Second Regular Session Seventy-third General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 22-0682.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

SENATE BILL 22-086

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Winter,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gray,

Senate Committees

House Committees

Finance

	A BILL FOR AN ACT
101	CONCERNING ASSETS EXEMPTED FROM SEIZURE IN CERTAIN
102	PROCEEDINGS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, EXPANDING
103	THE AMOUNT AND APPLICATION OF THE HOMESTEAD
104	EXEMPTION TO INCLUDE PERSONAL PROPERTY THAT IS
105	ACTUALLY USED AS A RESIDENCE, INCREASING THE SCOPE AND
106	AMOUNT OF ASSETS THAT MAY BE EXEMPTED, ADDING CERTAIN
107	NEW EXEMPTIONS, RECREATING AND INCREASING AN
108	EXEMPTION FOR MONEY IN DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS, AND
109	REMOVING A REQUIREMENT THAT A PERSON MUST DEPOSIT AND
110	NOT COMMINGLE FUNDS IN ORDER TO RENDER CHILD SUPPORT
111	PAYMENTS OR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS EXEMPT FROM LEVY
112	TO PAY A DEBT.

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.)

Section 1 of the bill makes legislative findings and declarations. Colorado's statutory homestead exemption exempts a portion of a homestead from seizure to satisfy a debt, contract, or civil obligation. Section 2 increases the amount of the homestead exemption:

- From \$75,000 to \$300,000 if the homestead is occupied as a home by an owner of the home or an owner's family; and
- From \$105,000 to \$400,000 if the homestead is occupied as a home by an owner who is elderly or disabled, an owner's spouse who is elderly or disabled, or an owner's dependent who is elderly or disabled.

Section 3 expands the meaning of "homestead" to expressly include a "dwelling", and section 4 defines a dwelling as conventional housing and personal property that is actually used as a residence, including any vehicle, trailer, vessel, camper coach, mounted equipment, railway car, shipping or cargo container, or shed.

Section 5 increases the maximum amounts of existing exemptions from levy and sale under a writ of attachment or execution for certain types of property and creates new exemptions for:

- Firearms and hunting and fishing equipment;
- Economic impact payments;
- Health savings accounts; and
- Money placed into a life expectancy set-aside account or similar reserve fund, escrow, or impound account, which money is derived from reverse mortgage proceeds that are designated for specific uses.

Section 5 also recreates and increases an exemption for money in depository accounts.

Sections 5, 6, and 7 remove a requirement that a person must deposit child support payments in an account designated for the child and, with regard to child support payments and unemployment benefits, not commingle funds in order to claim an exemption for child support payments or an exemption for unemployment benefits.

- 1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
- 2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly

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1	finds that:
2	(a) The recent rises in Colorado's population and home values
3	have made it more difficult for people to find affordable housing;
4	(b) This housing crisis affects a wide swath of the population,
5	putting more pressure on family budgets;
6	(c) The higher cost of housing has forced many of Colorado's
7	aging and less-wealthy individuals to reside in unconventional housing,
8	including tiny homes; recreational vehicles, campers, and other vehicles;
9	boats and other vessels; and other types of real and personal property;
10	(d) Unfortunately, individuals residing in such unconventional
11	housing do not enjoy protection from creditors under Colorado's
12	homestead exemption law because Colorado's definition of a "homestead"
13	applies to real property and to mobile homes, manufactured homes,
14	trailers, and trailer coaches but not to other types of unconventional
15	housing; and
16	(e) When creditors acquire and dispose of property that serves as
17	unconventional housing, the residents of such housing are often left
18	homeless.
19	(2) The general assembly also finds that:
20	(a) Section 1 of article XVIII of the state constitution requires the
21	general assembly to pass liberal homestead and exemption laws;
22	(b) Colorado courts have expressed a policy of broad and liberal
23	interpretation of the homestead exemption;
24	(c) In 1982, with the enactment of Senate Bill 82-27, and in 1983,
25	with the enactment of House Bill 83-1428, the general assembly
26	expanded the homestead exemption to apply to mobile homes and

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manufactured homes, respectively;

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(d) In 2000, with the enactment of Senate Bill 00-003, the general
assembly again expanded the homestead exemption to include trailers and
trailer coaches; and
(e) Nonetheless, in 2016, in the case of <i>In re Romero</i> , the United
States district court for the district of Colorado declined to interpret
Colorado's homestead exemption as applying to unconventional dwellings

8 exemption statute.

