

2010 BILL PROPOSALS IN BRIEF  
 Colorado Department of Human Services  
 January 21, 2010

PROPOSAL SUMMARY	PURPOSE	FISCAL IMPACT	EXPLANATION	Sponsors:
<p><u>Home Care Allowance</u></p> <p>Clarify in statute that elderly and disabled adults who receive federal Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) payments are not eligible to also receive state Home Care Allowance (HCA) payments</p> <p>These long-term care programs help elderly and disabled people live independently from nursing homes</p>	<p>Streamline the <i>state-funded</i> Home Care Allowance program.</p> <p>Maximize taxpayer dollars</p> <p>Comply with a January 2009 legislative audit that concluded there was "overlap and redundancy" in the programs</p>	<p>Budget neutral</p> <p>"Savings" will be used to serve people who do not receive HCBS services.</p> <p>"Savings" also will be used to make changes to CBMS and will be redirected to Health Care Policy and Financing to expand personal care services to HCBS clients dropped from HCA rolls.</p>	<p>HCA is a state-only program for needy elderly and disabled people who are self sufficient but need help with cooking, cleaning, driving etc.</p> <p>HCBS is a Medicaid program for needy people who are seriously disabled (Alzheimers, spinal cord injuries, etc.)</p>	<p>Hullinghorst/Tochtrop</p>
<p><u>Colorado Works</u></p> <p>Simplify eligibility requirements and application for cash and service assistance; align with Medicaid, food stamps and other federal guidelines</p>	<p>Streamline the Colorado Works Program for applicants, recipients and county workers by simplifying eligibility requirements, applications and calculations for Basic Cash Assistance</p>	<p>No General Fund impact</p> <p>Federal fund impact to make changes to CBMS; exact changes and associated cost have not been calculated</p>	<p>Eg.: A pregnant woman who needs basic cash assistance must prove that she is at least 6 months pregnant. Under Medicaid, one only has to establish pregnancy to receive benefits.</p>	<p>Sponsors:</p> <p>Boyd/Massey</p>

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<p><u>Division of Youth Corrections</u></p> <p>Clarify statute to show that the commitment clock stops when an escaped youth is on the run.</p>	<p>To align statute with current practice</p>	<p>No fiscal impact</p>	<p>Clarifies/adds language in statute that when a youth is on escape status, that period of time does not count toward their original commitment time. When the youth is returned, their escape time will be added to their original commitment time.</p>	<p>Sponsors: McCann/Tochtrop</p>
<p><u>Child Welfare-Federal Compliance</u></p> <p>Require group home parents and employees in 24/7 facilities to undergo FBI background checks</p> <p>Comply with Multi-Ethnic Placement Act prohibiting discrimination re the child or prospective foster parent.</p>	<p>To comply with federal law under the Social Security Act and</p> <p>To comply with federal law under the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act</p>	<p>Budget neutral</p> <p>FBI checks will be paid for by the employee (\$22). That fee will offset the costs involved with the fingerprint checks.</p>	<p>Currently, only foster care providers in the state less than 2 years undergo FBI checks.</p> <p>Birth parents giving up their child for adoption can say who the adoptive parents will be. Federal law requires non-discriminatory consideration</p>	<p>Sponsors: Casso/Sandoval</p>

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<p><u>Child Welfare Action Committee</u></p> <p>Seek authority to create a child advocate office subject to future appropriations</p> <p>Require DHS to give feedback to certain mandatory reporters who have made a report of child abuse or neglect</p> <p>Require uniformity across the state re time lines in change of venue cases</p> <p>Attempt to keep less severe Dependency and Neglect cases out of the courts by getting more involved with families in the treatment process.</p>	<p>Improve the safety and well-being of children.</p>	<p>None in 2010</p>	<p>These recommendations were among many made by Governor Ritter's 25-member child welfare action committee during its 18-month charge.</p> <p>The committee adjourned in December 2009.</p>	<p>Newell/Gagliardi</p> <p>Newell/??</p> <p>McCann/Steadman</p> <p>Kefalas/Spence</p>

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<p><u>Sponsorship Agreements</u></p> <p>Align eligibility of non-citizens for the OAP program with federal qualifications for public benefits. Enforce sponsorship agreements so immigrant does not become a burden to taxpayers.</p> <p>Consider sponsor's income when determining the immigrant's eligibility.</p> <p>Require a 5-year waiting period for access to public benefits.</p> <p>Add safeguards to ensure that older non-citizens are protected</p>	<p>To make Colorado laws uniform with regard to non-citizens who automatically become legal immigrants when an American or naturalized citizen sponsor brings them to Colorado</p> <p>To align Colorado laws with federal laws</p> <p>To protect older non-citizens brought to Colorado under sponsorship agreements</p> <p>To help prevent fraud</p>	<p>Projected annual savings of approximately \$29 million.</p>	<p>This is part of the governor's budget balancing package for 2010-11. The bill would make it effective in January 2011 as long as ARRA funds are not extended. If they are extended, the bill would take effect July 1, 2011 or at such time as the ARRA funds have expired.</p> <p>This bill does not pertain to refugees and asylees.</p>	<p>Sponsors:  Joint Budget Committee</p>

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<p><u>Behavioral Health</u></p> <p>Coordinate, streamline and improve the system of behavioral health programs that provide substance abuse and mental health services in Colorado.</p>	<p>To deliver high quality behavioral health services in Colorado that are cost effective and accountable</p>	<p>Budget neutral in 2010</p>		<p>Sponsors: Boyd/Riesberg</p>
<p><u>DD Assessments</u></p> <p>Seek legislative approval to modify annual assessments of people with DD; give the State Board of Human Services oversight authority for the process and management of the DD wait list; craft rules.</p>	<p>Modify costly annual assessments, making the system more efficient for clients and those who conduct the assessments.</p>	<p>Possible annual savings Of about \$300,000</p>		<p>Sponsors: Acree/Keller</p>

