A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION, AND,
IN CONNECTION THERewith, EStABLISHing STATEwIDE
GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION REDUCTION GOALS.

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.)

Section 1 of the bill states that Colorado shall have statewide goals to reduce 2025 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26%, 2030 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50%, and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% of the levels of greenhouse gas emissions that existed in 2005.
Section 3 specifies considerations that the air quality control commission is to take into account in implementing policies and promulgating rules to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, including the benefits of compliance and the equitable distribution of those benefits, the costs of compliance, opportunities to incentivize clean energy in transitioning communities, and the potential to enhance the resilience of Colorado’s communities and natural resources to climate impacts. The commission will consult with the public utilities commission with regard to rules that affect the providers of retail electricity in Colorado.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 25-7-102 as follows:

25-7-102. Legislative declaration. (1) In order to foster the health, welfare, convenience, and comfort of the inhabitants of the state of Colorado and to facilitate the enjoyment and use of the scenic and natural resources of the state, it is declared to be the policy of this state to achieve the maximum practical degree of air purity in every portion of the state, to attain and maintain the national ambient air quality standards, and to prevent the significant deterioration of air quality in those portions of the state where the air quality is better than the national ambient air quality standards. To that end, it is the purpose of this article to require the use of all available practical methods which are technologically feasible and economically reasonable so as to reduce, prevent, and control air pollution throughout the state of Colorado; to require the development of an air quality control program in which the benefits of the air pollution control measures utilized bear a reasonable relationship to the economic, environmental, and energy impacts and other costs of such measures; and to maintain a cooperative program between the state and local units of government. It is further declared that
the prevention, abatement, and control of air pollution in each portion of
the state are matters of statewide concern and are affected with a public
interest and that the provisions of this article ARTICLE 7 are enacted in the
exercise of the police powers of this state for the purpose of protecting
the health, peace, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state.
The general assembly further recognizes that a current and accurate
inventory of actual emissions of air pollutants from all sources is essential
for the proper identification and designation of attainment and
nonattainment areas, the determination of the most cost-effective
regulatory strategy to reduce pollution, the targeting of regulatory efforts
to achieve the greatest health and environmental benefits, and the
achievement of a federally approved clean air program. In order to
achieve the most accurate inventory of air pollution sources possible, this
article ARTICLE 7 specifically provides incentives to achieve the most
accurate and complete inventory possible and to provide for the most
accurate enforcement program achievable based upon that inventory.

(2) IT IS FURTHER DECLARED THAT:

(a) CLIMATE CHANGE ADVERSELY AFFECTS COLORADO'S
ECONOMY, AIR QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH, ECOSYSTEMS, NATURAL
RESOURCES, AND QUALITY OF LIFE;

(b) COLORADO IS ALREADY EXPERIENCING HARMFUL CLIMATE
IMPACTS, INCLUDING DECLINING SNOWPACK, PROLONGED DROUGHT, MORE
EXTREME HEAT, ELEVATED WILDFIRE RISK AND RISK TO FIRST
RESPONDERS, WIDESPREAD BEETLE INFESTATION DECIMATING FORESTS,
INCREASED RISK OF VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES, MORE FREQUENT AND
SEVERE FLOODING, MORE SEVERE GROUND-LEVEL OZONE POLLUTION
CAUSING RESPIRATORY DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE, DECREASED ECONOMIC
ACTIVITY FROM OUTDOOR RECREATION AND AGRICULTURE, AND DIMINISHED QUALITY OF LIFE. MANY OF THESE IMPACTS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT RURAL COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, YOUTH AND THE ELDERLY, AND WORKING FAMILIES. REDUCING STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION AS OUTLINED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2) WILL PROTECT THESE FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND ALL COLORADO RESIDENTS FROM THESE AND OTHER CLIMATE IMPACTS.

(c) WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION IN ORDER TO LIMIT THE INCREASE IN THE GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF DEGREES CELSIUS, WHICH SCIENTISTS AGREE WOULD PROVIDE A MORE STABLE AND HOSPITABLE CLIMATE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS AND MITIGATE THE RISK OF CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE IMPACTS IN COLORADO;

(d) BY REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION, COLORADO WILL ALSO REDUCE OTHER HARMFUL AIR POLLUTANTS WHICH WILL, IN TURN, IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH, REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS, IMPROVE AIR QUALITY, AND HELP SUSTAIN THE ENVIRONMENT;

(e) REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION WILL CREATE NEW MARKETS, SPUR INNOVATION, DRIVE INVESTMENTS IN LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES, AND PUT COLORADO SQUARELY ON THE PATH TO A MODERN, RESILIENT, ONE-HUNDRED-PERCENT CLEAN ECONOMY. DELAY IN PURSUING AND SECURING GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS AS OUTLINED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2) WILL PREVENT COLORADO COMMUNITIES FROM CAPTURING THE BENEFITS OF THESE NEW JOBS AND MARKETS, IN ADDITION TO EXACERBATING THE CLIMATE IMPACTS THAT HARM COLORADANS. THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY IS ALREADY BRINGING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF
JOBS AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DIRECT INVESTMENT TO COUNTIES ACROSS THE STATE, BENEFITTING WORKERS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES. COLORADO CAN CONTINUE TO FACILITATE SUCH A TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY.

