Second Regular Session Sixty-ninth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 14-0152.01 Ed DeCecco x4216

SENATE BILL 14-014

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kefalas, Ulibarri

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pettersen, Exum, Fields

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101	CONCERNIN	G THE PROPERTY	-RELATED	EXPEN	SE ASSISTANCE G	RANTS
102	FOR	LOW-INCOME	SENIORS	AND	INDIVIDUALS	WITH
103	DISAF	BILITIES.				

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/billsummaries.)

Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force. Beginning with grants claimed for 2014, the bill modifies the real property tax assistance grants, which includes grants for property tax, specific ownership tax, or tax equivalent payments, (Section 1 of the bill)

and heat or fuel expenses assistance grants (**Section 4**) for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities as follows:

- ! Increases the maximum real tax property expense assistance grant from \$600 to \$700;
- ! For claims made for 2014, increases the income limits for grant eligibility from approximately \$12,639 to \$14,937 for individuals and from approximately \$16,935 to \$20,163 for married couples; and
- ! Establishes flat minimum grant amounts for any eligible individual or married couple of \$227 for the real property tax expense assistance grant and \$73 for the heat or fuel expenses assistance grant, assuming that the actual expenses exceed these amounts.

Section 2 clarifies the executive director of the department of revenue's responsibilities for preparing grant application forms and related instructions, and it permits the executive director to develop an electronic form to supplement the paper forms.

Section 3 repeals the requirement that the department of revenue mail copies of the grant forms to county departments of social services and public and private pensions. This mailing is replaced with a requirement that the department of human services conduct specific types of outreach related to the grant. On or before July 1, 2015, the department of human services is required to report about the outreach to the public health care and human services committee of the house of representatives and the health and human services committee of the senate. The department of human services outreach efforts do not affect the department of revenue's responsibility to create the grant forms and pay the grants. The departments are required to share information.

If the department of revenue incorrectly pays a grant as a result of a departmental mistake, **section 5** permits the executive director of the department to waive the reimbursement of the grant and any interest or penalties that accrue.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly

3 hereby finds that:

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- 4 (a) There is a property tax, rent, and heat assistance grant program
- 5 administered by the department of revenue, which is commonly referred
- 6 to as the PTC rebate program;
 - (b) The PTC rebate program was started in 1972 to provide

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property tax and rent assistance through grants to low-income seniors, and the program was expanded to include assistance for heating expenses in 1980 and to include individuals with disabilities in 1989;

- (c) The department of revenue administers the program, including application controls and program outreach, and there is a need to improve the department's application, eligibility, and payment controls and the program outreach and administration;
- (d) Grants are made from the income tax refund reserve without further appropriation;
 - (e) In fiscal year 2012-13 about 21,000 households participated in the program and received a total of \$6.9 million in rebates, which is an average of \$329 for each participating household;
 - (f) The PTC rebate program applies to thousands of low-income Coloradans over age 65, surviving spouses over age 58, or individuals with disabilities who have lived in the state for the entire tax year and have paid property tax, rent, or heating expenses during the year;
 - (g) Qualifying seniors and individuals with disabilities, including veterans, who live in their homes on fixed or low-incomes face greater financial hardships and encounter difficulties in maintaining their homes and living independently with limited resources, and the rebate helps these people stay in their homes;
 - (h) The PTC rebate program helps seniors and individuals with disabilities live independently in their homes and serves as a lifeline for thousands of Coloradans who spend the grants on basic necessities, including home repairs; and
 - (i) Spending grants in local communities is good for business and creates jobs, it allows people to stay in their homes and live with greater

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dignity as contributing members of society, and it saves taxpayer dollars.

(2) Therefore, the general assembly declares the PTC rebate program offers a rational, fiscally prudent, and targeted approach for assisting seniors and individuals with disabilities with essential living expenses, and that it is in the public interest to improve the administration, delivery, and outreach of this program to ensure efficiencies and effectiveness in terms of serving those individuals most in need. Furthermore, it is in the public interest to encourage collaboration between the department of revenue, the department of human services, and community-based organizations to achieve continuous quality improvement of the program.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-31-101, **amend** (1) (c), (2), (3) (b) introductory portion, and (3) (b) (II); and **add** (2) (a.5), (2) (b.5), (2.3), and (3) (b) (II.5) as follows:

39-31-101. Real property tax assistance - eligibility - applicability - definitions. (1) (c) (I) The grant authorized by this section shall also be allowed to individuals having resided in this state for the entire taxable year and coming within the limitations imposed by subsection (3) of this section who, regardless of age, were disabled HAVE A DISABILITY during the entire taxable year to a degree sufficient to qualify for the payment to them of full benefits from any bona fide public or private plan or source based solely upon such disability.

