## HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT Committee on <u>Judiciary</u>.

	HB24-1286 be amended as follows:
1	Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
2	substitute:
3	"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general
4	assembly finds that:
5	(a) Access to justice is a basic principle of the rule of law, and it
6	ensures that all persons, institutions and entities, public and private,
7	including the state, are held accountable to laws that are publicly
8	promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated;
9	(b) In the absence of access to justice, people are unable to have
10	their voices heard, exercise their rights, challenge discrimination, or hold
11	decision-makers accountable;
12	(c) Providing civil legal aid to people in poverty is vital to
13	Colorado in supporting justice for victims of intimate partner violence,
14	ensuring veterans receive their well-earned benefits, protecting against
15	elder abuse, fighting human trafficking, protecting access to necessities
16	such as food and shelter, and other areas;
17	(d) Without access to civil legal representation, many laws and
18	protections remain unenforceable for low-income Coloradans;
19	(e) State-funded legal aid in certain civil matters reinforces the
20	importance of the right to counsel to ensure a fair trial;
21	(f) Equal access to justice would have little effective meaning if
22	an individual could not afford that right on the basis of income;
23	(g) In order to meet the needs of our most vulnerable community
24	members, it is necessary, appropriate, equitable, and in the best interest
25	of all Coloradans to create a special purpose authority to allow
26	low-income Coloradans access to the court system by imposing a fee on
27	a party's first court filing;
28	(h) The fee imposed is for the specific purpose of serving users of
29	Colorado courts, who will pay the fee on all initial pleadings and answers because the fee:
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32	(I) Will serve all qualified court users by increasing the efficiency of courts for all court users by reducing slowdowns caused by
33	self-represented parties because providing guidance and legal assistance
34	to unrepresented litigants increases efficiency in courts;
35	(II) Will increase the provision of justice in our courts for all court
36	users, regardless of income, which is an interest shared among all court
37	users;
38	(III) Is collected at a rate reasonably calculated based on the
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- (IV) Is not a tax;
  - (i) Furthering access to Colorado's civil courts is a pillar of our

overall costs of the services provided by the authority; and

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democratic legal systems; and

- (j) The state of Colorado must endeavor to systematically support the delivery of equal access to legal aid services to all qualified Coloradans.
- (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that the lack of access to civil legal justice is a problem that has serious social, legal, economic, and political consequences, and the general assembly enacts this legislation to fund equal access to justice and reaffirm the commitment to equitable access to the civil legal process.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 2 to article 5.7 of title 13 as follows:

12 PART 2

## **EOUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY**

**13-5.7-201. Definitions.** As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "AUTHORITY" MEANS THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-202.
- (2) "BOARD" MEANS THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AUTHORITY BOARD CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-204.
- (3) "EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEE" MEANS THE FEE COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2.
- (4) "FILING FEE" MEANS A DOCKET FEE FOR A CIVIL ACTION AS SET FORTH IN SECTIONS 13-4-112, 13-32-101, AND 13-32-102.
- (5) "QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER" MEANS A 501 (c)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN THE COLORADO RECIPIENT OF A FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT THAT PROVIDES LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND ADVICE TO PEOPLE IN COLORADO WHO ARE AT OR BELOW TWO HUNDRED FIFTY PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE TO SUPPORT THEIR ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS SUCH AS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND ASSISTANCE WITH FAMILY MATTERS AND IMMIGRATION STATUS ISSUES.
- 13-5.7-202. Creation and purpose. There is created as a special purpose authority, as defined in section 24-77-102, the equal justice fund authority, which is a body corporate and a political subdivision of the state, which shall not be an agency of state government, and shall not be subject to administrative direction by any department, commission, board, bureau, or agency of the state. The authority is responsible for administering the equal justice fund created in section 13-5.7-205.
- **13-5.7-203. General powers.** (1) In addition to any other powers granted to the authority in this part 2, the authority has the following powers:

- (a) TO HAVE THE DUTIES, PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES, RIGHTS, LIABILITIES, AND DISABILITIES OF A BODY CORPORATE AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE;
  - (b) TO HAVE PERPETUAL EXISTENCE AND SUCCESSION;
- (c) TO ADOPT, HAVE, AND USE A SEAL AND TO ALTER THE SAME AT ITS PLEASURE;
  - (d) TO SUE AND BE SUED;

