A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE MEASURABLE GOALS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO DEADLINES IN COLORADO'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

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.)

The bill requires:

The state climate action plan to include specific measurable goals, the achievement of which will either reduce Colorado's greenhouse gas emissions or increase Colorado's adaptive capability to respond to climate change.
change, along with associated near-term, mid-term, and long-term deadlines to achieve the goals; and

The annual climate report to the general assembly to include an analysis of the progress made in meeting the measurable goals and deadlines specified in the plan.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-20-111, amend (2) (a) and (3) (a) as follows:

24-20-111. Climate change position created - duties - report.

(2) The duties of the position created pursuant to subsection (1) of this section include, at a minimum:

(a) Development and periodic update of a climate action plan or similar document that sets forth a strategy, including specific policy recommendations AND MEASURABLE GOALS, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH WILL EITHER REDUCE COLORADO'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS OR INCREASE COLORADO'S ADAPTIVE CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE, ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED NEAR-TERM, MID-TERM, AND LONG-TERM DEADLINES TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS, that the state could use to address climate change and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions; and

(3) (a) The governor or his or her designee shall submit an annual report to the house agriculture, livestock, and natural resources committee, the house transportation and energy committee, and the senate agriculture, natural resources, and energy committee, or any successor committees, on climate change issues generally, the current climate action plan developed under this section, and the specific ways in which climate change affects the state. The report:

(I) May address, as appropriate, the correlations between climate change and wildfires, bark beetle infestation, snowpack, water storage,
drought, and statewide emissions of greenhouse gases; The report AND

(II) Shall include:

(A) Information regarding efforts to reduce emissions of gases and to reform practices known to exacerbate climate change effects;

(B) The report shall also include Additional prospective proposals to prepare the state for the effects of climate change and proposals to further reduce the factors that contribute to climate change within Colorado; AND

(C) AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN MEETING THE MEASURABLE GOALS SPECIFIED IN THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, INCLUDING WHETHER COLORADO IS ON TRACK TO MEET THE NEAR-TERM, MID-TERM, AND LONG-TERM DEADLINES SPECIFIED IN THE PLAN.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.