHO HAVE MORE RESOURCES; AND
22	(V) CURRENT PANDEMIC CONDITIONS REQUIRE NEW, INNOVATIVE
23	IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO
24	EMPLOY TRANSPORTATION STAFF AND EQUIPMENT MORE EFFICIENTLY AND
25	SUPPLEMENT WITH OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS.

(b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS, THEREFORE, THAT THE SEVERE

TRANSPORTATION SHORTAGE RESULTS FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC,

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1	AND IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE TO ESTABLISH THE
2	COMPETITIVE TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM TO
3	ADDRESS THE CRISIS. THE COMPETITIVE TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION
4	GRANT PROGRAM WILL ENABLE SELECTED APPLICANTS TO IMPLEMENT
5	INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES, SOLUTIONS, AND SERVICES TO ENSURE PUPILS
6	ARE SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND
7	CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS AND TO HELP PROVIDE ALL PUPILS BETTER
8	ACCESS TO THE SCHOOLS OF THEIR CHOICE AND CAREER PATHWAY
9	PROGRAMS.
10	(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
11	REQUIRES:
12	(a) "CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAM" MEANS A CAREER AND
13	TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM; WORK-BASED LEARNING
14	APPRENTICESHIP OR INTERNSHIP; CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM AS
15	DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 35 OF THIS TITLE 22; PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY
16	EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL AS DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 35.3 OF THIS
17	TITLE 22; OR OTHER PROGRAM IN WHICH A PUPIL IS SIMULTANEOUSLY
18	ENROLLED IN SECONDARY AND POSTSECONDARY COURSES.
19	(b) "Consortium of school districts" means two or more
20	SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT APPLY TO THE GRANT PROGRAM AS ONE ELIGIBLE
21	APPLICANT.
22	(c) "Department" means the department of education
23	CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-115.
24	(d) "ELIGIBLE APPLICANT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT; A CHARTER
25	SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF
26	ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22; AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL
27	AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO

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1	part 5 of article 30.5 of this title 22 ; the state charter school
2	${\tt INSTITUTECREATEDINPART5OFARTICLE30.5OFTHISTITLE22; ABOARD}$

- 3 OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND OPERATING PURSUANT TO
- 4 ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES A PUBLIC SCHOOL; A
- 5 CONSORTIUM OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS; A TRIBAL GOVERNMENT; A LOCAL
- 6 GOVERNMENT; OR A COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION THAT FORMS A
- 7 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH A SCHOOL DISTRICT, A DISTRICT CHARTER
- 8 SCHOOL, AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL, A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE
- 9 SERVICES, OR A CONSORTIUM OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
- 10 (e) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COMPETITIVE
 11 TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION
 12 (3) OF THIS SECTION.
- 13 (f) "GRANTEE" MEANS AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT THAT THE STATE
 14 BOARD SELECTS TO RECEIVE MONEY THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM.
- 15 (g) "High-poverty school" means a school at which 16 Greater than sixty percent of the enrolled students are eligible 17 For free or reduced-price lunch pursuant to the federal 18 "Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act", 42 U.S.C. sec.
- 19 1751 ET SEO.
- 20 (h) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY,
 21 CITY, OR TOWN OR A SPECIAL DISTRICT CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 1
- 22 OF TITLE 32.
- 23 (i) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN
 24 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL BASED ON THE
 25 GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE
 26 SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA.
- 27 (j) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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1	CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE
2	STATE CONSTITUTION.
3	(3) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE COMPETITIVE
4	TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM. THE PURPOSE OF THE
5	GRANT PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS TO
6	DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES, AND
7	SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SHORTAGE
8	CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND TO ENSURE SAFE AND
9	EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION FOR PUPILS TRAVELING TO AND FROM
10	SCHOOLS AND INCREASE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CAREER PATHWAY
11	PROGRAMS.
12	(b) Innovative solutions, strategies, and services may
13	INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
14	(I) ADDRESSING PERSONNEL SHORTAGES AND IMPLEMENTING
15	SOLUTIONS;
16	(II) ESTABLISHING INCENTIVE PROGRAMS TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN
17	BUS DRIVERS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES SUCH AS
18	RETENTION BONUSES, SIGN-ON BONUSES, OR COVERING THE COSTS
19	ASSOCIATED WITH OBTAINING A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR NEW
20	BUS DRIVERS, INCLUDING THE REQUIRED TRAINING COSTS;
21	(III) RECOMMENDING AND IMPLEMENTING PARENT CAR POOL OR
22	RIDESHARE PROGRAMS;
23	(IV) ANALYZING BUS ROUTE EFFICIENCY BETWEEN AND WITHIN
24	SCHOOL DISTRICTS, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS, AND INSTITUTE CHARTER
25	SCHOOLS;
26	(V) PARTNERING WITH LOCAL TRANSIT AUTHORITIES TO IMPROVE
27	TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND PROVIDE TRANSIT FARE STIPENDS TO