- (e) TO ENTER INTO ANY CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS PART 2 OR THE LAWS OF THE STATE;
- (f) TO PURCHASE, LEASE, LEASE WITH AN OPTION TO PURCHASE, TRADE, EXCHANGE, OR OTHERWISE ACQUIRE, MAINTAIN, HOLD, IMPROVE, MORTGAGE, ENCUMBER, AND DISPOSE OF REAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY, WHETHER TANGIBLE OR INTANGIBLE, AND ANY INTEREST, INCLUDING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WITHOUT RESTRICTION OR LIMITATION;
- (g) TO ACQUIRE OFFICE SPACE, EQUIPMENT, SERVICES, SUPPLIES, AND INSURANCE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 2;
- (h) To deposit any money of the authority in any banking institution or in any depository authorized pursuant to section 24-75-603, and to appoint, for the purpose of making such deposits, one or more persons to act as custodians of the money of the authority, who shall give surety bonds in such amounts and form and for such purposes as the board requires;
- (i) TO CONTRACT FOR AND TO ACCEPT ANY GIFTS, GRANTS, AND LOANS OF FUNDS, PROPERTY, OR ANY OTHER AID IN ANY FORM FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE, ANY STATE AGENCY, OR ANY OTHER SOURCE, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF, AND TO COMPLY, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PART 2, WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH CONTRACTS OR THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH ITEMS;
- (j) To have and exercise all rights and powers necessary or incidental to or implied from the specific powers granted in this part 2, which specific powers shall not be considered as a limitation upon any power necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and intent of this part 2;
- (k) TO FIX THE TIME AND PLACE OR PLACES AT WHICH ITS REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS ARE TO BE HELD;
- (1) TO ELECT ONE MEMBER AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD AND ANOTHER MEMBER AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD AND TO ELECT ONE OR MORE MEMBERS AS SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE BOARD AND ELECT OR APPOINT SUCH OTHER OFFICERS AS THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE AND PROVIDE FOR THEIR DUTIES AND TERMS OF OFFICE;
  - (m) TO APPOINT AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND PROFESSIONAL AND

- BUSINESS ADVISERS, INCLUDING REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS, CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES, PROPERTY MANAGERS, ATTORNEYS, ACCOUNTANTS, AND FINANCIAL ADVISERS AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE NECESSARY IN THE AUTHORITY'S JUDGMENT TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 2, AND TO FIX THE COMPENSATION OF SUCH AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND ADVISERS, AND TO ESTABLISH THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF ALL AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND ADVISERS, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER PERSON CONTRACTING WITH THE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES, INCLUDING TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OR THE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES;
- (n) To make and execute agreements, contracts, and other instruments necessary or convenient in the exercise of the powers and functions of the authority pursuant to this part 2, including, but not limited to, contracts with any person, firm, corporation, municipality, state agency, county, or other entity. All municipalities, counties, and state agencies may enter into and do all things necessary to perform any such arrangement or contract with the authority.
- (o) OTHER POWERS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE AUTHORITY'S SPECIFIC GOALS AS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 2.
- 13-5.7-204. Equal justice fund authority board membership and meetings fund rules. (1) The authority is governed by the equal justice fund authority board, which is made up of seven members who are residents of this state and have a demonstrated commitment to providing civil legal aid through current or prior employment with a qualified civil legal aid provider, or through substantial volunteer service with a similar organization.
  - (2) MEMBERS OF THE BOARD MUST BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:
- (a) One member appointed by the chief justice of the Colorado supreme court;
  - (b) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;
- (c) One member appointed by the Colorado bar association;
- (d) One member appointed by the Colorado Lawyer trust account foundation; and
- (e) Three members appointed by the executive director of the Colorado access to Justice Commission, at least two of whom are employed by a qualified civil legal aid provider, and at least one of whom is employed by a qualified civil legal aid provider that employs ten or fewer full-time attorneys.
- (3) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO APPOINT BOARD MEMBERS THAT REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC

AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE, INCLUDING MEMBERS FROM BOTH RURAL AND URBAN PARTS OF THE STATE, AND MEMBERS OF DIVERSE POLITICAL, RACIAL, ABILITY, CULTURAL GROUP, AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS.

