# Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## **PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 24-0418.01 Jed Franklin x5484

**HOUSE BILL 24-1219** 

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

101	CONCERNING STATE-FUNDED PROGRAMS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS
102	THROUGH MULTIPLE EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT TRUSTS, AND
103	IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

## **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 <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

The bill makes 2 principal changes to current firefighter benefit programs. First, the bill expands state funding for the firefighter heart and circulatory malfunction benefits program to include paid part-time and volunteer firefighters. Second, the bill provides state funding for the firefighter cancer benefits program for eligible firefighters.

Current law requires an employer to provide access to specified

heart and circulatory malfunction benefits to eligible, full-time firefighters and the employer is reimbursed by the state for providing the full-time firefighter benefits. Current law also specifies that if funding to reimburse the employer is insufficient, then the requirement to provide the specified cardiac benefits is optional. The bill requires employers to provide access to certain heart and circulatory malfunction benefits to part-time and volunteer firefighters. This requirement likewise becomes voluntary if funding is insufficient.

Current law authorizes employers to voluntarily participate in a cancer trust for firefighter benefits. The bill requires an employer of an eligible firefighter to participate, but specifies that if funding to reimburse the employer is insufficient, participation in the trust becomes optional.

The bill also requires an employer to participate in a funded trust to provide cardiovascular screenings, at a minimum, and other health screenings and prevention, as practicable, to peace officers. The trust is reimbursed by the state for providing the benefits, and if funding to reimburse the trust is insufficient, then the requirement for employers to provide the specified program is optional.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 29-5-301 as follows:

**29-5-301. Definitions.** As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "COVERED INDIVIDUAL" MEANS A FIREFIGHTER, PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER, OR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER WHO MEETS THE COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 29-5-302 (9).

(1) (2) "Employer" means a municipality, special district, fire authority, or county improvement district that employs one or more firefighters COVERED INDIVIDUALS. Beginning July 1, 2020, "employer" also means the division of fire prevention and control created in section 24-33.5-1201. "Employer" does not include a power authority created pursuant to section 29-1-204 or a municipally owned utility.

(2) (3) "Firefighter" means a full-time, active employee of an

-2- 1219

employer who regularly works at least one thousand six hundred hours in any calendar year and whose duties are directly involved with the provision of fire protection services.

(3) (4) "Heart and circulatory malfunction" means a sudden and

- (3) (4) "Heart and circulatory malfunction" means a sudden and serious malfunction of the heart and circulatory system as occurs in a diagnosis of coronary thrombosis, cerebral vascular accident, myocardial infarction, or cardiac arrest and that meets the requirements of section 29-5-302 (6). "Heart and circulatory malfunction" does not include hypertension or angina.
- (5) "PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER" MEANS AN ACTIVE EMPLOYEE OF AN EMPLOYER WHO REGULARLY WORKS LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED HOURS IN ANY CALENDAR YEAR, WHOSE DUTIES ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, AND WHO IS NOT A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER.
- (4) (6) "Volunteer firefighter" means EITHER a volunteer firefighter as defined in section 31-30-1102 C.R.S. OR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES VOLUNTEER SERVICES TO A FIRE AUTHORITY THAT IS CREATED BY AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT THAT PROVIDES FIRE PROTECTION.
- (5) (7) "Work event" means stressful or strenuous activity related to fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency medical services, disaster relief, or other emergency response activity. "Work event" includes a training activity that a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL engages in while on duty and that involves stressful or strenuous activity.
- **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-302, **amend** (1), (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(e), (3), (4), (5), (8), (9) introductory portion,

-3-

1	(9)(a), (9)(b), and (11)(a) as follows:
2	29-5-302. Required benefits - conditions of receiving benefits.
3	(1) An employer shall maintain accident insurance, self-insure, or
4	participate in a self-insurance pool or a multiple employer health trust in
5	order to provide the benefits specified in this section for its firefighters.
6	In addition, an employer may provide equivalent benefits for volunteer
7	firefighters COVERED INDIVIDUALS UNLESS THE FUNDING PROVIDED FOR
8	THE BENEFIT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION IS INSUFFICIENT PURSUANT TO
9	SUBSECTION (12) OF THIS SECTION.
10	(2) An employer shall provide the following minimum benefits:
11	(a) (I) A four-thousand-dollar-lump-sum payment if a medical
12	examination reveals that a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL has a heart
13	and circulatory malfunction; and
14	(II) A one-thousand-five-hundred-dollar payment per week, up to
15	a maximum of seven weeks, if a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL made
16	an emergency room visit and was hospitalized for up to forty-eight hours
17	for a heart and circulatory malfunction;
18	(b) (I) A two-thousand-dollar payment per week, up to a
19	maximum of twenty-five weeks, if a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL
20	made an emergency room visit and was hospitalized for more than
21	forty-eight hours for a heart and circulatory malfunction; or
22	(II) A two-thousand-five-hundred-dollar payment PER WEEK, up
23	to a maximum of eighty weeks, if a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL has
24	a heart and circulatory malfunction that prohibits the firefighter COVERED
25	INDIVIDUAL from returning to employment to a position that the
26	firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL is trained for or reasonably could be
27	trained to perform;

