

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 25-0405.01 Renee Leone x2695

SENATE BILL 25-186

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Winter F. and Ball, Liston, Bridges, Cutter, Exum, Gonzales J., Jodeh, Kipp, Michaelson
Jenet, Sullivan, Wallace

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamrick and Lieder,

Senate Committees

Business, Labor, & Technology
Appropriations

House Committees

Business Affairs & Labor
Finance

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION**
102 **ACCREDITATION OF HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS PROGRAM, AND,**
103 **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING THE**
104 **RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE 2024 SUNSET REPORT**
105 **BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES AND MAKING**
106 **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/>.)

Sunset Process - Senate Business, Labor, and Technology

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.

SENATE
Amended 3rd Reading
April 17, 2025

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 15, 2025

Committee. The bill implements the recommendations of the department of regulatory agencies (department) in its 2024 sunset review of the workers' compensation accreditation of health-care providers program (program), including extending the program for 11 years to September 1, 2036, and authorizing any health-care professional regulated by the division of professions and occupations in the department who provides treatment in the workers' compensation system to obtain level I accreditation from the division of workers' compensation in the department of labor and employment.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-42-101, **amend**
3 (3.5)(a)(I)(A), (3.5)(a)(I)(E), (3.5)(c)(I), and (3.6)(r)(I); **repeal**
4 (3.5)(a)(I)(C); and **add** (3.5)(a)(I)(D.5) as follows:

5 **8-42-101. Employer must furnish medical aid - approval of**
6 **plan - fee schedule - contracting for treatment - no recovery from**
7 **employee - medical treatment guidelines - accreditation of physicians**
8 **and other medical providers - mental health provider qualifications**
9 **- mileage reimbursement - rules - definition - repeal.**

10 (3.5) (a) (I) (A) "Physician" means, for the purposes of the level I and
11 level II accreditation programs ONLY, a physician licensed under the
12 "Colorado Medical Practice Act", ARTICLE 240 OF TITLE 12. ~~For the~~
13 ~~purposes of level I accreditation only and not level II accreditation,~~
14 ~~"physician" means a dentist licensed under the "Dental Practice Act",~~
15 ~~article 220 of title 12; a podiatrist licensed under article 290 of title 12;~~
16 ~~and a chiropractor licensed under article 215 of title 12. A PHYSICIAN IS~~
17 ~~NOT DEEMED ACCREDITED UNDER EITHER LEVEL I OR LEVEL II SOLELY BY~~
18 ~~REASON OF BEING LICENSED.~~

19 ~~(C) A physician shall not be deemed accredited under either level~~
20 ~~I or level II solely by reason of being licensed.~~

1 (D.5) A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL REGULATED PURSUANT TO
2 TITLE 12 AND LISTED IN THE UTILIZATION STANDARDS CREATED IN
3 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (3.5)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION MAY
4 RECEIVE LEVEL I ACCREDITATION.

5 (E) Nothing in this subsection (3.5)(a) grants any person other
6 than a physician licensed under the "Colorado Medical Practice Act",
7 ARTICLE 240 OF TITLE 12, the authority to determine that no permanent
8 medical impairment has resulted from the injury pursuant to subsection
9 (3.6)(b) of this section or that a claimant has attained maximum medical
10 improvement pursuant to section 8-42-107 (8)(b)(I).

11 (c) (I) This subsection (3.5) is repealed, effective ~~September 1,~~
12 ~~2025~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2036.

13 (3.6) The two-tier accreditation system shall comprise the
14 following programs:

15 (r) (I) This subsection (3.6) is repealed, effective ~~September 1,~~
16 ~~2025~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2036.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **repeal**
18 (26)(a)(II); and **add** (37) as follows:

19 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**
20 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**
21 **declaration - repeal.** (26) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,
22 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2025:

23 (II) ~~The accreditation of health-care providers under the workers'~~
24 ~~compensation system in accordance with section 8-42-101 (3.5) and (3.6);~~
25 ~~C.R.S.;~~

26 (37) (a) THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES, FUNCTIONS, OR BOTH, ARE
27 SCHEDULED FOR REPEAL ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2036:

1 (I) THE ACCREDITATION OF HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS UNDER THE
2 WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
3 8-42-101 (3.5) AND (3.6).

4 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (37) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1,
5 2038.

6 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2025-26 state fiscal
7 year, \$123,933 is appropriated to the department of labor and employment
8 for use by the division of workers' compensation. This appropriation is
9 from the workers' compensation cash fund created in section 8-44-112
10 (7)(a), C.R.S. To implement this act, the division may use this
11 appropriation as follows:

12 (a) \$108,545 for personal services, which amount is based on an
13 assumption that the division will require an additional 1.6 FTE; and

14 (b) \$15,388 for operating expenses.

15 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
18 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
19 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
20 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
21 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
22 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
23 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.