(II) An individual is disabled HAS A DISABILITY for the purposes of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c) if such individual is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which THAT can be expected to result in death or which THAT has lasted for a continuous period of not

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less than twelve months.

- (2) Such A grant shall be Is the amount of the general property taxes actually paid on the residence or the amount of taxes actually paid on a mobile home, plus any tax-equivalent payments computed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, with respect to the rent of a trailer space during the year for which such THE grant is claimed, the amount of the specific ownership tax actually paid on a trailer coach, or the amount of the tax-equivalent payments, computed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, actually made during the year for which such grant is claimed, but in no event may it exceed:
 - (a) In the case of an individual:
- (I) For grants claimed for years commencing prior to January 1, 1999, five hundred dollars reduced by twenty percent of the amount by which the individual's income exceeds five thousand dollars;
- (II) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January 1, 1999, but prior to January 1, 2008, six hundred dollars reduced by ten percent of the amount by which the individual's income exceeds five thousand dollars; and
- (III) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January 1, 2008, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014, six hundred dollars reduced by ten percent of the amount by which the individual's income exceeds six thousand dollars in 2008, and, each year thereafter, the amount for the prior year adjusted for <u>inflation</u>.
- (a.5) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2.3) OF THIS SECTION, FOR GRANTS CLAIMED FOR YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014, IN THE CASE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE INCOME IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO FOURTEEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN

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1	DOLLARS, SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS REDUCED BY TEN PERCENT OF THE
2	AMOUNT BY WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL'S INCOME EXCEEDS SIX THOUSAND SIX
3	HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS OR TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN
4	DOLLARS, WHICHEVER AMOUNT IS GREATER.
5	(b) In the case of a husband and wife:
6	(I) For grants claimed for years commencing prior to January 1,
7	1999, five hundred dollars reduced by twenty percent of their income
8	over eight thousand seven hundred dollars;
9	(II) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January
10	1, 1999, but prior to January 1, 2008, six hundred dollars reduced by ten
11	percent of their income over eight thousand seven hundred dollars; and
12	(III) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January
13	1, 2008, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014, six hundred dollars reduced by
14	ten percent of their income over nine thousand seven hundred dollars in
15	2008, and, each year thereafter, the amount for the prior year adjusted for
16	<u>inflation.</u>
17	(b.5) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2.3) OF THIS
18	SECTION, FOR GRANTS CLAIMED FOR YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER
19	JANUARY 1, 2014, IN THE CASE OF A HUSBAND AND WIFE WHOSE INCOME
20	IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO TWENTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED
21	SIXTY-THREE DOLLARS, SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS REDUCED BY TEN
22	PERCENT OF THEIR INCOME OVER TEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED
23	THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS, OR TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS,
24	WHICHEVER AMOUNT IS GREATER.
25	(2.3) FOR GRANTS CLAIMED FOR YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER
26	January 1, 2015, the income thresholds used to determine the
27	FLIGIBILITY FOR AND AMOUNT OF A GRANT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)

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1	OF THIS SECTION ARE EQUAL TO THE INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR THE PRIOR
2	YEAR ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.
3	(3) Such grant shall be allowed to such persons as described in
4	subsection (1) of this section who meet the following requirements:
5	(b) Have income from all sources for the taxable year of less than
6	the maximum amount for which such persons are eligible to receive a
7	grant based on the operation of paragraphs (a) and (b) PARAGRAPHS (a),
8	(a.5), (b), AND (b.5) of subsection (2) of this section, including, but not
9	limited to, for this purpose, alimony, support money, cash public
10	assistance and relief, pension or annuity benefits, federal social security
11	benefits, veterans' benefits, nontaxable interest, workers' compensation,
12	and unemployment compensation benefits. For the purposes of this
13	paragraph (b), the following shall not be considered income:
14	(II) Medicaid payments specifically provided for the payment of
15	medicare premiums; and
16	(II.5) PAYMENTS FROM OR INCOME RECEIVED BY A SPECIAL NEEDS
17	TRUST A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST; AND
18	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-31-102, amend
19	(1) and (2) as follows:
20	39-31-102. Procedures to obtain grant - department of revenue
21	- responsibilities. (1) (a) A grant authorized by section 39-31-101 or
22	39-31-104 shall be paid from the reserve for refunds created by section
23	39-22-622. Payments shall be made on a quarterly basis, with the amount
24	of each payment equal to the total amount of the grant divided by the
25	number of quarters remaining in the calendar year in which the grant is
26	awarded, with the calculation including the quarter in which the grant is
27	awarded. Claimants meeting all qualification requirements for an entire