-4- 1219

(d) A ten-thousand-dollar payment if a firefighter COVERED
INDIVIDUAL incurs cosmetic disfigurement resulting from a heart and
circulatory malfunction; and
(e) If the covered heart and circulatory malfunction is diagnosed
as terminal, the firefighter will receive a lump sum payment of
twenty-five thousand dollars as an accelerated payment toward the
benefits due in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection (2) SUBSECTIONS
(2)(a) AND $(2)(b)$ OF THIS SECTION.
(3) The receipt of a payment pursuant to subparagraph (II) of
paragraph (a) or subparagraph (I) of paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of
this section SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II) OR (2)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION does not
prohibit the firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL from receiving an additional
benefit.
(4) If a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL returns to the same
position of employment after a heart and circulatory malfunction, the
firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL is entitled to the benefits in subsection
(2) of this section for any subsequent heart and circulatory malfunction.
(5) The maximum amount that may be paid to a firefighter
COVERED INDIVIDUAL for each heart and circulatory malfunction is two
hundred fifty thousand dollars.
(8) The benefits in this section are reduced by twenty-five percent
if a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL smoked a tobacco product within
five years immediately preceding the work event.
(9) In order for a firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL to be eligible
for the benefits in subsection (2) of this section, the following conditions
must be met:

(a) Prior to the work event that results in a heart and circulatory

-5- 1219

malfunction and after the firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL became employed by an employer, the firefighter COVERED INDIVIDUAL had a medical examination that would reasonably have found an illness or injury that could have caused the heart and circulatory malfunction and no illness or injury was found at the most recent SUCH medical examination;

- (b) The A COVERED INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A firefighter has MUST HAVE at least five years of continuous, full-time employment with an employer; except A COVERED INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER MUST HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF CONTINUOUS, PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT WITH AN EMPLOYER; AND A COVERED INDIVIDUAL WHO IS a volunteer firefighter must have AT LEAST five years of continuous service with the same employer; and
- (11) (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the firefighter benefits cash fund. The fund consists of moneys MONEY appropriated from the general fund by the general assembly. The moneys MONEY in the fund are IS subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly to the department of local affairs for the purpose of reimbursing employers for the direct costs of maintaining accident insurance, self-insurance, or participation in a self-insurance pool or multiple employer health trust as required by this part 3 AND PART 4 OF ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 29.
- (I) ON JULY 1, 2028, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE FUND FROM THE GENERAL FUND, AND ON EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, SUFFICIENT FUNDS, SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION, TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYERS FOR THE DIRECT COSTS OF PROVIDING THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY PARTS 3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 29 FOR VOLUNTEER AND PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS.

-6- 1219

1	(II) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE THREE
2	HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING
3	ON JULY 1, 2024, EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE
4	STATE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JULY $1$ , $2025$ , ONE MILLION FOUR
5	HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING
6	on July $1,2026$ , and two million dollars for the state fiscal year
7	BEGINNING ON JULY 1 2027, FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE
8	DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS TO REDUCE PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER
9	CONTRIBUTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND PART-TIME
10	FIREFIGHTERS. MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
11	(11)(a)(II) SHALL BE FIRST USED TO REDUCE PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER
12	CONTRIBUTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND THE REMAINDER
13	SHALL BE FIRST USED FOR PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS AND ANY REMAINING
14	AMOUNTS MAY THEN BE USED FOR FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS.
15	(III) SUBSECTIONS $(11)(a)(I)$ AND $(11)(a)(II)$ OF THIS SECTION ARE
16	REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2028.
17	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-403, amend (1)
18	and (2) as follows:
19	29-5-403. Required benefits - conditions of receiving benefits.
20	(1) An employer may SHALL participate in the voluntary firefighter
21	cancer benefits program by paying contributions into AND MAKE
22	CONTRIBUTIONS TO a multiple employer health trust as set forth in section
23	10-3-903.5 (7)(b)(I), established for the purposes of this part 4. The
24	contribution levels, IF ANY, and award level definitions will be set by the
25	trust. If at any time the funding provided is insufficient to
26	COVER THE COST OF THE PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, THEN
27	PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM IS OPTIONAL PURSUANT TO SECTION

