# Second Regular Session Seventy-third General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 22-0699.02 Brita Darling x2241

**HOUSE BILL 22-1359** 

#### **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

Bacon and Snyder,

#### SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez,

## **House Committees**

**Senate Committees** 

Finance

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#### A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE COLORADO HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL RECOVERY PROGRAM.

### **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 <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

The bill requires the state treasurer to establish the Colorado household financial recovery program (program) in the department of the treasury to partner with financial institutions to incentivize lending to low-income individuals and households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic or its negative economic impacts.

Money available for the program must be used for one or more of

the following purposes:

- To establish a loan loss reserve to partially offset risk to lenders in making loans to individuals and households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- To make payments to lenders to buy down interest rates on loans made to individuals and households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- To provide lending capital for affordable, small loans to individuals and households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; or
- To award grants to nonprofit community-based organizations to conduct marketing and outreach to individuals and households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic who may be eligible to participate in the program.

The state treasurer may select one or more program administrators, including banks, community development financial institutions, or credit unions, to administer all or a portion of the money available for the program. The administrator or administrators are selected based, in part, on their proposed use of the money, their ability to partner with nonprofit community-based organizations that work with individuals and households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to connect borrowers to affordable banking products and other financial services.

The bill specifies program policies, including loan terms, and requires the state treasurer and administrators to establish and publicize additional program policies as necessary.

The state treasurer or an administrator may establish a loan loss reserve to partially offset loan losses and thereby incentivize lending by financial institutions to individuals and households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The state treasurer shall determine the amount of the offset and shall establish and publicize policies for participating financial institutions.

The state treasurer shall report annually to the governor and certain committees of the general assembly concerning the use of program money and other information concerning the program.

The bill creates a fund for the program and identifies allowable uses of the money in the fund.

- 1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 3 to article
- 3 36 of title 24 as follows:

4 PART 3

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1	COLORADO HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL
2	RECOVERY PROGRAM
3	<b>24-36-301. Short title.</b> The short title of this part 3 is the
4	"COLORADO HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL RECOVERY PROGRAM ACT".
5	<b>24-36-302.</b> Legislative declaration. (1) The General Assembly
6	FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
7	(a) THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS HAD DEVASTATING ECONOMIC
8	AND HEALTH CONSEQUENCES ACROSS THE STATE, NEGATIVELY IMPACTING
9	MANY COLORADANS AND DISPROPORTIONATELY HARMING INDIVIDUALS
10	AND HOUSEHOLDS THAT WERE ALREADY ECONOMICALLY INSECURE;
11	(b) THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS CAUSED MANY LOW- AND
12	MODERATE-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS TO LOSE INCOME DUE
13	TO THE LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT, SPEND DOWN THEIR SAVINGS, BORROW
14	FROM FRIENDS, AND INCUR MORE DEBT;
15	(c) As a result of the recession precipitated by the
16	COVID-19 PANDEMIC, LONG-TERM ECONOMIC CHALLENGES CONTINUE
17	FOR MANY IN COLORADO, DUE TO, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, DAMAGED
18	CONSUMER CREDIT SCORES AND REDUCED FAMILIAL AND CHILDHOOD
19	WELL-BEING;
20	(d) FURTHER, MANY INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS FACING
21	FINANCIAL INSECURITY, INCLUDING UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED
22	POPULATIONS, LACK ACCESS TO FINANCIAL AND BANKING SERVICES,
23	INCLUDING AFFORDABLE LOANS, TO HELP ADDRESS ECONOMIC
24	INSECURITY;
25	(e) TOGETHER WITH FINANCIAL COACHING AND SAFE AND
26	AFFORDABLE BANKING PRODUCTS, LOW-COST LOANS ARE AN IMPORTANT
27	TOOL TO BUILD LONG-TERM FINANCIAL HEALTH;