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- 1 taxable year shall be entitled to a grant allowable pursuant to section 2 39-31-101 or 39-31-104. Grants paid pursuant to this subsection (1) shall 3 be included for informational purposes in the general appropriation bill 4 or in supplemental appropriation bills for the purpose of complying with 5 the limitation on state fiscal year spending imposed by section 20 of 6 article X of the state constitution and section 24-77-103, C.R.S. 7 (b) THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL UPDATE ITS DATABASE 8 ON A PERIODIC BASIS AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT ALL ELIGIBLE 9 CLAIMANTS ARE RECEIVING THE GRANTS. 10 (2) A grant THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL PRESCRIBE THE 11 FORMS TO BE USED FOR THE GRANTS authorized by section 39-31-101 or 12 39-31-104 shall be claimed on such forms as prescribed by the executive 13 director and prepare any instructions related to the forms. The 14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY CREATE AN ELECTRONIC FORM TO BE USED IN 15 ADDITION TO THE PAPER FORM. If a sales tax refund is allowed for any 16 given income tax year in accordance with section 39-22-120 or 17 39-22-2002, such forms THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall include
- THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FORM.
 SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal and reenact,
 with amendments, 39-31-103 as follows:

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39-31-103. Department of human services - outreach - departmental information sharing. (1) The department of human services shall conduct outreach for the grants available under this article. As part of this duty, the department shall:

provisions allowing ON THE FORMS TO ALLOW qualified individuals to

apply for the refund pursuant to section 39-22-120 (5) (c) or 39-22-2003

(5) (c). TO RECEIVE A GRANT, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST CLAIM THE GRANT ON

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1	(a) TARGET THE OUTREACH TO PARTICIPANTS IN OTHER STATE
2	BENEFIT PROGRAMS;
3	(b) Incorporate the outreach into existing media
4	CAMPAIGNS;
5	(c) Work with county departments of human or social
6	SERVICES;
7	(d) COLLABORATE WITH INTERESTED COMMUNITY-BASED
8	ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING SHARING OF OUTREACH EXPENSES; AND
9	(e) Undertake any other measures that it deems necessary
10	TO ENSURE COLLABORATION AND COST-EFFECTIVE OUTREACH THAT
11	IMPROVES PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.
12	(2) The department of human services may solicit, receive,
13	AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM ANY PERSON,
14	INCLUDING COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
15	PAYING ANY PART OF THE OUTREACH.
16	(3) (a) On or before July 1, 2015, and July 1 of every
17	ODD-NUMBERED YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
18	SERVICES SHALL REPORT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN
19	SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
20	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY
21	SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, ABOUT ITS OUTREACH CONDUCTED PURSUANT
22	TO THIS SECTION. IN THE REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A
23	DESCRIPTION OF:
24	(I) THE TYPES OF OUTREACH UNDERTAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT;
25	(II) THE SUCCESS OF THE OUTREACH AS MEASURED BY PUBLIC
26	PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING THE PARTICIPATION BY ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF
27	RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS, OR OTHER INDICATORS THAT

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1	THE DEPARTMENT CAN EVALUATE;
2	(III) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATUTORY CHANGES THAT
3	WOULD HELP IMPROVE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION; AND
4	(IV) ANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE GRANTS
5	MADE UNDER THIS ARTICLE.
6	(b) This subsection (3) is exempt from the provisions of
7	SECTION 24-1-136 (11), C.R.S., AND THE PERIODIC REPORTING
8	REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION ARE EFFECTIVE UNTIL CHANGED BY THE
9	GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTING BY BILL.
10	(4) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION CHANGES THE DEPARTMENT OF
11	REVENUE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE THE GRANT FORMS AND TO PAY
12	THE GRANTS UNDER THIS ARTICLE.
13	(5) The department of revenue and the department of
14	HUMAN SERVICES SHALL SHARE INFORMATION AND COLLABORATE AS IS
15	NECESSARY FOR EACH DEPARTMENT TO EFFICIENTLY ADMINISTER THIS
16	ARTICLE.
17	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-31-104, amend
18	(1) (c), (2), (3) (b) introductory portion, and (3) (b) (II); and add (2) (a.5),
19	(2) (b.5), (2.3), and (3) (b) (II.5) as follows:
20	39-31-104. Heat or fuel expenses assistance - eligibility -
21	applicability - definitions. (1) (c) (I) The grant authorized by this
22	section shall also be allowed to individuals having resided in this state for
23	the entire taxable year and coming within the limitations imposed by
24	subsection (3) of this section who, regardless of age, were disabled HAVE
25	A DISABILITY during the entire taxable year to a degree sufficient to
26	qualify for the payment to them of full benefits from any bona fide public
27	or private plan or source based solely upon such disability.