- (3) The general assembly also finds that:
- (a) The original purpose of the homestead exemption was to protect an amount of equity that is required to keep a roof over a family's head;

and sleeping quarters that are not specifically described in the homestead

- (b) The increase in the cost of homes has left the current homestead exemption outdated;
 - (c) For many individuals, home ownership is the cornerstone of the American dream, yet as of November 5, 2021, the typical home value in the United States is \$316,368, according to Zillow, and this value is seasonally adjusted and includes only the middle-price tier of homes;
 - (d) Of course, home values are not uniform across the country, and in some states a typical home costs far more than the national average. According to Zillow, the value of a typical single-family home in Colorado is \$442,766, which is higher than the national average as reported by Microsoft's MS Money app.
 - (e) Based on these figures, Colorado's statutory homestead exemption amount of \$75,000 protects only about 17% of the value of the typical Colorado home and about 24% for homeowners who are elderly or disabled; and

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1	(f) According to the Denver Metro Association of Realtors, the
2	median closing price of a home in the Denver metro area was \$543,000
3	for November 2021.
4	(4) The general assembly therefore declares that it is in the best
5	interests of residents of the state for the general assembly to:
6	(a) Increase the amount of the homestead exemption;
7	(b) Expand the definition of "homestead" to expressly include a
8	broad range of real and personal property when such property is actually
9	used as a dwelling or place of residence;
10	(c) Increase the maximum amounts of existing exemptions for
11	depository accounts and certain types of property; and
12	(d) Create new exemptions for:
13	(I) Firearms and hunting and fishing equipment;
14	(II) Economic impact payments;
15	(III) Health savings accounts; and
16	(IV) Money placed into a life expectancy set-aside account or
17	similar reserve fund, escrow, or impound account, which money is
18	derived from reverse mortgage proceeds that are designated for specific
19	uses.
20	(e) Remove the requirement that a person not commingle funds in
21	order to claim an exemption for child support payments or unemployment
22	benefits.
23	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 38-41-201 as
24	follows:
25	38-41-201. Homestead exemption - definitions. (1) Every
26	homestead in the state of Colorado shall be IS exempt from execution and
27	attachment arising from any debt, contract, or civil obligation not

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1	exceeding in actual cash value in excess of any liens or encumbrances on
2	the homesteaded property in existence at the time of any levy of execution
3	thereon:
4	(a) The sum of seventy-five <u>TWO HUNDRED FIFTY</u> thousand dollars
5	if the homestead is occupied as a home by an owner thereof or an owner's
6	family; or
7	(b) The sum of one hundred five THREE HUNDRED FIFTY thousand
8	dollars if the homestead is occupied as a home by an elderly or disabled
9	owner WHO IS ELDERLY OR DISABLED, an elderly or disabled spouse of an
10	owner OWNER'S SPOUSE WHO IS ELDERLY OR DISABLED, or an elderly or
11	disabled dependent of an owner OWNER'S DEPENDENT WHO IS ELDERLY OR
12	DISABLED.
13	(2) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
14	(a) "Disabled owner", "disabled spouse", or "disabled dependent"
15	"DISABLED" means an owner, spouse, or dependent who has HAVING a
16	physical or mental impairment that is disabling and that, because of other
17	factors such as age, training, experience, or social setting, substantially
18	precludes the owner, spouse, or dependent PERSON from engaging in a
19	useful occupation as a homemaker, a wage earner, or a self-employed
20	person in any employment that exists in the community and for which he
21	or she THE PERSON has competence.
22	(b) "Elderly" owner", "elderly spouse", or "elderly dependent"
23	"ELDERLY" means an owner, spouse, or dependent who is sixty years of
24	age or older.
25	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 38-41-205 as
26	follows:
27	38-41-205. Of what homestead may consist. (1) The homestead

