

First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 21-0178.02 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 21-032

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ortiz,

Senate Committees
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT**
102 **GRANT PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING**
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>.)

The bill establishes a mobile veterans-support unit grant program (grant program) to provide grant funding to a veteran-owned-and-focused organization to create a mobile veterans-support unit. A mobile veterans-support unit acts as a point of contact to veterans in rural areas or to veterans experiencing homelessness. The mobile veterans-support

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

unit distributes supplies, transports veterans who do not have access to public or private transportation, and works with the office of economic development (office) to provide business and job opportunities to veterans.

The office administers the grant program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 24-48.5-127** as
3 follows:

4 **24-48.5-127. Mobile veterans-support unit grant program -**
5 **fund created - report - rules - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS
6 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "FUND" MEANS THE MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT
8 PROGRAM CASH FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (b) "GRANT PROGRAM" OR "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MOBILE
10 VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2)
11 OF THIS SECTION.

12 (c) "OFFICE" MEANS THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
13 DEVELOPMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-101.

14 (d) "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO SERVED IN THE ACTIVE
15 MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR SERVICE, AND SPACE FORCE OF THE UNITED
16 STATES, REGARDLESS OF THE PERSON'S DISCHARGE STATUS.

17 (2)(a) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE MOBILE
18 VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO A
19 VETERAN-OWNED-AND-FOCUSED ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES VETERANS
20 WHO LIVE IN RURAL AREAS OR ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

21 (b) THE GRANT PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE FUNDING FOR:

22 (I) A TWO-YEAR GRANT PROGRAM;
23 (II) TWO STAFF MEMBERS; AND

4 (c) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH AND PUBLICIZE CRITERIA FOR
5 THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION MUST:

6 (I) SERVE VETERANS REGARDLESS OF THE DISCHARGED STATUS;
7 AND

8 (II) HAVE EXPERIENCE SERVING VETERANS EXPERIENCING
9 HOMELESSNESS.

10 (d) A MOBILE VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT ESTABLISHED WITH THE
11 ASSISTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD SHALL SEEK TO BUILD TRUST WITH THE
12 VETERANS IT SERVES AND ACT AS A POINT OF CONTACT FOR VETERANS IN
13 THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

14 (I) TRANSPORT VETERANS WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PUBLIC
15 OR PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION; AND

16 (II) WORK WITH THE OFFICE TO PROVIDE BUSINESS AND JOB
17 OPPORTUNITIES TO VETERANS.

18 (e) THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES AND A TIMELINE
19 FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT RECEIVES GRANT MONEY TO REPORT
20 INFORMATION TO THE OFFICE ABOUT THE USE OF THE GRANT MONEY.

26 (b) BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2021, THE OFFICE SHALL:

27 (I) ACCEPT GRANT APPLICATIONS; AND

1 (II) VERIFY THAT AN APPLICATION MEETS THE CRITERIA
2 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (c) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 21, 2022, AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
4 APPROPRIATIONS, THE OFFICE SHALL AWARD GRANT MONEY TO ELIGIBLE
5 APPLICANTS.

6 (d) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 21, 2024, THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT A
7 REQUEST TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONTINUE THE MOBILE
8 VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM. IF A REQUEST IS NOT
9 SUBMITTED OR THE REQUEST IS REJECTED, THE FUNDING WILL BE
10 ELIMINATED UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE TWO-YEAR GRANT PROGRAM.

16 (5) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE MOBILE
17 VETERANS-SUPPORT UNIT GRANT PROGRAM CASH FUND, WHICH SHALL
18 CONSIST OF:

19 (I) GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO
20 SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION; AND

21 (II) MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY.

23 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ANY INTEREST AND
24 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
25 FUND TO THE FUND.

26 (c) ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND
27 AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE FUND AND IS NOT

1 TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND; EXCEPT THAT,
2 IF THE PROGRAM IS NOT RENEWED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(d) OF
3 THIS SECTION, ANY MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AS OF JUNE 30, 2024,
4 SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE GENERAL FUND.

5 (d) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY, THE OFFICE MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND FOR THE
7 PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION. SUBJECT TO ANNUAL
8 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE OFFICE MAY EXPEND
9 MONEY FROM THE FUND FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS
10 ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM.

11 (6) A RECIPIENT OF A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS NOT
12 DISQUALIFIED FROM RECEIVING A GRANT PURSUANT TO THE VETERANS
13 ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 28-5-712.

14 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025.

15 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2021-22 state fiscal year,
16 \$229,070 is appropriated to the office of the governor for use by the
17 economic development programs. This appropriation is from the general
18 fund and is based on an assumption that the office will require an
19 additional 0.6 FTE. To implement this act, the office may use this
20 appropriation for the mobile veterans support unit grant program.

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

1 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.