## Second Regular Session Sixty-seventh General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 10-0313.01 Brita Darling

SENATE BILL 10-068

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Boyd,

Massey,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Senate Committees Health and Human Services Appropriations

**House Committees** 

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING STREAMLINING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE

102 COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION

103 <u>IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.</u>

#### **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.)

Section 1 of the bill replaces the statutorily required verification of child immunizations as a condition of eligibility to participate in the Colorado works program (works program) with the requirement that a county department of social services distribute information concerning vaccinations to all applicants for the works program. **Section 6** repeals the verification of child immunizations as a condition of eligibility for the works program.

Section 2 amends the term "assistance" to align with the use of the term in current law and under department of human services (department) rule and adds a definition for "guardian" to the works program. The defined term "specified caretaker relative" is amended to "specified caretaker" to include a person who exercises responsibility for a dependent child in his or her home.

**Section 3** allows a person or a family to receive assistance upon verification of pregnancy instead of at the sixth month of pregnancy and makes conforming amendments relating to a "specified caretaker".

Section 3 also removes the asset test for eligibility for the works program and prohibits the use of an asset test as a condition of eligibility for the works program.

Section 4 makes conforming amendments to align the statutes with defined terms.

Section 5 removes the statutory language concerning the standard of need for eligibility for basic cash assistance and the calculation of the amount of a basic cash assistance grant. The department, through the state board of human services, shall promulgate rules concerning the standard of need for eligibility for a basic cash assistance grant and that standard of need shall not be less than the basis for standard of need currently in statute.

The department shall also promulgate rules concerning the calculation for determining the amount of a participant's basic cash assistance grant, and that calculation shall include an earned income disregard. The department shall ensure that the earned income disregard and the calculation for a basic cash assistance grant do not result in an applicant or participant having or receiving fewer financial resources than the applicant or participant would have had or received under specified previous law or rule. Certain provisions in current law are relocated within the statute amended in this bill section.

Section 7 provides for an effective date of January 1, 2011, for the provisions of the bill.

SECTION 1. Part 7 of article 2 of title 26, Colorado Revised
 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to

- 4 read:
- 5

26-2-707.7. Information concerning immunization of children.

<sup>1</sup> Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

1 AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION FOR THE WORKS PROGRAM, THE COUNTY 2 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS 3 TO ALL APPLICANTS, INCLUDING THE EXEMPTIONS LISTED IN SECTION 4 25-4-903, C.R.S. THE INFORMATION SHALL INCLUDE PARENT EDUCATION 5 ON VACCINES AND INFORMATION CONCERNING WHERE TO ACCESS 6 VACCINES IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC 7 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT OR THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH 8 AGENCY SHALL PROVIDE THE IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION TO THE 9 COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 2. 26-2-703 (2), (9), and (18.3), Colorado Revised
Statutes, are amended, and the said 26-2-703 is further amended BY THE
ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

13 26-2-703. Definitions. As used in this part 7, unless the context
14 otherwise requires:

(2) "Assistance" means any cash grant, benefit, service, or other
form of temporary assistance offered by a county department to a
participant that is funded by the county block grant pursuant to the
provisions of this part 7 and any rules promulgated pursuant to this part
7 ONGOING ASSISTANCE PAYMENT OR SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE PAYMENT
AS THOSE TERMS ARE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-2-706.6.

(9) "Dependent child" means a person who resides with a parent
or a specified caretaker relative and who is under the age of eighteen
years or, if the person is a full-time student at a secondary school or
vocational or technical equivalent and is reasonably expected to complete
the school or vocational or technical equivalent before attaining the age
of nineteen years, is under nineteen years.

27 (10.2) "GUARDIAN" MEANS A PERSON APPOINTED BY COURT ORDER

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1 TO BE THE GUARDIAN OF ANOTHER PERSON.

2 (18.3) "Specified caretaker" relative" means: any relation by
3 blood, marriage, or adoption who is within the fifth degree of kinship to
4 a dependent child and who exercises responsibility for the care and
5 control of the dependent child.