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1	(11) An individual is disabled has a disability for the purposes
2	of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (c) if such individual is unable to
3	engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically
4	determinable physical or mental impairment which THAT can be expected
5	to result in death or which THAT has lasted for a continuous period of not
6	less than twelve months.
7	(2) Such THE grant shall be as follows:
8	(a) In the case of an individual:
9	(I) For grants claimed for years commencing prior to January 1,
10	1999, one hundred sixty dollars reduced by six and four-tenths percent of
11	the amount by which the individual's income exceeds five thousand
12	dollars;
13	(II) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January
14	1, 1999, but prior to January 1, 2008, one hundred ninety-two dollars
15	reduced by three and two-tenths percent of the amount by which the
16	individual's income exceeds five thousand dollars; and
17	(III) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January
18	1, 2008, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014, one hundred ninety-two dollars
19	reduced by three and two-tenths percent of the amount by which the
20	individual's income exceeds six thousand dollars in 2008, and, each year
21	thereafter, the amount for the prior year adjusted for <u>inflation</u> .
22	(a.5) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2.3) OF THIS SECTION,
23	FOR GRANTS CLAIMED FOR YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1,
24	2014, IN THE CASE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE INCOME IS LESS THAN OR
25	EQUAL FOURTEEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN DOLLARS,
26	ONE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO DOLLARS REDUCED BY THREE AND
27	TWO-TENTHS PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT BY WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL'S

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1	INCOME EXCEEDS SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS OR
2	SEVENTY-THREE DOLLARS, WHICHEVER AMOUNT IS GREATER.
3	(b) In the case of a husband and wife:
4	(I) For grants claimed for years commencing prior to January 1,
5	1999, one hundred sixty dollars reduced by six and four-tenths percent of
6	their income over eight thousand seven hundred dollars;
7	(II) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January
8	1, 1999, but prior to January 1, 2008, one hundred ninety-two dollars
9	reduced by three and two-tenths percent of their income over eight
10	thousand seven hundred dollars; and
11	(III) For grants claimed for years commencing on or after January
12	1, 2008, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014, one hundred ninety-two dollars
13	reduced by three and two-tenths percent of their income over nine
14	thousand seven hundred dollars in 2008, and, each year thereafter, the
15	amount for the prior year adjusted for inflation.
16	(b.5) EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2.3) OF THIS SECTION,
17	FOR GRANTS CLAIMED FOR YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1,
18	2014, IN THE CASE OF A HUSBAND AND WIFE WHOSE INCOME IS LESS THAN
19	OR EQUAL TO TWENTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE DOLLARS,
20	ONE HUNDRED NINETY-TWO DOLLARS REDUCED BY THREE AND
21	TWO-TENTHS PERCENT OF THEIR INCOME OVER TEN THOUSAND SEVEN
22	HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE DOLLARS OR SEVENTY-THREE DOLLARS,
23	WHICHEVER AMOUNT IS GREATER.
24	$(2.3)\ For\ grants\ claimed\ for\ years\ commencing\ on\ or\ after$
25	January 1, 2015, the income thresholds used to determine the
26	ELIGIBILITY FOR AND AMOUNT OF A GRANT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)
27	OF THIS SECTION ARE EQUAL TO THE INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR THE PRIOR

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1	YEAR ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.
2	(3) Such grant shall be allowed to such persons as described in
3	subsection (1) of this section who meet the following requirements:
4	(b) Have income from all sources for the taxable year of less than
5	the maximum amount for which such persons are eligible to receive a
6	grant based on the operation of paragraphs (a) and (b) PARAGRAPHS (a),
7	(a.5), (b), AND (b.5) of subsection (2) of this section, including, but not
8	limited to, for this purpose, alimony, support money, cash public
9	assistance and relief, pension or annuity benefits, federal social security
10	benefits, veterans' benefits, nontaxable interest, workers' compensation,
11	and unemployment compensation benefits. For the purposes of this
12	paragraph (b), the following shall not be considered income:
13	(II) Medicaid payments specifically provided for the payment of
14	medicare premiums; and
15	(II.5) PAYMENTS FROM OR INCOME RECEIVED BY A SPECIAL NEEDS
16	TRUST A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST; AND
17	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 39-31-105 as
18	follows:
19	39-31-105. Executive director - rule-making - collection of
20	erroneous payments - waiver. (1) The executive director of the
21	department of revenue may promulgate rules necessary for the
22	administration of this article. Such rules shall be promulgated in
23	accordance with article 4 of title 24, C.R.S.
24	(2) IF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE INCORRECTLY PAYS A GRANT
25	UNDER SECTION 39-31-101 OR 39-31-104 AS A RESULT OF A
26	DEPARTMENTAL ERROR, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
27	MAY WAIVE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE GRANT AND ANY RELATED

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	S THAT ACCRUE.

- 2 **SECTION 7. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2014.
- 3 **SECTION 8. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
- 4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 5 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

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