

HOUSE BILL 23-1102: Official City Position

Approved by Westminster City Council on February XX, 2023

REPRESENTATIVES EVANS, BIRD; SENATORS ROBERTS, HANSEN:

Concerning the high-visibility alcohol and drug impaired driving enforcement program.

Official City Position: SUPPORT

Status: **Active** – This bill was introduced in the House on January 23, 2023. It was assigned to the Judiciary Committee for hearing on February 15, 2023. It passed that committee and was sent to Appropriations.

Description:

Under existing law, the office of transportation safety within the office of the executive director of the department of transportation (department) receives funding from money remaining in the law enforcement assistance fund after two required annual appropriations are made to provide funding to local governments that have established a qualified drunk driving prevention enforcement program. However, the department has not received funding from the first-time drunk driving offender account since state fiscal year 2020-2021.

The bill expands these programs to include both alcohol and drug impaired driving and requires the general assembly to annually appropriate \$1.5 million from the marijuana tax cash fund to the department for allocation to local governments that implement high-visibility alcohol and drug impaired driving enforcement.

City Comments:

This legislation is in alignment with the following principle(s) as set forth in the City's [2023 Legislative Policy Statement](#):

General Finance

- Supports the continuation of existing local government financing methods and the addition of new methods for local governments to support the provision of municipal services to citizens
- Supports equitable sharing with municipalities of existing and future state revenues derived from traditional state-collected, locally shared revenues, such as the cigarette tax, Highway Users Tax Fund, and the lottery.

Public Safety

- The City of Westminster recognizes the critical importance of maintaining public order, providing a safe environment, and protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Westminster

This bill would provide funding for high-visibility alcohol and drug-impaired driving prevention enforcement (HVE) programs. Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) funds high-visibility enforcement for local governments and law enforcement agencies to



conduct 12 enforcement episodes each year, which resulted in more than 7,000 impaired driving arrests in fiscal year (FY) 2021. Currently, 81 law enforcement agencies across the state, including Westminster, participate in HVE programs

Existing funding is decreasing and CDOT anticipates that HVE funding will be exhausted by FY 2024. This bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to local governments, and it increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.