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1	PUPILS;
2	(VI) ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
3	AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO TRANSPORT
4	PUPILS SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY TO AND FROM SCHOOLS AND CAREER
5	PATHWAY PROGRAMS;
6	(VII) SUPPORTING COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS
7	TO OFFER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO PUPILS AND TO EXPAND ACCESS
8	TO CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS IN NEIGHBORING SCHOOL DISTRICTS;
9	(VIII) ADDRESSING PUPIL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS TO TRAVEL TO
10	EMPLOYMENT SITES FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES,
11	INCLUDING APPRENTICESHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS;
12	(IX) IMPLEMENTING INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS
13	TO ALLOW PUPILS ACCESS TO SCHOOLS, ANY COURSE TAKEN FOR
14	ACADEMIC CREDIT, FIELD TRIPS, AND CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS
15	AVAILABLE WITHIN A PUPIL'S SCHOOL DISTRICT;
16	(X) CREATING OPTIONS TO REDUCE COSTS FOR, IMPROVE
17	EFFICIENCY OF, AND INCREASE ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS,
18	SUCH AS THE USE OF FLEET VEHICLES; AND
19	(XI) IMPLEMENTING INTERNET-CONNECTED TRANSPORTATION
20	OPTIONS SPECIFICALLY FOR PUPILS FROM UNDER-RESOURCED
21	COMMUNITIES.
22	(c) ANY STRATEGIES THAT ARE DEVELOPED MUST COMPLY WITH
23	THE TRANSPORTATION RULES GOVERNING ADEQUATE STANDARDS OF
24	SAFETY IN THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
25	TRANSPORTATION THAT THE STATE BOARD PROMULGATES PURSUANT TO
26	SECTION 22-51-108.
27	(d) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT A TIMELINE FOR THE

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1	GRANT PROGRAM, WHICH MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES:
2	(I) On or before December 1, 2022, the department shall
3	ANNOUNCE THE GRANT PROGRAM AND BEGIN ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
4	FROM ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS;
5	(II) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BY MARCH
6	1, 2023; AND
7	(III) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BEGIN DISTRIBUTING GRANT MONEY
8	TO THE GRANTEES BY APRIL 1, 2023.
9	(e) AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT THAT CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE MUST
10	SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE APPLICATION MUST
11	INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
12	(I) A DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION
13	SHORTAGE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANT;
14	(II) A PLAN TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES,
15	AND SERVICES AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION TO
16	ADDRESS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SHORTAGE;
17	(III) HOW THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANT WILL USE A GRANT AWARD TO
18	IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES, AND SERVICES
19	IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN; AND
20	(IV) THE AMOUNT OF MATCHING FUNDS, IF ANY, THAT THE
21	ELIGIBLE APPLICANT INTENDS TO PROVIDE TO AUGMENT GRANT MONEY
22	RECEIVED FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM AND THE ANTICIPATED AMOUNT
23	AND SOURCE OF ANY MATCHING FUNDS.
24	(4) The department shall review the applications
25	SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(e) OF THIS SECTION AND MAKE
26	RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD. THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK
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1	AND INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN TRANSPORTATION,
2	ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS IN REVIEWING THE
3	APPLICATIONS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD.
4	THE STATE BOARD SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE
5	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN SELECTING THE ELIGIBLE
6	APPLICANTS THAT RECEIVE GRANTS AND DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF
7	EACH GRANT. IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS AND AWARDING GRANTS,
8	THE DEPARTMENT AND STATE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER, AT A MINIMUM,
9	THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
10	(a) The eligible applicant's need for innovative
11	TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES, AND SERVICES THAT WILL
12	HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON PUPILS AND FAMILIES;
13	(b) THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANT'S PLAN WILL
14	RESULT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION
15	SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES, AND SERVICES AND IMPROVE EQUITABLE ACCESS
16	TO A PUPIL'S SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CHOICE AND CAREER PATHWAY
17	PROGRAMS;
18	(c) THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE PROPOSED INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS,
19	STRATEGIES, AND SERVICES ARE DIFFERENT FROM CURRENT PUBLIC
20	SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS; AND
21	(d) The sustainability of innovative solutions, strategies,
22	SERVICES, AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES ONCE THE
23	ELIGIBLE APPLICANT HAS EXPENDED THE AWARDED GRANT MONEY.
24	(5) IN SELECTING GRANTEES, THE STATE BOARD SHALL GIVE
25	PRIORITY TO THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:
26	(a) SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT INCLUDE HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS;