6 (a) A PERSON WHO EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY FOR A DEPENDENT
7 CHILD AND WHO IS:

8 (I) A RELATIVE BY BLOOD, MARRIAGE, OR ADOPTION WHO IS
9 WITHIN THE FIFTH DEGREE OF KINSHIP TO THE DEPENDENT CHILD; OR

(II) APPOINTED BY THE COURT TO BE THE GUARDIAN OR THE LEGAL
CUSTODIAN OF THE DEPENDENT CHILD; OR

(b) A PERSON WHO EXERCISES RESPONSIBILITY FOR A DEPENDENT
CHILD WITHIN THE PERSON'S HOME IF THERE IS NO PERSON DESCRIBED IN
PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (18.3).

SECTION 3. The introductory portion to 26-2-706 (1) (a),
26-2-706 (1) (a) (III), the introductory portion to 26-2-706 (1) (a.5), and
26-2-706 (1) (a.5) (IV), (1) (d), (1.5) (h), (1.5) (i), (2), (5), and (6),
Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

26-2-706. Target populations. (1) (a) Subject to the provisions
 of this section and restrictions in the federal law, and except as provided
 in section 26-2-709 (1) (a.5), those persons or families who may receive
 assistance under the Colorado works program include:

(III) The parents of a dependent child, including expectant
parents, commencing with the sixth month of pregnancy, or a specified
caretaker relative with whom the dependent child is living.

26 (a.5) In addition to the eligibility requirements set forth in
27 paragraph (a) of this subsection (1), in order to receive Colorado works

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benefits and assistance, the assistance unit shall include a dependent child
who lives in the home of a parent or <del>a</del> OTHER specified caretaker.
relative. A dependent child is considered to be living in the home of a
specified caretaker relative as long as the parent or OTHER specified
caretaker relative exercises responsibility for the care <del>and control</del> of the
child even though one or more of the following occurs:

7 (IV) Either the child or the specified caretaker relative is
8 temporarily absent from the home to receive medical treatment; or

9 (d) The state board shall promulgate rules to provide that a noncustodial parent may be allowed to receive services under the 10 11 Colorado works program, but not a basic assistance, grant, at a county's 12 option and in accordance with the county's plan. Such services provided 13 to a noncustodial parent pursuant to this paragraph (d) shall be intended 14 to promote the sustainable employment of the noncustodial parent and 15 enable such parent to pay child support. Provision of such services shall 16 not negatively impact the eligibility for benefits or services of the 17 custodial parent.

18 (1.5) To participate in the Colorado works program an applicant19 or person shall:

20 (h) Verify PROVIDE VERIFICATION OF earned income received in
21 the thirty days immediately prior to the date of application; and

(i) Verify PROVIDE VERIFICATION OF pregnancy, if applicable. or
 if not observable. A county department of social services may require
 additional verification if the information provided by the applicant is
 questionable or inconsistent.

26 (2) (a) The state board DEPARTMENT shall promulgate rules to
27 identify with specificity who may be a participant in the works program

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and the income requirements for participation in the works program. AN
 ASSET TEST SHALL NOT BE APPLIED AS A CONDITION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR
 PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKS PROGRAM.

4 (b) The rules shall PROVIDE THAT AN UNMARRIED PARENT UNDER
5 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE SHALL NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UNLESS SUCH
6 UNMARRIED PARENT RESIDES WITH HIS OR HER PARENT OR OTHER
7 SPECIFIED CARETAKER IN AN ADULT-SUPERVISED HOME OR IN ANY OTHER
8 ARRANGEMENT APPROVED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT.

9 (a) Allow an applicant or a participant to own one motor vehicle
10 and an additional motor vehicle for each employed member of the
11 assistance unit and allow an applicant or a participant to own a homestead
12 property;

(b) Exempt a maximum resource level for an applicant of fifteen
thousand dollars. Consistent with the provisions of subsection (6) of this
section, the state board shall promulgate rules to specify which resources
are countable resources, to specify additional resources that are excluded
as exempt resources for purposes of determining the maximum resource
level for an applicant, and to further define the resources and assets
specified in subsection (6) of this section.

(c) Provide that a parent who has not yet attained the age of
 eighteen years, who is not married, and who does not reside with his or
 her parent or another adult relative in an adult-supervised home, or in any
 other arrangement approved by the county department, shall not receive
 services or benefits provided through federal funds under the works
 program.