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1	mentioned in this part 2 may consist of:
2	(a) A <u>DWELLING</u> , AS DEFINED IN SECTION 38-41-201.7;
3	(b) A house and lot or <u>lots, INCLUDING MANUFACTURED HOMES</u> ,
4	MOBILE HOMES, TRAILERS, AND TRAILER COACHES, AS SET FORTH IN
5	<u>SECTION 38-41-201.6;</u> or
6	(c) of A farm consisting of any number of acres.
7	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 38-41-201.7 as
8	follows:
9	38-41-201.7. Definition of "dwelling" - personal property
10	included. (1) As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise
11	REQUIRES, "DWELLING" MEANS CONVENTIONAL HOUSING AND PERSONAL
12	PROPERTY THAT IS ACTUALLY USED AS A RESIDENCE, INCLUDING:
13	(a) A VEHICLE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-1-102 (112), INCLUDING
14	ANY TRAILER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-1-102 (105);
15	(b) A VESSEL, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 33-13-102 (5);
16	(c) A CAMPER COACH, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-1-102 (13);
17	(d) MOUNTED EQUIPMENT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-1-102 (60);
18	(e) A RAILWAY CAR;
19	(f) A SHIPPING OR CARGO CONTAINER OR SHED;
20	(g) A YURT; AND
21	(h) A TINY HOME, WHETHER MOVABLE ON WHEELS OR STATIONARY
22	ON A FOUNDATION.
23	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 38-41-207 as
24	<u>follows:</u>
25	38-41-207. Proceeds exempt - bona fide purchaser. (1) THE
26	FOLLOWING PROCEEDS ARE EXEMPT FROM EXECUTION OR ATTACHMENT
27	EOD A DEDIOD OF TUDEE VEADS AFTED DECEIDT IF THE DEDSON ENTITI ED TO

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1	THE EXEMPTION KEEPS THE EXEMPTED PROCEEDS SEPARATE AND APART
2	FROM OTHER MONEY SO THAT THE PROCEEDS MAY BE ALWAYS IDENTIFIED:
3	(a) The proceeds from the exempt amount under this part 2, in the
4	event the property is sold by the owner; or
5	(b) The proceeds from such A sale OF HOMESTEAD PROPERTY
6	under section 38-41-206 paid to the owner of the property or person
7	entitled to the homestead; shall be exempt from execution or attachment
8	for a period of two years after such sale if the person entitled to such
9	exemption keeps the exempted proceeds separate and apart from other
10	moneys so that the same may be always identified. OR
11	(c) THE PROCEEDS FROM INSURANCE COVERING DESTRUCTION OF
12	HOMESTEAD PROPERTY HELD FOR USE IN RESTORING OR REPLACING THE
13	HOMESTEAD PROPERTY, UP TO THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.
14	(2) If the person receiving such THE proceeds uses said THE
15	proceeds in the acquisition of other property for a home, there shall be
16	carried over to the new property the same homestead exemption to which
17	the owner was entitled on the property sold Such CARRIES OVER TO THE
18	NEW PROPERTY. THE homestead exemption shall IS not be valid as against
19	one A PERSON entitled to a vendor's lien or the holder of a purchase
20	money mortgage against said THE new property.
21	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-54-102, amend
22	(1)(e), (1)(g), (1)(i), (1)(j)(I), (1)(j)(II)(A), (1)(o), (1)(s), (1)(u), (1)(v), (1)(v)
23	(1)(w), and (3); and add (1)(x), (1)(y), $\underline{(1)(z)}$, and $\underline{(6)}$ as follows:
24	13-54-102. Property exempt - commingled exempt and
25	<u>nonexempt assets -</u> definitions. (1) The following property is exempt
26	from levy and sale under writ of attachment or writ of execution:
2.7	(e) The household goods owned and used by the debtor or the

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1 debtor's dependents to the extent of three SIX thousand dollars in value; 2 (g) (I) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (II) of this 3 paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (1)(g)(II) OF THIS SECTION, in the case of every 4 debtor engaged in agriculture as the debtor's principal occupation, 5 including but not limited to farming, ranching, and dairy production OR 6 the raising of livestock or poultry, THE FOLLOWING, IN THE AGGREGATE VALUE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS: 7 8 (A) All livestock, poultry, or other animals; 9 (B) All crops, dairy products, and agricultural products grown, 10 raised, or produced; and 11 (C) All tractors, farm implements, trucks used in agricultural 12 operations, harvesting equipment, seed, and agricultural machinery and 13 tools. in the aggregate value of fifty thousand dollars. 14 (II) Only one exemption in the aggregate value of fifty ONE 15 HUNDRED thousand dollars shall be IS allowed for a debtor and his or her 16 THE DEBTOR'S spouse under subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (g) 17 SUBSECTION (1)(g)(I) OF THIS SECTION. In the event that property is 18 claimed as exempt by a debtor or his or her THE DEBTOR'S spouse under 19 subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (g) SUBSECTION (1)(g)(I) OF THIS 20 SECTION, no exemption shall be IS allowed for such THE debtor or his or 21 her THE DEBTOR'S spouse under paragraph (i) of this subsection (1) 22 SUBSECTION (1)(i) OF THIS SECTION. 23 (i) (I) EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(i)(II) OF THIS 24 SECTION, the stock in trade, supplies, fixtures, maps, machines, tools,