(f) BY EXERCISING A LEADERSHIP ROLE, COLORADO WILL ALSO POSITION ITS ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY CENTERS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND BUSINESSES TO BENEFIT FROM NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES;

(g) ACCORDINGLY, COLORADO SHALL STRIVE TO INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION AND ELIMINATE STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION BY THE MIDDLE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AND HAVE GOALS OF ACHIEVING, AT A MINIMUM, A TWENTY-SIX-PERCENT REDUCTION IN STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION BY 2025, A FIFTY-PERCENT REDUCTION IN STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION BY 2030, AND A NINETY-PERCENT REDUCTION IN STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION BY 2050. THE REDUCTIONS IDENTIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(g) ARE MEASURED RELATIVE TO 2005 STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION LEVELS.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-7-103, amend the introductory portion; and add (22.5) as follows:

25-7-103. Definitions. As used in this article, "STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION" means the total net statewide anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, nitrogen trifluoride, and sulfur hexafluoride, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent.
SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-7-105, amend (1)
introductory portion; and add (1)(e) as follows:

25-7-105. Duties of commission - rules - legislative declaration
- definitions. (1) Except as provided in sections 25-7-130 and 25-7-131,
the commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as are
consistent with the legislative declaration set forth in section 25-7-102
and necessary for the proper implementation and administration of this
article ARTICLE 7, including, but not limited to:

(e) (I) STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION ABATEMENT.

(II) CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 25-7-102 (2)(g), THE COMMISSION
SHALL TIMELY PROMULGATE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.
THE IMPLEMENTING RULES MAY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT
LAWS AND RULES, AS WELL AS VOLUNTARY ACTIONS TAKEN BY LOCAL
COMMUNITIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND
COST-EFFECTIVENESS, AND SHALL BE REVISED AS NECESSARY OVER TIME
TO ENSURE TIMELY PROGRESS TOWARD THE 2025, 2030, AND 2050 GOALS.
The implementing rules shall provide for ongoing tracking of
emission sources that adversely affect disproportionately
impacted communities and are subject to rules implemented
pursuant to this subsection (1)(e) and must include strategies
designed to achieve reductions in harmful air pollution
affecting those communities.

(III) THE DIVISION, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, SHALL
SOLICIT INPUT FROM OTHER STATE AGENCIES, STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE
PUBLIC ON THE ADVANTAGES OF DIFFERENT STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS
POLLUTION MITIGATION MEASURES, SPECIFICALLY SOLICITING INPUT FROM
THOSE MOST IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND FROM WORKERS AND
COMMUNITIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON
INDUSTRIES WITH HIGH LEVELS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

(IV) THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND POLICIES MAY INCLUDE, IN
ADDITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES,
REGULATORY STRATEGIES THAT HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED BY ANOTHER
JURISDICTION TO REDUCE MULTI-SECTOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS,
THAT FACILITATE ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGIES THAT HAVE ZERO
EMISSIONS, AND THAT ENHANCE COST-EFFECTIVENESS, COMPLIANCE
FLEXIBILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY AROUND COMPLIANCE COSTS, AMONG
OTHER REGULATORY STRATEGIES. THE COMMISSION MAY COORDINATE
WITH OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN SECURING EMISSION REDUCTIONS,
INCLUDING IN SATISFYING FUTURE FEDERAL REGULATIONS. THE
COMMISSION MAY ACCOUNT FOR REDUCTIONS IN NET GREENHOUSE GAS
EMISSIONS THAT OCCUR UNDER COORDINATED JURISDICTIONS' PROGRAMS
IF THE COMMISSION FINDS THAT THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS OF
EACH COORDINATED JURISDICTION ARE OF SUFFICIENT RIGOR TO ENSURE
THE INTEGRITY OF THE REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TO
THE ATMOSPHERE AND MAY ACCOUNT FOR CARBON DIOXIDE THAT
ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN THIS STATE CAUSES TO BE EMITTED
ELSEWHERE.

