

Initiative 2023-24 #157:Funding for Law Enforcement

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Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Statement of purpose. The people of the State of Colorado find and declare:

- (1) This measure is enacted in response to a significant increase in crime, and especially violent crime, in the state of Colorado.
- (2) The people of Colorado find, determine, and declare that the criminal laws of the state of Colorado must be more rigorously and comprehensively enforced.
- (3) The people further find, determine, and declare that Colorado will be a safer place if Colorado recruits, trains, retains, and rewards the best and brightest law enforcement officials in Colorado to prevent and enforce crimes against the people of the state of Colorado.
- (4) The people further find, determine, and declare that it is the goal of the people of the state of Colorado that our state be the best state in the union for a police officer to work, live and raise a family and that, in furtherance of that cause, the state will provide more resources, more man power, more training, and more support to law enforcement – including the families of those slain in the line of duty.
- (5) The people further find, determine, and declare that the legislature has failed to adequately fund the law enforcement of this state, and the provisions of this act should be construed in a way that promotes a better, stronger, more comprehensive law enforcement system in the state.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 24-33.5-535** as follows:

24-33.5-535. Peace Officer Training and Support Fund.

- (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY A PEACE OFFICER TRAINING AND SUPPORT FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE “FUND”, TO ASSIST IN RECRUITING, TRAINING AND SUPPORTING PEACE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
- (2) MONEY MAY ONLY BE USED FOR BONA FIDE PEACE OFFICER FUNCTIONS AND NOT PROGRAMS FOR OTHER HUMAN SERVICES FUNCTIONS.
- (3) THE MONEY MUST SUPPLEMENT AND MAY NOT SUPPLANT OTHER STATE OR LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS TO AGENCIES AND SHALL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO INCREASE OTHER TOTAL FUNDING.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-503, **add (1)(ee)** as follows:

24-33.5-503. Death Benefit.

- (1)(ee) THE SURVIVING SPOUSE, CHILDREN OR ESTATE OF ANY PEACE OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY SHALL BE PAID ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN DEATH BENEFITS FROM THE PEACE OFFICER TRAINING AND SUPPORT FUND CREATED IN C.R.S. 24-33.5-535 . THIS PAYMENT IS IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PAYMENTS INCLUDING WORKERS COMPENSATION, SURVIVOR BENEFITS IN A PENSION SYSTEM, OR OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED BY LAW.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 24-33.5-535** as follows:

22-33.5-535. Appropriation.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE \$350 MILLION TO THE PEACE OFFICER TRAINING AND SUPPORT FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- (1) GRANTING FUNDS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES FOR OPERATING MONEY TO:
 - (a) INCREASE ANNUAL PAY FOR POLICE, SHERIFF AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS;

(b) PROVIDE ONE TIME HIRING, RETENTION OR MERIT BONUSES TO ATTRACT, MAINTAIN, OR REWARD EXCEPTIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS; AND

(c) TO HIRE ADDITIONAL POLICE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OR SPECIFIC TYPES OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, INCLUDING GANG ACTIVITY, DRUG CARTELS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, STOLEN VEHICLE UNITS, AND DRUG INTERDICTION AT THE STATE'S BORDERS AND ALONG THE STATE'S INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS.

(2) \$20 MILLION FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR INITIAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT INCLUDING USE OF FORCE TRAINING, RESTRAINT AND NON-LETHAL FORCE TRAINING, PHYSICAL FITNESS TRAINING OR ENHANCEMENT, POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ADVANCEMENT IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE OR OTHER RELATED AREAS OF STUDY, AND OTHER PROGRAMS AND DISCIPLINES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING AND RE-TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.

(3) SUCH MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND AS MAY BE NEEDED TO PAY THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILDREN OR ESTATE OF POLICE, FIRE OR OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

SECTION 5. Effective date.

This act takes effect on the date of the proclamation of the Governor announcing the approval, by the registered electors of the state, of the proposed initiative.