(A) The debtor's primary gainful occupation, in the aggregate

electronics, equipment, books, and business materials of a debtor THAT

ARE used and kept for the purpose of carrying on:

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value of thirty SIXTY thousand dollars; or

- (B) used and kept for Any other gainful occupation, in the aggregate value of ten TWENTY thousand dollars.
- (II) except that Exempt property described in this paragraph (i) SUBSECTION (1)(i) may not also be claimed as exempt pursuant to paragraph (j) of this subsection (1) SUBSECTION (1)(j) OF THIS SECTION.
- (j) (I) Up to two motor vehicles or bicycles kept and used by any debtor, in the aggregate value of seven thousand five hundred FIFTEEN THOUSAND dollars; or
- (II) (A) Up to two motor vehicles or bicycles kept and used by any elderly or disabled debtor WHO IS ELDERLY OR DISABLED or by any debtor with an elderly or disabled DEBTOR'S spouse or dependent WHO IS ELDERLY OR DISABLED, in the aggregate value of twelve thousand five hundred TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND dollars.
- (o) The full amount of any federal or state income tax refund attributed to an earned income tax credit or a ANY child tax credit, WHETHER AS A REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT OR AS A NONREFUNDABLE REDUCTION IN TAX;
- (s) Property, including funds, held in or payable from any pension or retirement plan, or deferred compensation plan, AND HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, including those in which the debtor has received benefits or payments, has the present right to receive benefits or payments, or has the right to receive benefits or payments in the future and including pensions or plans which THAT qualify under the federal "Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974", as amended; as an ANY employee pension benefit plan, as defined in 29 U.S.C. sec. 1002; any individual retirement account, as defined in 26 U.S.C. sec. 408; any Roth individual retirement

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1	account, as defined in 26 U.S.C. sec. 408A; and any plan, as defined in
2	26 U.S.C. sec. 401, and as these plans may be amended from time to time;
3	(u) Any court-ordered domestic support obligation or payment,
4	including a maintenance obligation or payment or a child support
5	obligation or payment; if the child support obligation or payment meets
6	the requirements of section 13-54-102.5;
7	(v) Any claim for public or private disability benefits due, or any
8	proceeds thereof OF SUCH A CLAIM, not otherwise provided for under law,
9	up to four FIVE thousand dollars per month. Any claim or proceeds in
10	excess of this amount is subject to garnishment in accordance with
11	section 13-54-104.
12	(w) (I) Through June 1, 2021, Up to four TWO thousand FIVE
13	HUNDRED dollars cumulative in a depository account or accounts in the
14	name of the debtor.
15	(II) This subsection (1)(w) is repealed, effective September 1,
16	2022.
17	(x) The debtor's aggregate interest in firearms and
18	HUNTING AND FISHING EQUIPMENT HELD FOR PERSONAL, FAMILY, OR
19	HOUSEHOLD USE OR FOR THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF THE DEBTOR AND
20	MEMBERS OF THE DEBTOR'S HOUSEHOLD, NOT TO EXCEED ONE THOUSAND
21	DOLLARS IN VALUE;
22	(y) (I) Any economic impact payment held by or payable to
23	A DEBTOR OR TO A DEBTOR'S DEPENDENTS IN ANY FORM.
24	(II) As used in this subsection (1)(y) and in subsection (3) of
25	THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "ECONOMIC
26	IMPACT PAYMENT" MEANS A PAYMENT FROM A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL
27	GOVERNMENT TO A DEBTOR OR TO A DEBTOR'S DEPENDENTS TO ASSIST IN