26 (5) (a) The state department shall analyze the extent to which the
 27 birth of additional children to a participant under this part 7 may affect

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1	the participant's ability to attain self-sufficiency.
2	(b) Repealed.
3	(6) The following resources and assets designated to promote
4	self-sufficiency shall be exempt from the fifteen thousand dollar resource
5	limitation specified in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section:
6	(a) Retirement savings accounts;
7	(b) Health care savings accounts;
8	(c) Individual development accounts;
9	(d) Education savings accounts, scholarships, and educational
10	stipends;
11	(e) Earned income tax credit refunds received by the assistance
12	unit;
13	(f) Any real estate asset that does not produce or provide income
14	for the participant and is not a secondary residence of the participant;
15	(g) Burial plots and burial insurance plans;
16	(h) Life or disability insurance policies that may have a cash
17	value; and
18	(i) Any additional resource or asset that the state board exempts
19	<del>by rule.</del>
20	SECTION 4. 26-2-706.5 (1) and (2), Colorado Revised Statutes,
21	are amended to read:
22	<b>26-2-706.5. Restrictions on length of participation.</b> (1) Unless
23	cash assistance is provided through segregated funds pursuant to federal
24	law and section 26-2-714, as of June 3, 1997, each month of cash
25	assistance received by an assistance unit that includes a specified
26	caretaker relative who has received assistance under Title IV-A of the
27	social security act, as amended, shall count toward that specified

caretaker relative's CARETAKER'S sixty-month lifetime maximum of
 TANF benefits as established in federal law.

3 (2) Any month in which a specified caretaker relative is 4 determined to be a disqualified or excluded person from a basic cash 5 assistance grant shall count as a month of participation in the calculation 6 of the specified caretaker relative's CARETAKER'S overall sixty-month 7 lifetime maximum.

8 SECTION 5. 26-2-709, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended
9 to read:

10 26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules. 11 (1) **Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.** (a) The state <del>board</del> 12 DEPARTMENT shall promulgate rules defining DETERMINING THE 13 STANDARD OF NEED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR A BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE 14 GRANT, WHETHER AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT MEETS THE STANDARD 15 OF NEED, AND THE AMOUNT OF THE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT. IN 16 ADDITION TO ANY OTHER RULES NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 17 THIS PART 7, THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RULES SHALL:

(I) ADOPT A <u>STATEWIDE</u> STANDARD OF NEED FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR
A BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT IS NOT LESS THAN THE BASIS FOR
STANDARD OF NEED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1) AS IT EXISTED ON
JULY 1, 2009;

(II) ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHETHER AN
 APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT MEETS THE STANDARD OF NEED, INCLUDING
 BUT NOT LIMITED TO what constitutes countable income and what
 constitutes excludable income for the purposes of ELIGIBILITY FOR A
 determining the amount of a participant's basic cash assistance grant; AND
 (III) ESTABLISH THE CALCULATION FOR DETERMINING THE

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1 AMOUNT OF AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT'S OR PARTICIPANT'S BASIC CASH 2 ASSISTANCE GRANT, WHICH CALCULATION SHALL INCLUDE AN EARNED 3 INCOME DISREGARD WHICH SHALL BE APPLIED TO THE GROSS COUNTABLE 4 EARNED INCOME OF AN APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT WHO IS EMPLOYED. 5 THE EARNED INCOME DISREGARD SHALL PROMOTE WORK AND 6 SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SHALL BENEFIT THE APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT 7 BY REDUCING THE UNINTENDED ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF BECOMING 8 EMPLOYED. THE RULES PROMULGATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT 9 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (III) SHALL NOT ESTABLISH AN 10 EARNED INCOME DISREGARD THAT RESULTS IN AN APPLICANT OR 11 PARTICIPANT HAVING FEWER FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HIM OR 12 HER THAN A SIMILARLY SITUATED APPLICANT OR PARTICIPANT WOULD 13 HAVE HAD UNDER THE EARNED INCOME DISREGARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 14 <u>26-2-709</u> AS IT EXISTED ON JULY 1, 2009.

