

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

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

LLS NO. 18-0565.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 18-005

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Donovan and Scott**, Aguilar, Fenberg, Kefalas, Kerr, Moreno, Court, Guzman, Kagan, Merrifield, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Roberts**,

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES  
102 EXPERIENCING CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENTS THAT  
103 LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL JOB LOSS IN THOSE COMMUNITIES, AND,  
104 IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT  
105 OF LOCAL AFFAIRS TO COORDINATE NONMONETARY ASSISTANCE  
106      TO ASSIST RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH JOB CREATION OR  
107 RETENTION.

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>.)*

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

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
March 8, 2018

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 13, 2018

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 12, 2018

The bill authorizes the executive director of the department of local affairs (executive director) or the executive director's designee to coordinate the provision of nonmonetary resources to assist with job retention or creation in a rural community experiencing a significant economic event, such as a plant closure or layoffs, including industry-wide layoffs, that has a significant, quantifiable impact on jobs within that community.

The bill also authorizes the executive director or the executive director's designee to award money to qualifying rural communities experiencing a significant economic event and creates the rural economic advancement of Colorado towns fund (fund), to be administered by the executive director for grant-making purposes over the next 3 years. For the 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 state fiscal years, \$500,000 is transferred each year from the general fund to the fund and the money in the fund is continuously appropriated to the department of local affairs.

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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** part 36 to article  
3 32 of title 24 as follows:

4 PART 36

5 RURAL ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

6 OF COLORADO TOWNS

7 **24-32-3601. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 36 IS THE  
8 "RURAL ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF COLORADO TOWNS (REACT)  
9 ACT".

10 **24-32-3602. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DETERMINES THAT:

12 (a) CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENTS, SUCH AS PLANT  
13 CLOSURES AND LAYOFFS, INCLUDING INDUSTRY-WIDE LAYOFFS, CAUSE  
14 SUBSTANTIAL JOB LOSSES, WHICH CAN HAVE AN ESPECIALLY DETRIMENTAL  
15 IMPACT WHEN SUCH JOB LOSSES OCCUR IN RURAL COMMUNITIES;

16 (b) THESE EVENTS MAY CREATE A SUDDEN NEED FOR INCREASED

1 CAPACITY FOR WORKFORCE, COMMUNITY, OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
2 THAT CANNOT REASONABLY BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH A RURAL  
3 COMMUNITY'S ONGOING OPERATIONS AND BUDGET; AND

4 (c) A RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCING A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC  
5 EVENT MIGHT NOT HAVE THE STAFFING CAPACITY AND ABILITY TO FIND  
6 AND COORDINATE ALL OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS  
7 STATE AGENCIES TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY WITH ECONOMIC  
8 DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION.

9 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINES AND  
10 DECLARES THAT A SINGLE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD COORDINATE  
11 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE  
12 EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENTS THAT HAVE LED TO  
13 SUBSTANTIAL JOB LOSSES BY COORDINATING NONMONETARY RESOURCES  
14 AND SERVICES OFFERED BY VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES TO HELP RURAL  
15 COMMUNITIES WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION.

16 **24-32-3603. Definitions - rules.** AS USED IN THIS PART 36, UNLESS  
17 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

18 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.

19 (2) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
20 THE DEPARTMENT OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

21 (3) (a) "RURAL" MEANS:

22 (I) A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN FIFTY  
23 THOUSAND; OR

24 (II) A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN TWENTY  
25 THOUSAND IF THE MUNICIPALITY IS NOT CONTIGUOUS TO A MUNICIPALITY  
26 WITH A POPULATION OF TWENTY THOUSAND OR MORE.

27 (b) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY MODIFY, BY RULE, THE

1 DEFINITION OF "RURAL" AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS PART 36.

2 (4) "SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENT" OR "EVENT" MEANS AN  
3 ECONOMIC EVENT OCCURRING WITHIN A RURAL COMMUNITY OR REGION,  
4 SUCH AS A PLANT CLOSURE OR LAYOFFS, INCLUDING INDUSTRY-WIDE  
5 LAYOFFS, THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT, QUANTIFIABLE IMPACT ON THE  
6 TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBS WITHIN THE RURAL COMMUNITY, AS DETERMINED  
7 BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHEN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR  
8 NONMONETARY ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-32-3604.

9 **24-32-3604. Rural economic advancement of Colorado towns**  
10 **- coordination of nonmonetary assistance - application - rules.**

11 (1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH JOB  
12 RETENTION AND CREATION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL COORDINATE  
13 THE PROVISION OF AVAILABLE STATE NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND  
14 ASSISTANCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY A SIGNIFICANT  
15 ECONOMIC EVENT OR AN ANTICIPATED EVENT THAT HAS BEEN  
16 ANNOUNCED. ANY STAFF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR THE COORDINATION OF  
17 NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE MUST BE PROVIDED WITHIN  
18 THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFFING STRUCTURE AS IT EXISTED ON THE  
19 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME  
20 EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE).

21 (2) (a) IF A RURAL COMMUNITY HAS EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT  
22 ECONOMIC EVENT OR ANTICIPATES AN EVENT THAT HAS BEEN  
23 ANNOUNCED, A PERSON MAY APPLY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON  
24 BEHALF OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY FOR THE PROVISION AND  
25 COORDINATION OF AVAILABLE STATE NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND  
26 OTHER NONMONETARY ASSISTANCE. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL  
27 DETERMINE THE FORM AND MANNER OF APPLICATION FOR NONMONETARY

1 RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE AND SHALL PUBLISH APPLICATION  
2 INSTRUCTIONS AND ANY NECESSARY FORMS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S  
3 WEBSITE.

4 (b) IF A PERSON APPLYING ON BEHALF OF A RURAL COMMUNITY  
5 HAS SUFFICIENTLY DEMONSTRATED TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
6 SATISFACTION THAT THE RURAL COMMUNITY QUALIFIES FOR ASSISTANCE  
7 UNDER THIS SECTION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL COORDINATE THE  
8 RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND  
9 EMPLOYMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-121, THE COLORADO OFFICE OF  
10 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-101, AND THE  
11 REGIONAL MANAGER OF THE REGION COVERING THE RURAL COMMUNITY  
12 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-125.

13 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE  
14 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COLORADO OFFICE  
15 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL EACH DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH  
16 ASSISTANCE REQUIRES ANY STAFFING SUPPORT. IF PRACTICABLE WITHIN

17 THE AGENCIES' EXISTING RESOURCES, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY  
18 COORDINATE NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE FROM ALL  
19 RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES TO THE RURAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE  
20 FOLLOWING TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

21 (I) CAPACITY-BUILDING RESOURCES AND SERVICES SUCH AS JOB  
22 TRAINING AND OTHER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

23 (II) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; AND

24 (III) OTHER NONMONETARY RESOURCES.

25 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS  
26 NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

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1            **24-32-3605.**    **Repeal of part.** THIS PART 36 IS REPEALED,  
2 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.

3            **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
6 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a  
7 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
8 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
9 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
10 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
11 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.