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1	(1) BY INCENTIVIZING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO ISSUE LOANS TO
2	IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS THROUGH A LOAN LOSS
3	RESERVE, BUYING DOWN INTEREST RATES, OR PROVIDING LENDING
4	CAPITAL, THE STATE CAN FOSTER LONG-TERM TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE
5	FOR INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19
6	PANDEMIC OR ITS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS;
7	(g) WITH ONE-TIME MONEY, THE STATE CAN CATALYZE POSITIVE
8	MARKET FORCES THAT EXIST OUTSIDE OF STATE GOVERNMENT,
9	LEVERAGING NEW, OR FREEING UP EXISTING, RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE
10	CREATION OF AFFORDABLE LENDING PRODUCTS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE
11	TO MANY COLORADANS; AND
12	(h) THEREFORE, THE CREATION OF A HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL
13	RECOVERY PROGRAM SUPPORTS THE LONG-TERM RECOVERY OF COLORADO
14	INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
15	AND IS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE HARM CAUSED BY THE
16	COVID-19 PANDEMIC OR ITS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS.
17	<b>24-36-303. Definitions.</b> As used in this part 3, unless the
18	CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
19	(1) "ADMINISTRATOR" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT THE STATE
20	TREASURER CONTRACTS WITH PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-36-304 TO
21	ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.
22	(2) "COUNCIL" MEANS THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
23	SECTION 24-31-1102 (3)(c) BY THE FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT OFFICE
24	CREATED IN SECTION 24-31-1101.
25	(3) "COVID-19" MEANS THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE CAUSED BY
26	THE SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS 2, ALSO
27	KNOWN AS SARS-COV-2

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1	(4) "FUND" MEANS THE COLORADO HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL
2	RECOVERY PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-36-306.
3	(5) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL
4	RECOVERY PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS PART 3.
5	24-36-304. Colorado household financial recovery program -
6	created - selection of administrators - grants. (1) The state
7	TREASURER SHALL ESTABLISH THE COLORADO HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL
8	RECOVERY PROGRAM ADMINISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
9	REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PART 3 AND ANY POLICIES ESTABLISHED FOR THE
10	PROGRAM BY THE STATE TREASURER OR BY AN ADMINISTRATOR PURSUANT
11	TO SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO
12	FACILITATE LENDING TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE
13	COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHO FACE FINANCIAL INSECURITY AND WHO HAVE
14	DIFFICULTY ACCESSING AFFORDABLE LOANS TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL
15	INSECURITY.
16	(2) (a) IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE HARM
17	CAUSED TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS BY ITS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC
18	IMPACTS, MONEY FOR THE PROGRAM MAY BE USED FOR ONE OR MORE OF
19	THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES UNDER THE PROGRAM TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS
20	AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
21	(I) TO ESTABLISH A LOAN LOSS RESERVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
22	SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION TO PARTIALLY OFFSET RISK TO LENDERS
23	IN MAKING LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE
24	COVID-19 PANDEMIC;
25	(II) TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO LENDERS TO BUY DOWN THE INTEREST
26	RATE ON LOANS MADE TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY
2.7	THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

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1	(III) TO PROVIDE LENDING CAPITAL FOR UNCOLLATERALIZED
2	LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19
3	PANDEMIC. ALL LOANS MADE OR INCENTIVIZED UNDER THE PROGRAM
4	MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TERMS:
5	(A) A MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS,
6	WHICH LOAN AMOUNT MAY OTHERWISE VARY IN PROPORTION TO THE
7	HARM EXPERIENCED BY THE INDIVIDUALS OR HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY
8	THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC;
9	(B) A MAXIMUM ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE OF FIVE PERCENT;
10	(C) BORROWER REPORTING; AND
11	(D) REPORTING TO MAJOR CREDIT AGENCIES CONCERNING
12	REQUIRED PAYMENTS ON THE LOAN.
13	(IV) TO AWARD GRANTS TO NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED
14	ORGANIZATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION $(10)$ OF THIS SECTION
15	TO CONDUCT MARKETING AND OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS AND
16	HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHO MAY BE
17	ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING MARKETING AND
18	OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY
19	INSECURE AND FINANCIALLY UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED.
20	(b) THE STATE TREASURER MAY CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE
21	FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING BANKS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
22	FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, OR CREDIT UNIONS, TO ADMINISTER ALL OR A
23	PORTION OF THE MONEY AVAILABLE FOR THE PROGRAM.
24	(3) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL:
25	(a) USE AN OPEN AND COMPETITIVE PROCESS FOR SELECTING ONE
26	OR MORE ADMINISTRATORS; AND
2.7	(b) SELECT AN APPLICANT OR APPLICANTS TO ADMINISTER THE