(V) IN CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS
SUBSECTION (1)(e), THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER: THE BENEFITS OF
COMPLIANCE, INCLUDING HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND AIR QUALITY;
THE COSTS OF COMPLIANCE; THE TIME NECESSARY FOR COMPLIANCE; THE
RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH SOURCE OR SOURCE CATEGORY TO
STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION BASED ON CURRENT DATA
UPDATED AT REASONABLE INTERVALS AS DETERMINED BY THE
COMMISSION; THE IMPORTANCE OF STRIVING TO EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTE
THE BENEFITS OF COMPLIANCE, OPPORTUNITIES TO INCENTIVIZE
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND POLLUTION ABATEMENT
OPPORTUNITIES IN DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES,
OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE CLEAN ENERGY IN TRANSITIONING
COMMUNITIES; THE POTENTIAL TO ENHANCE THE RESILIENCE OF
COLORADO'S COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CLIMATE
IMPACTS; AND WHETHER GREATER OR MORE COST-EFFECTIVE EMISSION
REDUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH PROGRAM DESIGN.

(VI) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE
DIVISION, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, SHALL REPORT TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVERY ODD-NUMBERED YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE
DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e), PROVIDING A REPORT ON PROGRESS
TOWARD THE GOALS SET FORTH IN SECTION 25-7-102 (2)(g).

(VII) (A) IN CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS
SUBSECTION (1)(e), THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSULT WITH THE PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION.

(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND
DECLARES THAT IT IS BENEFICIAL TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF
CLEAN ENERGY PLANS THAT WILL REQUIRE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
CAUSED BY COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRICITY SALES TO DECREASE EIGHTY
PERCENT BY 2030 RELATIVE TO 2005 LEVELS TO PROVIDE FOR THE
COST-EFFECTIVE AND PROACTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF CLEAN ENERGY
RESOURCES. ACTIONS TAKEN PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e) SHALL
BE PRESUMED TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

(C) IN DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING, AND ENFORCING PROGRAMS
AND REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e), THE COMMISSION

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AND THE DIVISION SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANY CLEAN ENERGY PLAN AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION THAT, AS FILED, WILL ACHIEVE AT LEAST AN EIGHTY-PERCENT REDUCTION IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CAUSED BY THE UTILITY’S COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRICITY SALES BY 2030 RELATIVE TO 2005 LEVELS, AS VERIFIED BY THE DIVISION. WHEN INCLUDING PUBLIC UTILITIES IN ITS PROGRAMS OR REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e), THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT MANDATE THAT A PUBLIC UTILITY REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CAUSED BY THE UTILITY'S COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRICITY SALES BY 2030 MORE THAN IS REQUIRED UNDER SUCH AN APPROVED CLEAN ENERGY PLAN OR IMPOSE ANY DIRECT, NONADMINISTRATIVE COST ON THE PUBLIC UTILITY DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH QUANTITIES OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CAUSED BY THE UTILITY'S COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRICITY SALES THAT REMAIN AFTER THE REDUCTIONS REQUIRED BY SUCH A CLEAN ENERGY PLAN THROUGH 2030 IF THOSE REDUCTIONS ARE ACHIEVED AND THE DIVISION HAS VERIFIED THAT THE APPROVED CLEAN ENERGY PLAN WILL ACHIEVE AT LEAST A SEVENTY-FIVE-PERCENT REDUCTION IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CAUSED BY THE UTILITY’S COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRICITY SALES BY 2030 RELATIVE TO 2005 LEVELS.

(D) IMPLEMENTING RULES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION MUST NOT INCLUDE ANY REQUIREMENTS DICTATING THE MIX OF ELECTRIC GENERATING RESOURCES THAT ANY PUBLIC UTILITY SHALL USE TO MEET APPLICABLE POLLUTION LIMITS.

(E) IMPLEMENTING RULES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION MUST CONSIDER ISSUES RELATING TO JOINT OWNERSHIP OF ELECTRIC GENERATING RESOURCES AS BETWEEN MULTIPLE PARTIES AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PUBLIC UTILITY IS RELYING ON POWER PURCHASED FROM
THIRD PARTIES IN MEETING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER SUCH A CLEAN ENERGY PLAN.

(VIII) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e) DIMINISHES THE EXISTING AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION OR THE DIVISION. NOTHING AUTHORIZED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e), INCLUDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF EMISSION REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS OR EMISSION AUTHORIZATIONS AND EXCLUDING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, IMPLICATES STATE FISCAL YEAR SPENDING AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-77-102. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e) DIMINISHES THE AUTHORITY OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION UNDER THE PUBLIC UTILITIES LAW, INCLUDING SECTIONS 40-3-101 AND 40-3-102.

(IX) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (1)(e):

(A) "COST-EFFECTIVE" OR "COST-EFFECTIVENESS" MEANS THE COST PER UNIT OF REDUCED EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES EXPRESSED AS CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT.

(B) "GREENHOUSE GAS" INCLUDES CARBON DIOXIDE, METHANE, NITROUS OXIDE, HYDROFLUOROCARBONS, PERFLUOROCARBONS, NITROGEN TRIFLUORIDE, AND SULFUR HEXAFLUORIDE, EXPRESSED AS CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.