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AND

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1	(b) RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
2	(6) (a) The department shall distribute the grant money
3	TO THE GRANTEES FROM THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO AND RECEIVED
4	BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION. THE
5	DEPARTMENT MAY RETAIN UP TO TWO PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT
6	APPROPRIATED FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM TO PAY THE COSTS INCURRED IN
7	ADMINISTERING THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTED TO
8	DISTRIBUTE ALL GRANT MONEY BY APRIL 30, 2023.
9	(b) AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT THAT RECEIVES MONEY PURSUANT TO
10	THE GRANT PROGRAM SHALL USE THE MONEY FOR DEVELOPING AND
11	IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES, AND SERVICES AS
12	DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b) OF THIS SECTION. EACH GRANTEE HAS
13	TWO FULL BUDGET YEARS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE
14	SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES, AND SERVICES AS DESCRIBED IN THE GRANTEE'S
15	APPLICATION; EXCEPT THAT THE GRANTEE MUST EITHER SPEND GRANT
16	MONEY PRIOR TO DECEMBER 30, 2024, OR OBLIGATE IT PRIOR TO THAT
17	DATE AND SPEND IT PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2025.
18	(7) THE STATE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY
19	FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.
20	(8) (a) On or before August 1, 2024, and on or before
21	August 1, 2025, during the term of the grant program, each
22	GRANTEE SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO THE
23	DEPARTMENT:
24	(I) AN EXPLANATION OF THE SOLUTIONS, STRATEGIES, AND
25	SERVICES DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED USING THE GRANT MONEY; AND
26	(II) AN EXPLANATION OF THE COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES THAT
27	THE STATE BOARD PROMULGATES PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-51-108.

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1	(b) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 30, 2024, AND ON OR BEFORE AUGUST
2	30, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE EDUCATION
3	COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR
4	ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, A REPORT THAT, AT A MINIMUM,
5	SUMMARIZES THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT
6	PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE TOTAL AMOUNT
7	OF MONEY DISTRIBUTED, AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY RECEIVED
8	BY EACH GRANTEE.
9	(9) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-75-227 (3)(c), THE
10	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE REVENUE
11	LOSS RESTORATION CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-227 TO THE
12	DEPARTMENT TO FUND THE GRANT PROGRAM AND AID ELIGIBLE
13	APPLICANTS IN RESPONDING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION
14	SHORTAGE.
15	(b) The department is authorized to seek, accept, and
16	EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC
17	SOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM.
18	(10) Money distributed through the grant program is not
19	PART OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION CATEGORICAL PROGRAM
20	FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 22-55-107 AND SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF
21	THE STATE CONSTITUTION.
22	(11) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2026.
23	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-55-102, amend
24	(4)(a) as follows:
25	22-55-102. Definitions. As used in this article 55, unless the
26	context otherwise requires:
27	(4) "Categorical programs" includes only the following programs:

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1	(a) Public school transportation as described in article 51 of this
2	title TITLE 22, EXCEPT FOR THE COMPETITIVE TRANSPORTATION
3	INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 22-51-112;
4	SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
5	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
6	preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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