

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 16-0289.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 16-1112

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Landgraf**, Lontine, Priola, Roupe, Windholz, Ginal, Carver, Brown, Joshi, Pabon, Rankin,  
Ryden, Saine, Thurlow

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Crowder,

House Committees

Public Health Care & Human Services  
Appropriations

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN  
102 THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM, AND, IN  
103 CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING 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://www.leg.state.co.us/bills summaries>.)*

The bill creates the training veterans to train their own service dogs pilot program (program) and the training veterans to train their own service dogs pilot program fund. The purpose of the program is to identify a group of up to 10 eligible veterans, as defined by federal law and who have been referred by a qualified mental health professional, to

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

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 5, 2016

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 29, 2016

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 28, 2016

participate in the program, to pair with dogs. The dogs will be identified by qualified canine trainers in conjunction with the veterans. The participants will foster, train, and ultimately utilize the dog he or she has been paired with as a service or companion animal. The program will further offer those veterans who graduate from the program with a trained dog the opportunity and necessary follow-along services to expand the program, if willing, through identifying, fostering, and training a subsequent dog for another eligible veteran who is unable to complete one or more parts of the process due to physical or other limitations.

The executive director of the department of human services (director) shall establish and post criteria, including eligibility criteria, for the program. The director shall establish guidelines and timelines for a request for proposals process to select a nonprofit entity (nonprofit) to facilitate operations for the program. The chosen nonprofit shall record and report measurable outcomes to the director.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 23 to title  
3 26 as follows:

4   **ARTICLE 23**

5   **Training Veterans To Train Their Own**

6   **Service Dogs Pilot Program**

7           **26-23-101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
8 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9                   (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

10                  (2) "ELIGIBLE VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON IN NEED OF MENTAL  
11 HEALTH SERVICES WHO:

12                   (a) SERVED IN THE ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR SERVICE, COAST  
13 GUARD, OR NATIONAL GUARD OR THE RESERVE FORCES OF THE UNITED  
14 STATES AND WHO WAS DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS  
15 OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S.C. TITLE 38, AS  
16 AMENDED; AND

17                   (b) RECEIVED A REFERRAL FROM A QUALIFIED MENTAL HEALTH

1 PROFESSIONAL FOR PURPOSES OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.

2 (3) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
3 THE DEPARTMENT.

4 (4) "FOLLOW-ALONG SUPPORT SERVICES" MEANS TRAINING AND  
5 SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED TO AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN WHO IS  
6 PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM AFTER CANINE FOSTERING AND TRAINING  
7 IS COMPLETE.

8 (5) "FUND" MEANS THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR OWN  
9 SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SECTION 26-23-104.

10 (6) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR  
11 OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM.

12 **26-23-102. Training veterans to train their own service dogs**

13 **pilot program - created - purpose - selection process - services to**

14 **veterans. (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE TRAINING**

15 VETERANS TO TRAIN THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM. THE

16 PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IDENTIFY AND TRAIN A GROUP OF UP TO

17 TEN ELIGIBLE VETERANS TO PAIR WITH DOGS, AS IDENTIFIED BY QUALIFIED

18 CANINE TRAINERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VETERANS, TO FOSTER,

19 TRAIN, AND ULTIMATELY UTILIZE THE DOGS AS THEIR OWN SERVICE OR

20 COMPANION ANIMALS. THE PROGRAM WILL FURTHER OFFER THOSE

21 VETERANS WHO GRADUATE FROM THE PROGRAM WITH A TRAINED DOG THE

22 OPPORTUNITY AND NECESSARY FOLLOW-ALONG SERVICES TO EXPAND THE

23 PROGRAM, IF WILLING, BY IDENTIFYING, FOSTERING, AND TRAINING A

24 SUBSEQUENT DOG FOR ANOTHER ELIGIBLE VETERAN WHO IS UNABLE TO

25 COMPLETE ONE OR MORE PARTS OF THE PROCESS DUE TO PHYSICAL

26 LIMITATIONS.

27 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MUST ESTABLISH AND POST THE ELIGIBILITY

1 CRITERIA FOR SELECTION TO THE PROGRAM FOR VETERANS AND CANINES,  
2 AS WELL AS REQUIREMENTS FOR A NONPROFIT SELECTED TO IMPLEMENT  
3 THE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-23-103.

4 **26-23-103. Request for proposals for program implementation**  
5 **and operation - criteria for nonprofit - reporting.** (1) (a) THE  
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ESTABLISH AND USE A COMPETITIVE REQUEST  
7 FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS TO SELECT TWO IN-STATE NONPROFIT AGENCIES  
8 THAT REPRESENT DIFFERENT COUNTIES WITH WHICH TO CONTRACT FOR  
9 THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM. THE EXECUTIVE  
10 DIRECTOR SHALL FINALIZE THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS NO  
11 LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2016. PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER  
12 THAN OCTOBER 1, 2016, AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE A  
13 FINAL DECISION ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2016.

