



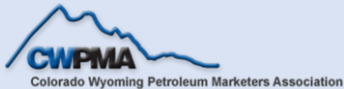
Foster Youth Drivers' License

HB21-1084

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SUPPORTED BY



Colorado Office of the
Child's Representative



ASRC

Adoption Search Resource
Connection



This important bill originally came out of the 2019 Interim Transportation Legislation Review Committee and was introduced last year as HB20-1071. While the bill fell victim to COVID in the 2020 legislative session, the importance of reducing some of the barriers facing Colorado youth who are in foster care when they want to get their driver's permit or license remains. Some of the barriers identified in the 2019 committee were:

- The inability for youth in foster care to get quality driver's education or to have the opportunity to get the required permit driving hours because they do not have an available adult, access to a car, or ability to pay for a program.
- Lack of support from some county department of human services for youth in the county department's custody in getting a driver's permit or license due to concerns about liability the county may be incurring when a youth in their custody is behind the wheel.
- The trouble youth in foster care often have in providing the documents required by the DMV due to the nature of being in foster care. Many times, getting these documents creates delays or outright barriers.

In response, this bill does three important things:

- 1 Establishes a grant program to fund drivers' education for youth who are in the custody of a county department of human services.
- 2 Clarifies that nothing in article 25 places liability on the county.
- 3 States that youth in foster care are eligible for exceptions processing through the DMV and requires the agency to promulgate rules to help address the identified barriers.

Since last session, the Federal Government has also recognized the importance of our foster youth getting support to drive. The Consolidated Appropriations Act (PL 116-260) was passed December 27, 2020 and one section allocates funding to provide driving and transportation assistance to youth which includes helping youth obtain a driver's license and providing help with "vehicle insurance costs, driver's education class and testing fees, practice lessons, practice hours, license fees, roadside assistance, deductible assistance, and assistance in purchasing an automobile". CDHS will be able to apply for this funding once further guidance is issued. Full text of the bill can be found here:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133/text/enr>

Please help reduce the barriers facing Colorado's Youth in Foster Care and support HB21-1084