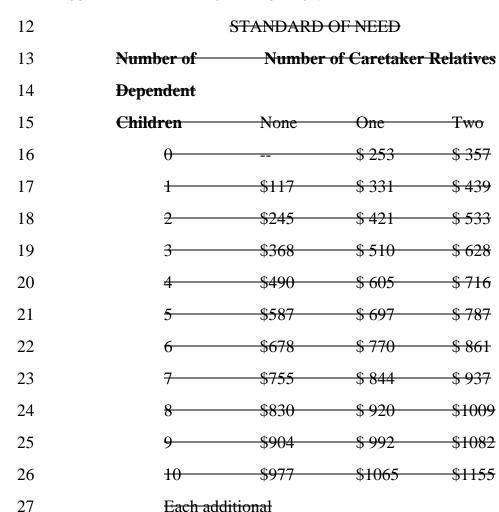
15 (b) IN ESTABLISHING THE CALCULATION FOR DETERMINING THE 16 AMOUNT OF AN ELIGIBLE APPLICANT'S OR PARTICIPANT'S BASIC CASH 17 ASSISTANCE GRANT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT THE 18 AMOUNT OF THE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT A PARTICIPANT OR 19 APPLICANT RECEIVES IS EQUAL TO OR EXCEEDS ONE HUNDRED TWO 20 PERCENT OF THE NEED STANDARD FOR A PARTICIPANT IN A SIMILARLY 21 SIZED HOUSEHOLD ON JANUARY 1, 2008. THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS 22 ENCOURAGED TO ESTABLISH A CALCULATION FOR DETERMINING THE 23 AMOUNT OF A BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT RESULTS IN A BASIC 24 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT THAT IS EQUAL TO OR EXCEEDS ONE HUNDRED 25 TWELVE PERCENT OF THE NEED STANDARD FOR A PARTICIPANT IN A 26 SIMILARLY SIZED HOUSEHOLD ON JANUARY 1, 2008.

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(c) Except as OTHERWISE provided in this part 7 and subject to

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1 available appropriations, a participant shall receive a basic cash assistance 2 grant based on the following standard of need AN APPLICANT OR 3 PARTICIPANT WHO MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE 4 STATE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION 5 (1) SHALL RECEIVE A BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT IN AN AMOUNT 6 DETERMINED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (a) 7 AND (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1). AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF THE 8 BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT APPROVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT 9 SHALL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNLESS THE FUNDING FOR THE INCREASE IS 10 INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT OR A 11 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ACT.



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(II) An applicant's eligibility to receive a basic cash assistance
grant shall be determined pursuant to this subparagraph (II). In
determining whether an applicant is eligible to receive a basic cash
assistance grant, the need standard for the household size as set forth in
the table in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) shall be compared to
the gross countable income of the assistance unit. If the gross countable
income of the assistance unit is:

9 (A) Less than the need standard for a similarly sized household,
10 the assistance unit is eligible for cash assistance. In such circumstance,
11 the amount of the basic cash assistance grant shall be calculated pursuant
12 to the provisions of subparagraphs (III) and (IV) of this paragraph (a).

13 (B) Equal to or greater than the need standard for a similarly sized 14 household, an earnings income disregard of ninety dollars shall be 15 deducted from the earned income of each employed member in the 16 assistance unit and the remaining amount shall be the net countable 17 earned income of the assistance unit for purposes of determining 18 eligibility. The net countable earned income of the assistance unit plus 19 unearned income received by or expected to be received by members of 20 the assistance unit shall be totaled to determine the net countable income 21 of the assistance unit for purposes of determining eligibility. If the net 22 countable income of the assistance unit does not equal or exceed the need 23 standard for a similarly sized household, the assistance unit is eligible for 24 cash assistance. In such circumstance, the amount of the basic cash 25 assistance grant shall be calculated pursuant to the provisions of 26 subparagraphs (III) and (IV) of this paragraph (a).

