

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0785.02 Jennifer Berman x3286

SENATE BILL 16-129

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jones,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Arndt,

Senate Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WORD "FOSTER" WITH
102 "ADMINISTER" IN STATUTE SO AS TO REQUIRE NEUTRAL
103 ADMINISTRATION BY THE COLORADO OIL AND GAS
104 CONSERVATION COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ITS OVERSIGHT
105 OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS.

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 implements a recommendation of the Colorado oil and gas task force to clarify the balanced responsibilities that the Colorado oil and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

gas conservation commission has with respect to its oversight of oil and gas operations.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) On September 8, 2014, Governor John W. Hickenlooper
5 established by executive order the Colorado Oil and Gas Task Force (task
6 force);

7 (b) Through the executive order, the governor charged the task
8 force with developing policy and legislative recommendations on a
9 number of issues involving oil and gas development in Colorado,
10 including the protection of public health and the environment and
11 encouraging responsible oil and gas development. A recommendation had
12 to meet the difficult standard of being approved by a two-thirds vote to
13 be submitted as a final recommendation.

14 (c) The 21 members of the task force represented diverse interests
15 including the oil and gas industry, the agricultural industry, the
16 conservation community, and local government;

17 (d) One proposed recommendation that was approved by 13 of the
18 task force members, which represented 62 percent of the task force's
19 membership, concerned a clarification of the Colorado oil and gas
20 conservation commission's (commission) charge to provide balanced
21 oversight of oil and gas operations by substituting the word "administer"
22 for the word "foster" in the legislative declaration of the "Oil and Gas
23 Conservation Act"; and

24 (e) Implementing the proposed recommendation to clarify the
25 commission's charge would honor the reasonable expectation of the

1 citizens of this state that the commission provide a balanced and fair
2 review of any oil and gas activity that could be hazardous to the public
3 health, safety, or welfare of the state.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-102, **amend**
5 (1) (a) (I) as follows:

6 **34-60-102. Legislative declaration.** (1) (a) It is declared to be in
7 the public interest to:

8 (I) ~~Foster~~ ADMINISTER the responsible, balanced development,
9 production, and utilization of the natural resources of oil and gas in the
10 state of Colorado in a manner consistent with protection of public health,
11 safety, and welfare, including protection of the environment and wildlife
12 resources.

13 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
14 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.