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I	PROGRAM BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
2	(I) THE APPLICANT'S PROPOSED USE OF MONEY AND WHETHER THE
3	PROPOSED USE ALIGNS WITH PROGRAM GOALS;
4	(II) THE STRENGTH OF THE APPLICANT'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH
5	NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVE INDIVIDUALS
6	AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHO:
7	(A) ARE TRADITIONALLY UNSERVED OR UNDERSERVED BY THE
8	CURRENT BANKING SYSTEM; AND
9	(B) Suffered the greatest harm from the negative
10	ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INCLUDING PEOPLE OF
11	COLOR, INDIVIDUALS IN LOW-WAGE EMPLOYMENT, WOMEN, AND
12	INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT COLLEGE DEGREES;
13	(III) THE APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO CONNECT BORROWERS TO:
14	(A) SAFE AND AFFORDABLE BANKING PRODUCTS WITH LOW FEES
15	AND EASY ACCESS TO ACCOUNTS; AND
16	(B) FINANCIAL COUNSELING AND COACHING AND
17	WEALTH-BUILDING SERVICES;
18	(IV) THE APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO SERVE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE
19	UNDERSERVED BY TRADITIONAL LENDERS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS WHO
20	HAVE NO CREDIT HISTORY;
21	(V) THE ABILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO DEVISE LOAN PAYMENT
22	PLANS THAT INCLUDE OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD SAVINGS; AND
23	(VI) THE APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO ATTRACT LENDING CAPITAL.
24	(4) IN SELECTING AN APPLICANT OR APPLICANTS TO ADMINISTER
25	THE PROGRAM, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CONSULT WITH THE
26	COUNCIL. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO ARE OFFICIALS IN OR
2.7	EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW SHALL RECUSE THEMSELVES

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1	FROM THE EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS.
2	(5) THE STATE TREASURER MAY ADVANCE MONEY UNDER A
3	CONTRACT TO AN APPLICANT SELECTED TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM IN
4	ORDER TO PAY FOR INITIAL COSTS.
5	(6) THE STATE TREASURER'S CONTRACT WITH AN ADMINISTRATOR
6	MAY REQUIRE THE RETURN OF MONEY FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR
7	REALLOCATION UNDER THE PROGRAM IF THE ADMINISTRATOR HAS BEEN
8	UNABLE TO EFFECTIVELY USE MONEY ALLOCATED FOR THE PROGRAM.
9	(7) THE STATE TREASURER'S CONTRACT WITH AN ADMINISTRATOR
10	MAY REQUIRE AN ADMINISTRATION FEE IN AN AMOUNT REASONABLY
11	CALCULATED TO COVER THE ONGOING COSTS OF THE STATE TREASURER IN
12	OVERSEEING THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION. THE STATE TREASURER
13	SHALL DEPOSIT THE ADMINISTRATION FEE IN THE FUND.
14	(8) The state treasurer, in collaboration with any
15	ADMINISTRATOR SELECTED BY THE STATE TREASURER, SHALL ESTABLISH
16	AND PUBLICIZE POLICIES FOR THE USE OF MONEY UNDER THE PROGRAM, TO
17	INCLUDE:
18	(a) PROGRAM DEADLINES, APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND FEES
19	AND ANY OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF MONEY UNDER THE
20	PROGRAM;
21	(b) Underwriting or risk management policies; and
22	(c) Eligibility requirements to include individuals and
23	HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
24	(9) (a) If the state treasurer determines that a loan loss
25	RESERVE WILL INCENTIVIZE LENDING TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS
26	IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE STATE TREASURER MAY
27	ESTABLISH A LOAN LOSS RESERVE FOR THE PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT

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1	OF THE TREASURY, OR MAY SELECT ONE OR MORE ADMINISTRATORS
2	PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION TO ESTABLISH A LOAN
3	LOSS RESERVE. THE LOAN LOSS RESERVE MAY BE USED TO PROVIDE
4	GRANTS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM TO
5	PARTIALLY OFFSET LOSSES ON LOANS MADE TO INDIVIDUALS AND
6	HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
7	(b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT AND
8	CONDITIONS FOR THE OFFSET OF LOSSES THROUGH THE LOAN LOSS
9	RESERVE AND SHALL ESTABLISH AND PUBLICIZE POLICIES FOR
10	PARTICIPATING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.
11	(10) (a) The state treasurer, or an administrator selected
12	PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, MAY AWARD GRANTS TO
13	NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO CONDUCT MARKETING
14	AND OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE
15	COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
16	PROGRAM, INCLUDING MARKETING AND OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS AND
17	HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE ECONOMICALLY INSECURE AND FINANCIALLY
18	UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED. THE STATE TREASURER, IN
19	COLLABORATION WITH ANY ADMINISTRATOR SELECTED PURSUANT TO
20	SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR
21	APPLYING FOR A GRANT, FOR ALLOWABLE USES OF GRANT MONEY, AND
22	FOR REPORTING ON THE USE OF GRANT MONEY.
23	(b) A NONPROFIT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION MAY USE A
24	GRANT TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE TO THE PROGRAM,
25	INCLUDING:
26	(I) EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING STAFF

27

SUPPORT FOR THESE ACTIVITIES;

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1	(II) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO THE PROGRAM; AND
2	(III) OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT HELP CONNECT INDIVIDUALS AND
3	HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO THE PROGRAM.
4	<b>24-36-305. Report.</b> (1) On or before November 1, 2023, and
5	ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER IN WHICH THE
6	PROGRAM IS BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE TREASURER OR A
7	SELECTED ADMINISTRATOR, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL SUBMIT A
8	REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9	BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND LABOR COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE BUSINESS,
10	LABOR, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
11	COMMITTEES, DETAILING THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR
12	THE PROGRAM AND THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON INDIVIDUALS AND
13	HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OR ITS NEGATIVE
14	ECONOMIC IMPACTS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION
15	24-1-136(11)(a)(I), the requirement in this subsection $(1)$ to submit
16	THE REPORT CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.
17	(2) AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
18	SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE:
19	(a) The purposes, as specified in section 24-36-304 (2)(a), for
20	WHICH PROGRAM MONEY WAS USED, AND THE NUMBER AND A
21	DESCRIPTION OF THE INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITTING FROM
22	THE PROGRAM;
23	(b) THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES;
24	(c) THE NUMBER OF LOAN DEFAULTS;
25	(d) Information concerning the use and impact of a loan
26	LOSS RESERVE; AND
2.7	(e) A SUMMARY OF GRANTS AWARDED TO NONPROFIT

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1	COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND
2	OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND ASSISTANCE TO THE PROGRAM.
3	24-36-306. Colorado household financial recovery program
4	fund - created - transfer - gifts, grants, and donations authorized.
5	(1) (a) THE COLORADO HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL RECOVERY PROGRAM
6	FUND IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY.
7	(b) The state treasurer shall credit all interest and
8	INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
9	FUND TO THE FUND.
10	(c) Money appropriated, transferred, or credited to the
11	FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE STATE TREASURER FOR THE
12	PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.
13	(d) The state treasurer may expend up to two percent of
14	THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND TO PAY THE DIRECT AND
15	INDIRECT COSTS INCURRED BY THE STATE TREASURER IN IMPLEMENTING
16	OR ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM.
17	(2) The fund consists of:
18	(a) Money appropriated to the fund by the general
19	ASSEMBLY FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PART 3;
20	(b) Money transferred to the fund;
21	(c) FEES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-36-304 (7); AND
22	(d) Gifts, grants, or donations credited to the fund
23	PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.
24	(3) THE STATE TREASURER MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
25	GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
26	PURPOSES OF THIS PART 3. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL
27	MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS TO THE

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1	FUND.
2	(4) MONEY IN THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR:
3	(a) The purposes specified in Section 24-36-304; and
4	(b) ANY OTHER PURPOSE RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND
5	IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART 3.
5	SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
7	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
3	preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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