27 (III) To calculate the amount of the basic cash assistance grant, an

1 earnings income disregard shall be applied to the gross countable earned 2 income of participants who are employed. To determine the net 3 countable earned income, the earnings income disregard for Colorado 4 works shall be two-thirds of the participant's gross countable earned 5 income and shall be applied for twelve cumulative months. The gross 6 income test shall not apply to a participant of Colorado works during those months. After the receipt of twelve cumulative months of 7 8 disregard, the earnings income disregard for Colorado works shall consist 9 of earnings income disregards as established in rules adopted by the state 10 board that shall not be less than the earnings income disregard a 11 participant would have received under state board rules in effect as of 12 January 1, 2008, except for the child care disregard that shall be paid 13 pursuant to the provisions of part 8 of this article.

14 (IV) The basic cash assistance grant amount shall be the net 15 countable earned income as determined under subparagraph (III) of this 16 paragraph (a) plus countable unearned income deducted from the need 17 standard for a similarly sized household and multiplied by a percentage 18 determined by rule of the state board. The state board, in establishing the 19 percentage, shall ensure that the amount of the basic cash assistance grant 20 that a participant receives is equal to or exceeds one hundred two percent 21 of the need standard for a participant in a similarly sized household on 22 January 1, 2008. In setting the percentage, the state board is encouraged 23 to set a percentage that will result in a basic cash assistance grant that is 24 equal to or exceeds one hundred twelve percent of the need standard for 25 a participant in a similarly sized household on January 1, 2008.

26 (V) An increase in the amount of the basic cash assistance grant
 27 approved by the state board shall not take effect unless the funding for the

increase is included in the annual general appropriations act or a
 supplemental appropriations act.

3 (VI) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 1960, § 11, effective
 4 January 1, 2009.)

5 (a.5) Subject to available appropriations, a county department may
6 provide to a grandchild who was in foster care, as defined in section
7 19-1-103 (51.3), C.R.S., and who exited foster care into the legal custody
8 or legal guardianship of a grandparent, a basic cash assistance grant,
9 eligibility for which is based on either of the following:

(I) The standard of need as set forth in subparagraph (I) of
 paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) and the provisions of paragraph (a) of
 this subsection (1); or

(II) The financial eligibility criteria for the average foster care
 home maintenance payment, as defined pursuant to rules promulgated by
 the state board.

16 (b) Repealed.

17 (c) The basic cash assistance grant provided pursuant to the 18 provisions of this section may, at the discretion of the county, be paid to 19 the participant, to vendors on behalf of the participant for protective 20 payment pursuant to section 26-2-125, or to vendors on behalf of the 21 participant at the voluntary agreement of the participant. A county may 22 authorize payment of the basic cash assistance grant on a monthly basis 23 or as a lump sum payment based upon the rules of the state board.

(1.3) Redetermination of eligibility for persons receiving cash
assistance. The county department shall perform an annual face-to-face
redetermination of eligibility for all assistance units receiving cash
assistance.

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(1.5) Rules concerning cash assistance. The state board
 DEPARTMENT shall promulgate rules as may be necessary to comply with
 changes in federal regulations relating to the definition of the term "cash
 assistance".

5 (2) Other assistance. (a) Subject to available appropriations, a 6 county department may provide assistance, including but not limited to 7 cash assistance, in addition to the basic cash assistance grant described in 8 subsection (1) of this section that was provided to recipients of AFDC or 9 <del>JOBS or</del> is authorized pursuant to the provisions of the federal law or this 10 section. Such other assistance shall be intended to promote sustainable 11 employment for the participants in the county BASED UPON A 12 PARTICIPANT'S ASSESSED NEEDS.

13 (b) and (c) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 1960, § 11,
14 effective January 1, 2009.)

15 (3) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2008, p. 1960, § 11, effective
16 January 1, 2009.)

SECTION 6. Repeal. 26-2-111.1, Colorado Revised Statutes, is
repealed.

19 SECTION 7. Appropriation. In addition to any other 20 appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, to the department of human 21 services, for allocation to the office of information technology services 22 for the Colorado benefits management system, for the fiscal year 23 beginning July 1, 2010, the sum of nine hundred sixty-six thousand 24 dollars (\$966,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the 25 implementation of this act. Said sum shall be from federal temporary 26 assistance for needy families block grant funds.

27 **SECTION 8. Effective date.** This act shall take effect January

# 1 1, 2011.

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, and safety.