Attachment D

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Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

BILL 4

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LLS NO. 14-0155.01 Brita Darling x2241 **INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL**

Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force

SHORT TITLE: "Aid To The Needy Disabled Program"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE PROGRAM FOR AID TO THE NEEDY DISABLED.**

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. The bill requires the department of human services, by rule, to tie the assistance payment under the program for aid to the needy disabled to an amount equal to a certain percentage of monthly income under the federal poverty guidelines.

Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) The Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) program was
5 established in 1953 as an "interim assistance program" for qualifying
6 people waiting for their federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
7 benefit to begin;

8 (b) The majority of people receiving AND support ultimately
9 receive SSI, and the state receives reimbursement for all of the state's
10 AND payments to program participants, retroactively from the date of
11 application;

12 (c) The AND program provides basic financial assistance to
13 people who meet the requirements of need and disability between the ages
14 of 18 and 59, and a physician must medically certify their disability status
15 and their inability to work for at least six months;

16 (d) The AND program serves some of our most vulnerable
17 Colorado residents: Individuals who are poor, disabled, unable to work
18 and awaiting SSI and ineligible for other state assistance programs, and
19 many who are also homeless; and

20 (e) State funding for the AND program has not kept up with
21 increased caseloads in recent years due to the recession and other factors,
22 resulting in lower monthly financial assistance amounts that fall far short
23 of meeting the basic needs of any Coloradan.

24 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the State of
25 Colorado places a high priority on caring for our most vulnerable
26 residents, and that it is in the public interest to restore funding to the AND
27 program at the FY 2007 level, including an adjustment for the increased

1 cost of living.

2 (3) Furthermore, the general assembly declares that it is in the
3 public interest to encourage greater efficiencies and collaboration
4 between departments, other public-sector agencies and private-sector
5 community-based organizations to effectively administer the AND
6 program and achieve savings from more timely SSI reimbursements to the
7 state.

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-119, **amend** (1)
9 as follows:

10 **26-2-119. Amount of assistance payments - aid to the needy**
11 **disabled.** (1) (a) The amount of assistance payments that shall be granted
12 to a recipient under the program for aid to the needy disabled shall be on
13 the basis of budgetary need, as determined by the county department with
14 due regard to any income, property, or other resources available to the
15 recipient, within available appropriations, and in accordance with rules
16 of the state department.

17 (b) The rules of the state department:

18 (I) SHALL ESTABLISH THE ASSISTANCE PAYMENT UNDER THE
19 PROGRAM FOR AID TO THE NEEDY DISABLED, WHICH ASSISTANCE PAYMENT
20 MUST NOT BE LESS THAN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO TWENTY-EIGHT PERCENT
21 OF THE MONTHLY INCOME FOR A HOUSEHOLD OF ONE AT ONE HUNDRED
22 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES, AS UPDATED ANNUALLY.

23 (II) ~~May~~ SHALL require an applicant or recipient who may be
24 eligible for benefits under another federal or state program or who may
25 have a right to receive or recover other income or resources to take
26 reasonable steps to apply for, otherwise pursue, and accept such benefits,
27 income, or resources.

1 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
4 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 4, 2014); except that, if a
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
9 November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.