- (4) Members serve terms of three years; except that initial terms of the members appointed by the executive director of the Colorado access to justice commission are two-year terms in order to stagger the terms so that no more than four members' terms expire in the same year. The appointing authorities shall designate the initial terms and fill any vacancies on the board.
- 12 (5) TERMS EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 OF THE FINAL YEAR OF THE 13 TERM.
  - (6) MEMBERS MAY BE REAPPOINTED TO SERVE TWO ADDITIONAL TERMS.
  - (7) A MEMBER MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE BOARD BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD FOR MISFEASANCE, MALFEASANCE, WILLFUL NEGLECT OF DUTY, OR OTHER CAUSE AFTER NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING, UNLESS NOTICE AND A PUBLIC HEARING ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVED IN WRITING BY THE MEMBER BEING REMOVED.
    - (8) THE BOARD SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES PER YEAR.
  - (9) THE BOARD SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE-CHAIR AT ITS FIRST MEETING OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR.
  - (10) Members serve without compensation but must be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
  - (11) The board shall adopt its own rules of procedure and keep a record of all proceedings.
  - (12) (a) THE AUTHORITY MAY COOPERATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE COMMISSION OR ANOTHER AGENCY OR ENTITY, FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OR OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING FOR STAFFING.
  - (b) THE AUTHORITY SHALL PAY THE CONTRACTED ENTITY IN ADVANCE FOR ALL AGREED UPON COSTS INCURRED BY THE CONTRACTED ENTITY IN PROVIDING STAFFING FOR THE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION, INCLUDING COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES STAFFING THE AUTHORITY AND ANY ADMINISTRATION AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH STAFFING THE AUTHORITY.
  - (13) IF THE COMMISSION EXPECTS TO INCUR ACTUAL COSTS AS A RESULT OF STAFFING THE AUTHORITY THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT PROVIDED BY THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-5.7-206, THE AUTHORITY SHALL PAY THE COMMISSION FOR ALL COSTS INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION IN PROVIDING STAFFING TO THE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING, BUT LIMITED TO, COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES STAFFING THE AUTHORITY

AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS IN AN AMOUNT AGREED UPON BY THE AUTHORITY AND COMMISSION.

**13-5.7-205. Equal justice fund - creation.** (1) There is created in the state treasury the equal justice fund. The equal justice fund is administered by the authority. The purpose of the fund is to:

- (a) Provide access to legal representation to indigent persons by providing annual grants to the Colorado recipient of a federal legal services corporation field grant and other qualified civil legal aid providers pursuant to section 13-5.7-206;
- (b) Increase the efficiency of Colorado courts for all court users by reducing slowdowns caused by self-representation; and
- (c) Pay the direct and indirect costs of administering the requirements of this part 2, including payment for costs associated with staffing the authority and reimbursement of the actual and necessary expenses of board members as required by section 13-5.7-204.
- (2) THE COURT SHALL COLLECT THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEE AT THE TIME OF FILING AND QUARTERLY, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND SHALL REMIT THE COLLECTED EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEES TO THE STATE TREASURER TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND.
- (3) The equal justice fund consists of money collected from the filing fee required by sections 13-4-112, 13-32-101, and 13-32-102.
- (4) THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE AUTHORITY AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ANY INTEREST OR INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND REMAINS IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND AND IS NOT TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR.
- 13-5.7-206. Distribution of funds. (1) On July 1, 2025, and each July 1 thereafter, the authority shall annually distribute all revenue deposited into the equal justice fund, less the authority's direct and indirect expenses in administering the requirements of this part 2 and any other related work completed to advance the mission of the authority. The authority shall distribute sixty-seven percent of the remaining revenue to the Colorado recipient of a federal legal services corporation field grant, and thirty-three percent to qualified civil legal aid providers.
- (2) THE BOARD, BY RESOLUTION, SHALL ESTABLISH A FUNDING FORMULA TO USE TO DETERMINE THE DISTRIBUTION AMOUNT FOR EACH

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QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER. IN DEVELOPING THE FORMULA, THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- (a) THE NUMBER OF ATTORNEY HOURS SPENT SERVING PEOPLE IN COLORADO IN POVERTY IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR;
- (b) THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED BY THE QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER;
- (c) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN POVERTY WHO RECEIVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION OR LEGAL ADVICE FROM THE QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER;
  - (d) GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF SERVICES; AND
- (e) ABILITY AND EXPERIENCE SERVING POPULATIONS WITH BARRIERS TO LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND PEOPLE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.
- (3) IN ESTABLISHING THE FUNDING FORMULA PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK OF QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDERS THAT EMPLOY TEN OR FEWER FULL-TIME ATTORNEYS TO LOW-INCOME COLORADO COMMUNITIES.
- 13-5.7-207. Report. (1) On or before January 1, 2026, and each January 1 thereafter, the authority shall prepare and submit a report to the house of representatives judiciary committee and the senate judiciary committee, or their successor committees, that details the use of the fund. At a minimum, the report must include:
- (a) How much money was collected in the fund in the preceding year;
- (b) HOW MUCH MONEY THE COLORADO RECIPIENT OF A FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT AND OTHER QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDERS RECEIVED FROM THE FUND IN THE PRECEDING YEAR;
- (c) The amount of funds left unused by the Colorado Recipient of a federal legal services corporation field grant and the Qualified civil legal aid providers at the conclusion of the preceding year; and
- (d) THE TYPES OF LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED LEGAL SERVICES AS A RESULT OF THE FUND.
- **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 13-4-112 as follows:
- **13-4-112.** Fees of the clerk of court of appeals. (1) (a) Within the time allowed or fixed for transmission of the record, the appellant shall pay to the clerk of the court of appeals a docket fee of two hundred twenty-three FORTY-THREE dollars.
- (b) The docket fee for the appellee shall be one hundred forty-eight SIXTY-EIGHT dollars to be paid upon the entry of appearance

of the appellee.

