

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REREVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 17-0561.01 Thomas Morris x4218

**SENATE BILL 17-073**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Garcia,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Valdez,**

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**Senate Committees**

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

**House Committees**

Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING PROMOTION OF THE RUNYON-FOUNTAIN LAKES STATE**  
102 **WILDLIFE AREA.**

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**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://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill directs stakeholders interested in the Runyon-Fountain lakes state wildlife area (including the Colorado division of parks and wildlife, the city of Pueblo, and the Pueblo conservancy district) to cooperatively engage in a long-term process to promote the maximum beneficial development and maintenance of the area. The stakeholders are to report to the general assembly's committees of reference with

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.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 10, 2017

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 9, 2017

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 22, 2017

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
February 21, 2017

jurisdiction over natural resources by March 1, 2018, regarding the progress of the cooperative effort.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Cooperative effort to promote the**  
3 **Runyon-Fountain lakes state wildlife area. (1) Legislative**  
4 **declaration.** The general assembly hereby:

5 (a) Finds that:

6 (I) The Runyon-Fountain lakes state wildlife area, referred to in  
7 this section as the Runyon-Fountain SWA, located along the Arkansas  
8 river just upstream of the confluence with Fountain creek and very near  
9 the downtown of the city of Pueblo, is a multi-use area featuring thirty  
10 acres of ponds, approximately eight-tenths of a mile of river-front access,  
11 fishing, wildlife watching, and hiking and biking trails that interconnect  
12 with other local trails, including the Pueblo commuter trail;

13 (II) The land and water rights associated with the  
14 Runyon-Fountain SWA are owned by the Pueblo conservancy district,  
15 referred to in this section as the district, which, while it can participate in  
16 the development of parks or recreational facilities, has limited authority  
17 to spend money for purposes other than flood mitigation;

18 (III) The district has leased the recreational use of the land and  
19 water at the Runyon-Fountain SWA to the Colorado division of parks and  
20 wildlife, referred to in this section as the division, which stocks the ponds  
21 at the SWA and provides staffing to maintain it, including a public  
22 restroom, trash removal, wildlife habitat improvements, law enforcement,  
23 and similar services;

24 (IV) Pueblo owns the vehicular access to the Runyon-Fountain  
25 SWA and maintains the trails there;

1 (V) While the division has prepared a master plan for the  
2 Runyon-Fountain SWA, neither the district nor Pueblo have done so; and

3 (VI) Due to a lack of collaboration between the interested parties,  
4 Runyon-Fountain SWA has faced challenges with regard to maintenance,  
5 capital improvements, trail improvements, and accessibility for people  
6 with disabilities;

7 (b) Determines that:

8 (I) The Runyon-Fountain SWA already provides substantial  
9 amenities to the Pueblo regional community and has the potential to  
10 become an even greater asset, both economically and by offering  
11 higher-quality and more diverse recreational opportunities; and

12 (II) The overlapping and fractured nature of ownership,  
13 management, and use of the Runyon-Fountain SWA and the lack of  
14 coordination between the affected governments have inhibited the  
15 development of the full potential of the Runyon-Fountain SWA; and

16 (c) Declares that this act is necessary to develop the full potential  
17 of the Runyon-Fountain SWA.

18 (2) **Process.** The Colorado division of parks and wildlife, the city  
19 of Pueblo, the Pueblo conservancy district, and other stakeholders,  
20 including local, regional, and statewide entities both public and private,  
21 may cooperatively engage in a long-term process to promote the  
22 maximum beneficial development and maintenance of the  
23 Runyon-Fountain SWA, including by:

24 (a) Establishing a process for stakeholder input into, and the  
25 development and implementation of, a multi-party master plan for the  
26 Runyon-Fountain SWA;

27 (b) Exploring potential funding sources, such as from

1 conservation trust funds, the Great Outdoors Colorado trust fund, and  
2 gifts, grants, and donations, that can be used to develop and maintain the  
3 Runyon-Fountain SWA; and

4 (c) Considering options to facilitate operation of the  
5 Runyon-Fountain SWA.

6 (3) **Report.** The Colorado division of parks and wildlife and the  
7 Pueblo conservancy district shall report to the general assembly's  
8 committees of reference with jurisdiction over natural resources by March  
9 1, 2018, regarding the progress of the cooperative effort established  
10 pursuant to this section.

11 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
14 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a  
15 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
16 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
17 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
18 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
19 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.