-7- 1219

1	29-1-304.5.
2	(2) For an employer choosing to participate in the voluntary A
3	MULTIPLE EMPLOYER HEALTH TRUST THAT IS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE A
4	firefighter cancer benefits program the trust shall provide the minimum
5	benefits specified in subsection (3) of this section to covered individuals
6	diagnosed with cancer, based on the award level of the cancer at the time
7	of diagnosis, after the employer becomes a participant.
8	
9	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 29-5-405 as
10	follows:
11	29-5-405. Exclusion from coverage. REGARDLESS OF THE
12	FUNDING PROVIDED, an employer who participates in the voluntary
13	firefighter cancer benefits program created in this part 4 is not subject to
14	section 8-41-209 (1) and (2) unless the employer ends participation in the
15	program.
16	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 6 to article
17	5 of title 29 as follows:
18	PART 6
19	PUBLIC SAFETY CARDIAC SCREENING TRUST
20	<b>29-5-601.</b> Legislative declaration. (1) The General assembly
21	FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
22	(a) It is important to provide Colorado peace officers with
23	ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING HEALTH SCREENINGS THAT HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO
24	MITIGATE THE PHYSICAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO MULTIPLE
25	TRAUMATIC EVENTS EXPERIENCED BY PEACE OFFICERS IN THE COURSE OF
26	THEIR DUTIES;
27	(b) Exposure to these traumatic events and other

-8- 1219

2	CARDIAC DISEASE AND OTHER CARDIAC-RELATED HEALTH ISSUES THAT
3	ARE FOUND AT A MUCH HIGHER RATE AMONG PEACE OFFICERS;
4	(c) EARLY INTERVENTION HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE KEY IN
5	COMBATING THE TRAGIC HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF WORKING IN PUBLIC
6	SAFETY;
7	(d) This part 6 provides funding for costs associated with
8	OBTAINING THESE IMPORTANT SCREENINGS AND OTHER RECOMMENDED
9	TESTING;
10	(e) WHILE OTHER SCREENING MAY BE AVAILABLE, THE
11	SCREENINGS PROVIDED THROUGH A TRUST MODEL ARE TARGETED AND
12	TAILORED TO INDIVIDUALS SERVING IN PUBLIC SAFETY ROLES;
13	(f) THE TRUST MODEL HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND
14	SHOULD BE ADOPTED STATEWIDE IN ORDER TO SCREEN MORE PUBLIC
15	SAFETY PERSONNEL;
16	(g) CARDIAC AND OTHER HEALTH SCREENINGS ARE AN EFFICIENT
17	USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES BECAUSE EARLY SCREENING CAN HELP PUBLIC
18	SAFETY PERSONNEL GET NECESSARY TREATMENT AND AVOID MUCH
19	HIGHER COSTS; AND
20	(h) This vital screening may allow seasoned professionals
21	TO SERVE IN POSITIONS LONGER, SAVING RESOURCES THAT WOULD BE
22	NECESSARY TO TRAIN NEW EMPLOYEES.
23	29-5-602. Definitions. As used in this part 6, unless the
24	CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
25	(1) "EMPLOYER" MEANS A MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, DISTRICT
26	ATTORNEY, OR STATE AGENCY THAT EMPLOYS ONE OR MORE PEACE
27	OFFICERS.

JOB-RELATED STRESS FACTORS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY ONSET

-9- 1219

1	(2) "PEACE OFFICER" MEANS A PEACE OFFICER DESCRIBED IN
2	SECTION 16-2.5-101 (1).
3	(3) "Trust" means a multiple employer health trust
4	DESCRIBED IN SECTION $10\text{-}3\text{-}903.5(7)(b)(I)$ That is established for the
5	PURPOSES OF THIS PART 6.
6	29-5-603. Employer participation in health trust required -
7	cardiovascular screening for peace officers. (1) AN EMPLOYER SHALL
8	PARTICIPATE IN A TRUST IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE PROGRAM SPECIFIED
9	IN THIS SECTION FOR ITS PEACE OFFICERS. IF AT ANY TIME THE FUNDING
10	PROVIDED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION IS INSUFFICIENT
11	TO COVER THE COST OF THE PROGRAM REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, THE
12	REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM BECOMES OPTIONAL
13	PURSUANT TO SECTION 29-1-304.5.
14	(2) A TRUST MUST PROVIDE A PROGRAM THAT IS PLANNED,
15	ORGANIZED, OPERATED, AND MAINTAINED TO COVER THE COSTS
16	ASSOCIATED WITH CARDIOVASCULAR SCREENINGS, AT A MINIMUM, AND
17	OTHER HEALTH SCREENINGS AND PREVENTION, AS PRACTICABLE, FOR
18	PEACE OFFICERS.
19	(3) (a) (I) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE MONEY
20	FROM THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED SOURCE TO THE
21	THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
22	SAFETY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REIMBURSING A MULTIPLE EMPLOYER
23	HEALTH TRUST FOR THE DIRECT COSTS OF PROVIDING A PROGRAM AS
24	REQUIRED BY THIS PART 6 AS FOLLOWS:
25	(A) FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2024, THE
26	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
27	DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

