

Initiative 2023-2024 # 113 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 DIVISION 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) FUNDS SHALL BE CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SHALL INCREASE EACH YEAR AT THE RATE OF THE DENVER BOULDER CPI +1 % EACH YEAR.
- (3) FUNDS MAY ONLY BE USED FOR BONA FIDE PEACE OFFICER FUNCTIONS AND NOT PROGRAMS FOR OTHER HUMAN SERVICES FUNCTIONS.
- (4) THESE FUNDS MUST SUPPLEMENT AND MAY NOT SUPPLANT OTHER STATE OR LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS TO AGENCIES AND SHALL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO INCREASE OTHER TOTAL FUNDING.
- (5) IF A SHERIFF OR A POLICE CHIEF HAS REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT ARE SUPPLANTING AND NOT INCREASING TOTAL FUNDING FOR THAT JURISDICTION, THE SHERIFF OR CHIEF MAY, WITHOUT APPROVAL OF ANY CITY OR COUNTY, SEEK RELIEF IN A DISTRICT COURT, AND RELIEF SHALL BE PROVIDED UPON A REASONABLE SHOWING THAT FUNDS WERE SUPPLANTED.

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

24-33.5-503. Duties of division. (1) The division has the following duties:

- (1)(ee) THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL, WITHIN 30 DAYS OF AN OFFICER’S ON DUTY DEATH, PAY THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILDREN \$1 MILLION IN DEATH BENEFITS. IN NO CASE SHALL IT TAKE LONGER THAN 30 DAYS FOR THE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE.

(I) THIS PROVISION IS IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PAYMENTS INCLUDING WORKERS COMPENSATION, SURVIVOR BENEFITS IN A PENSION SYSTEM, OR OTHER BENEFITS PROVIDED BY LAW.

(II) THESE FUNDS SHALL BE DUE SURVIVORS OF ANY STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY DATING BACK TO 2000.

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

22-33.5-535. Appropriation.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL MAKE THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATIONS:

(1) \$350 MILLION FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN RECURRING OPERATING FUNDS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES 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 FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AS MAY BE NEEDED TO PAY THE WIDOW OR CHILDREN OF POLICE, FIRE OR OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

(4) \$50 MILLION FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN GRANTS TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, OR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS TO, EXCLUSIVELY, HIRE OR TRAIN ARMED RESOURCE OFFICERS TO PROTECT STUDENTS AT PRE-K – 12TH GRADE SCHOOLS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. PRIORITY IN GRANTS SHALL BE GIVEN TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS THAT HAVE COMPREHENSIVE AND REGULARLY UPDATED PLANS, MONITORING SYSTEMS, AND REPORTING PROCESSES DEMONSTRATING TO PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY A COMPREHENSIVE READINESS TO DETERRING AND INTERDICTIONING LAW ENFORCEMENT EVENTS AT COLORADO'S SCHOOLS.

SECTION 5. Any bill seeking to modify the provisions of this ballot measure, including but not limited to, a bill modifying this provision or modifying in any way funding requirements required here, shall be introduced 60-days prior to any legislative hearing or debate on the bill.