- (2) (a) Each fee collected pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) SUBSECTION (1)(a) of this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:
- (I) One hundred fifty dollars shall be deposited in the supreme court library fund created pursuant to section 13-2-120;
- (II) Five dollars shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (6); and
- (III) Sixty-eight dollars shall be deposited in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a); AND
- (IV) Twenty dollars must be deposited in the equal justice fund created in section 13-5.7-205.
- (b) Each fee collected pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (1) SUBSECTION (1)(b) of this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:
- (I) Seventy-five dollars shall be deposited in the supreme court library fund created pursuant to section 13-2-120;
- (II) Five dollars shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (6); and
- (III) Sixty-eight dollars shall be deposited in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a); AND
- (IV) TWENTY DOLLARS MUST BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.
- **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-32-101, **add** (1.5) and (3)(d) as follows:
- 13-32-101. Docket fees in civil actions judicial stabilization cash fund justice center cash fund justice center maintenance fund created report legislative declaration. (1.5) (a) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AN EQUAL JUSTICE FUND FEE OF TWENTY DOLLARS MUST BE PAID ON ALL COURT FILINGS BY A PARTY AT THE TIME A FEE IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, EXCEPT FOR FILINGS IN SMALL CLAIMS COURT.
- (b) Fees collected pursuant to this subsection (1.5) must be annually deposited into the equal justice fund created in section 13-5.7-205.
- (3) (d) A FILING FEE MUST NOT BE CHARGED TO A COLORADO RECIPIENT OF A FEDERAL LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FIELD GRANT OR OTHER QUALIFIED CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 13-5.7-201.
- **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-32-102, **amend** (1)(a), (1)(b), (1)(f), (6)(a)(II), (6)(b)(II), and (6)(f)(II) as follows:
- **13-32-102. Fees in probate proceedings.** (1) On and after July 1, 2019, for services rendered by judges and clerks of district or probate

courts in all counties of the state of Colorado in proceedings had pursuant to articles 10 to 17 of title 15, the court shall charge the following fees:

(a) Docket fee at the time of filing first papers in any decedent's estate eligible for summary administrative procedures under PURSUANT TO section 15-12-1203, or in any small estate of a person under disability qualifying under section 15-14-118, which estates involve no real property

.....\$ <del>83.00</del> **103.00** 

(f) Docket fee at time of filing first papers in each action relating to a trust

(6) (a) Each fee collected pursuant to subsection (1)(a) of this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:

- (II) On and after July 1, 2019, forty-eight dollars shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (6), five dollars shall be deposited in the court security cash fund established pursuant to section 13-1-204, fifteen dollars shall be deposited in the office of public guardianship cash fund established pursuant to section 13-94-108 (1), and fifteen dollars shall be deposited in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a), AND TWENTY DOLLARS SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.
- (b) Each fee collected pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:
- (II) On and after July 1, 2019, one hundred forty-three dollars shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (6), five dollars shall be deposited in the court security cash fund established pursuant to section 13-1-204, fifteen dollars shall be deposited in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a), thirty-five dollars shall be deposited in the office of public guardianship cash fund established pursuant to section 13-94-108 (1), and one dollar shall be deposited in the general fund pursuant to section 2-5-119, AND TWENTY DOLLARS SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.
- (f) Each fee collected pursuant to subsection (1)(f) of this section shall be transmitted to the state treasurer and divided as follows:
- (II) On and after July 1, 2019, one hundred forty-three dollars shall be deposited in the judicial stabilization cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (6), five dollars shall be deposited in the court security cash fund established pursuant to section 13-1-204, fifteen dollars shall be

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deposited in the justice center cash fund created in section 13-32-101 (7)(a), thirty-five dollars shall be deposited in the office of public guardianship cash fund established pursuant to section 13-94-108 (1), and one dollar shall be deposited in the general fund pursuant to section 2-5-119, AND TWENTY DOLLARS SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN THE EQUAL JUSTICE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 13-5.7-205.

**SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-77-102, **amend** (15)(b)(XIX) and (15)(b)(XX); and **add** (15)(b)(XXI) as follows:

**24-77-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 77, unless the context otherwise requires:

(15) (b) "Special purpose authority" includes, but is not limited to: (XIX) The Colorado electric transmission authority created in section 40-42-103 (1); and

(XX) The middle-income housing authority created in section 29-4-1104 (1); AND

(XXI) The equal justice fund authority created in section 13-5.7-202.

**SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions."

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