-10-

1	IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE SET
2	FORTH IN SUBSECTION $(3)(a)(I)$ OF THIS SECTION;
3	(B) FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2025, THE
4	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND
5	DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
6	IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE SET
7	FORTH IN SUBSECTION $(3)(a)(I)$ OF THIS SECTION;
8	(C) For the state fiscal year beginning on July $1,2026$ , the
9	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND
10	DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
11	IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE SET
12	FORTH IN SUBSECTION $(3)(a)(I)$ OF THIS SECTION;
13	(D) For the state fiscal year beginning on July $1,2027$ , the
14	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY
15	THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DIVISION OF
16	CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO BE USED FOR
17	THE PURPOSE SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION; AND
18	(E) FOR THE STATE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2028, THE
19	GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM
20	THE GENERAL FUND, AND ON EACH JULY 1 THEREAFTER, THE GENERAL
21	ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS, SUBJECT TO ANNUAL
22	APPROPRIATION, TO THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE
23	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE SET FORTH
24	IN SUBSECTION $(3)(a)(I)$ OF THIS SECTION.
25	(II) THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND
26	EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES
27	FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 6.

-11- 1219

1	(b) THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SHALL USE MONEY
2	APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION OR
3	RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS PURSUANT TO
4	SUBSECTION (3)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION TO REIMBURSE A MULTIPLE
5	EMPLOYER HEALTH TRUST FOR THE DIRECT COSTS OF PROVIDING A
6	PROGRAM AS REQUIRED BY THIS PART 6.
7	(4) AN EMPLOYER MAY CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A VOLUNTARY
8	HEALTH SCREENING AND PREVENTION PROGRAM, IF THE PROGRAM
9	BECOMES OPTIONAL PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, BY
10	CONTRIBUTING INTO A MULTIPLE EMPLOYER HEALTH TRUST AS SET FORTH
11	IN SECTION 10-3-903.5 (7)(b)(I), WHICH TRUST IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE
12	PURPOSES OF THIS PART 6. THE CONTRIBUTION LEVELS AND AWARD LEVEL
13	DEFINITIONS WILL BE SET BY THE TRUST.
14	<b>29-5-604.</b> Trust authority. (1) In addition to any other
15	AUTHORITY GIVEN TO THE TRUST, THE TRUST HAS THE AUTHORITY TO:
16	(a) Create a program description to further define the
17	SERVICES AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO THIS PART 6;
18	(b) STRUCTURE THE PROGRAM BASED ON ACTUARIAL
19	RECOMMENDATIONS AND WITH INPUT FROM A COMMITTEE OF THE TRUST
20	CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR, MANAGEMENT,
21	ADMINISTRATION, AND EMPLOYERS SERVING DIFFERENT SIZED
22	POPULATIONS, AS DETERMINED BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST; AND
23	(c) ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION
24	OF THE TRUST.
25	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 8-3.3-114, amend
26	(6)(b) as follows:
2.7	8-3.3-114. Impasse resolution - fact finding - rules.

-12- 1219

1	(6) (b) Bargaining units of a local government employer that include
2	firefighters, as defined in section <del>29-5-301 (2)</del> 29-5-301 (3), must comply
3	with post-fact-finding procedures in section 29-5-210 (9), (10), and (13).
4	<b>SECTION 7.</b> Appropriation. (1) For the 2024-25 state fiscal
5	year, \$300,000 is appropriated to the department of local affairs for use
6	by the division of local government. This appropriation is from the
7	general fund. To implement this act, the division may use this
8	appropriation for firefighter heart and circulatory malfunction benefits.
9	(2) For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, \$200,000 is appropriated to
10	the department of public safety for use by the division of criminal justice.
11	This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the
12	division may use this appropriation for the purposes specified in section
13	29-5-603 (3)(a)(I), C.R.S.
14	SECTION 8. Safety clause. The general assembly finds,
15	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
16	preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
17	the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
18	institutions.

-13-