14 (b) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO IMPLEMENT AND OPERATE THE PROGRAM,  
15 EACH NONPROFIT AGENCY MUST:

- 16 (I) BE BASED IN COLORADO;
- 17 (II) SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE VETERAN POPULATION WITHIN THE  
18 NONPROFIT AGENCY'S GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION;
- 19 (III) IDENTIFY AN ORGANIZATION IN COLORADO THAT IS QUALIFIED  
20 TO TRAIN CANINES WITH WHICH THE NONPROFIT AGENCY WILL PARTNER IF  
21 SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM;

22 (IV) GENERATE ITS OWN REVENUE AND REINVEST THE PROCEEDS  
23 OF THAT REVENUE IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS PROGRAMS,  
24 INCLUDING VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES; AND

25 (V) OFFER A VARIETY OF VETERAN SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN  
26 CONNECTION WITH LICENSED OR CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH  
27 PROFESSIONALS, AS WELL AS OTHER SERVICES THAT HELP VETERANS

1 TRANSITION TO THEIR COMMUNITY AFTER MILITARY SERVICE.

2 (2) IN AWARDING FOR THE CONTRACT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
3 SHALL REQUIRE EACH SELECTED NONPROFIT AGENCY TO:

4 (a) REPORT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM TO THE  
5 DEPARTMENT, ALONG WITH AN EVALUATION OF THOSE OUTCOMES;

6 (b) SELECT UP TO TEN ELIGIBLE VETERANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
7 PROGRAM, BASED ON THE ESTABLISHED AND POSTED CRITERIA;

8 (c) SELECT APPROPRIATE CANINE COMPANIONS FOR THE PROGRAM  
9 BASED ON THE ESTABLISHED CRITERIA;

10 (d) ASSIST IN PLACING A SELECTED AND TRAINED CANINE WITH AN  
11 ELIGIBLE VETERAN BASED ON THAT VETERAN'S SPECIFIC, INDIVIDUAL  
12 NEEDS;

13 (e) ASSIST VETERANS WITH LEARNING AND APPLYING THE PROPER  
14 TECHNIQUES REQUIRED FOR SUCCESSFUL TRAINING;

15 (f) PROVIDE MENTORING AND GUIDANCE TO AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN  
16 WHO IS FOSTERING A CANINE THAT IS BEING TRAINED; AND

17 (g) PROVIDE ANY OTHER FOLLOW-ALONG SUPPORT SERVICES  
18 DEEMED APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY BY THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE  
19 INDIVIDUAL VETERAN-CANINE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE PROGRAM  
20 SUCCESSFUL.

21 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT THE OUTCOMES AND  
22 EVALUATIONS RELATED TO THE PROGRAM TO THE STATE, VETERANS, AND  
23 MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
24 REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
25 OF THE SENATE AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES  
26 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
27 COMMITTEES, AFTER ONE FULL YEAR OF DATA HAS BEEN COLLECTED AND

1 EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER.

2 **26-23-104. Training veterans to train their own service dogs**

3 **pilot program fund - creation.** (1) THE TRAINING VETERANS TO TRAIN  
4 THEIR OWN SERVICE DOGS PILOT PROGRAM FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE  
5 TREASURY. THE PRINCIPAL OF THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEYS  
6 APPROPRIATED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL         
7 ASSEMBLY AND ANY MONEY RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF  
8 THIS SECTION. THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE  
9 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED AND OPERATED BY A NONPROFIT AGENCY  
10 SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

11 (2) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK, ACCEPT, AND  
12 EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS, INCLUDING IN-KIND DONATIONS,  
13 FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM;  
14 EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ACCEPT A GIFT, GRANT, OR  
15 DONATION THAT IS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH  
16 THIS ARTICLE OR ANY OTHER LAW OF THE STATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
17 TRANSMIT ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEYS RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS,  
18 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT  
19 THE SAME TO THE FUND.

20 (3) (a) THE MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY  
21 APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING  
22 IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM BY THE NONPROFIT  
23 AGENCY SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION  
24 26-23-103 AND FOR ANY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INCURRED BY THE  
25 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. THE DEPARTMENT'S  
26 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES FOR THE PROGRAM IN A FISCAL YEAR MUST  
27 NOT EXCEED THREE PERCENT OF THE MONEYS TRANSFERRED OR

1 APPROPRIATED IN THAT FISCAL YEAR.

2 (b) ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND  
3 INVESTMENT OF THE FUND AND ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED  
4 MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR  
5 REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE TRANSFERRED OR REVERT TO THE  
6 GENERAL FUND.

7 **26-23-105. Repeal.** THIS ARTICLE IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
8 SEPTEMBER 1, 2026.

9

10 SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2016-17 state fiscal year,  
11 \$100,000 is appropriated to the training veterans to train their own service  
12 dogs pilot program fund created in section 26-23-104 (1), C.R.S. This  
13 appropriation is from the general fund. The department of human services  
14 is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.

15 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
16 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
17 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.