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1	MANAGING THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF A NATIONAL OR STATEWIDE
2	EMERGENCY OR DISASTER. "ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT" INCLUDES:
3	(A) ALL ECONOMIC IMPACT AND STIMULUS RECOVERY PAYMENTS
4	TO DEBTORS PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF,
5	AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT", PUB.L. 116-136, AS AMENDED, OR
6	OTHERWISE RELATING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND
7	(B) ALL OTHER ECONOMIC IMPACT OR STIMULUS RECOVERY
8	PAYMENTS TO DEBTORS, WHICH PAYMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED TO ASSIST
9	WITH ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OR FROM
10	ANY NATIONAL OR STATEWIDE EMERGENCY OR DISASTER. IT IS THE INTENT
11	OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THIS DEFINITION BE INTERPRETED IN THE
12	BROADEST POSSIBLE MANNER TO PROTECT SUCH PAYMENTS.
13	(z) ALL MONEY PLACED INTO A LIFE EXPECTANCY SET-ASIDE
14	ACCOUNT OR SIMILAR RESERVE FUND, ESCROW, OR IMPOUND ACCOUNT,
15	WHICH MONEY IS DERIVED FROM REVERSE MORTGAGE PROCEEDS THAT ARE
16	DESIGNATED FOR USE TO PAY FOR REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAXES;
17	HOMEOWNER'S HAZARD, FLOOD, OR OTHER PROPERTY INSURANCE; OR
18	OTHER HOME MAINTENANCE EXPENSES.
19	(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (s) of subsection
20	(1) SUBSECTIONS (1)(s) AND (1)(y) of this section, any ECONOMIC IMPACT
21	PAYMENT AND ANY pension or retirement benefit or payment shall be IS
22	subject to attachment or levy in satisfaction of a judgment taken for
23	arrearages for child support or for child support debt, subject to the
24	limitations contained in section 13-54-104.
25	(6) TO THE EXTENT THAT EXEMPT ASSETS ARE COMMINGLED WITH
26	NONEXEMPT ASSETS, A FIRST-IN FIRST-OUT ACCOUNTING SHALL BE USED
27	TO DETERMINE THE PORTION OF THE COMMINGLED ASSETS TO WHICH THE

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1	EXEMPTION APPLIES. IF EXEMPT ASSETS ARE COMMINGLED WITH
2	NONEXEMPT ASSETS AS PART OF A SINGLE TRANSACTION, ANY AMOUNTS
3	WITHDRAWN FROM AN ACCOUNT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUCH TRANSACTION
4	SHALL BE ASSESSED ON A PRO RATA BASIS. THIS SUBSECTION (6) APPLIES
5	TO ALL PROVISIONS OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES CONCERNING
6	THE EXEMPTION OF ASSETS FROM SEIZURE, EXCEPT FOR EXEMPTIONS THAT
7	REQUIRE SEGREGATION.
8	SECTION <u>7.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 13-54-102.5
9	as follows:
10	13-54-102.5. Child support payments - exemption. (1) Any
11	past or present child support obligation owed by a parent or child support
12	payment made by a parent that is required by a support order is exempt
13	from levy under writ of attachment or writ of execution for any debt owed
14	by either parent. A child support payment is no longer exempt under the
15	provisions of this section if the recipient of the payment intermingles the
16	payment with any other moneys.
17	(2) A child support payment is only exempt under the provisions
18	of subsection (1) of this section after the payment is deposited in a bank,
19	savings and loan, or credit union account if the account is a custodial
20	account for the benefit of the child designated for child support payments
21	and if no moneys other than child support payments made pursuant to a
22	support order or interest earned on the moneys in the account are
23	deposited into the account.
24	SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 8-80-103 as
25	follows:
26	8-80-103. Assignment of benefits void - exemptions. Any
27	assignment, pledge, or encumbrance of any right to benefits which THAT

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are or may become due or payable under articles 70 to 82 of this title shall
be TITLE 8 ARE void. Except as provided in the "Colorado Child Support
Enforcement Procedures Act", article 14 of title 14, C.R.S., such rights to
benefits shall be ARE exempt from levy, execution, attachment, or any
other remedy provided for the collection of debt. Benefits received by any
individual so long as they are not mingled with other funds of the
recipient, shall be ARE exempt from any remedy for the collection of all
debts except debts incurred for necessaries furnished to such THE
individual, his THE INDIVIDUAL'S spouse, or THE INDIVIDUAL'S dependents
during the time when such THE individual was unemployed or child
support debt or arrearages as specified in article 14 of title 14. C.R.S. Any
waiver of any exemption provided for in this section shall be IS void.
SECTION <u>9.</u> Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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