

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REREVISED

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

LLS NO. 20-0629.01 Jery Payne x2157

SENATE BILL 20-003

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE PARKS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
102 **THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 transfers \$10,000,000 from the general fund to the capital construction fund to develop infrastructure to open a state park on the property surrounding Fishers Peak and to accommodate additional visitors at other state parks. Money appropriated to the department of natural resources is available to the department for 3 years, after which any unexpended and unencumbered money reverts back to the capital

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

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
June 12, 2020

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
June 10, 2020

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 28, 2020

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 27, 2020

construction fund.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the "I Love
3 Colorado State Parks Act".

4 **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
5 hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

6 (a) Colorado is legendary for its outdoor recreation opportunities,
7 and state parks provide an important gateway for Colorado citizens and
8 visitors to experience the outdoors in a safe, family-friendly environment;

9 (b) The state's population is rapidly growing, and ninety percent
10 of Coloradans participate in outdoor recreation activities. Overall,
11 outdoor recreation contributes sixty-two billion dollars to Colorado's
12 economy, and the industry pays twenty-one billion dollars annually in
13 wages and salaries.

14 (c) Colorado's state park system accommodates more than fifteen
15 million visitor days each year and contributes one billion two hundred
16 million dollars annually to the state's economy. Visitation at state parks
17 has grown steadily over the last five years, with a net increase of more
18 than two million two hundred thousand visitor days from fiscal year
19 2014-15 through fiscal year 2018-19, and maintenance and capacity
20 improvements have not kept up with this significant growth in demand.

21 (d) To address these visitation challenges, Senate Bill 18-143, the
22 "Hunting, Fishing, and Parks for Future Generations Act" enacted in
23 2018, set a goal for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify and plan the
24 development of a new state park. Colorado has not opened a new state
25 park since Staunton State Park in 2013, and the state park system has lost

1 acreage in the past decade.

2 (e) The Fishers Peak property in Las Animas county was
3 identified as Colorado's next state park through a partnership between the
4 city of Trinidad, Great Outdoors Colorado, The Nature Conservancy, The
5 Trust for Public Land, and Colorado parks and wildlife. The property
6 provides an iconic backdrop to the city of Trinidad and presents a rare
7 opportunity to benefit the local economy, achieve landscape-level
8 conservation, and provide recreational access to more than thirty square
9 miles of public land.

10 (f) In addition to developing new state parks, Colorado parks and
11 wildlife must prevent Colorado's existing forty-one state parks from being
12 "loved to death" by investing in infrastructure and maintenance to
13 improve the visitor experience and increase capacity.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-302, **amend**
15 (2)(hh) and (2)(ii); and **add** (2)(jj) as follows:

16 **24-75-302. Capital construction fund - capital assessment fees**
17 **- calculation - information technology capital account.** (2) The
18 controller shall transfer a sum as specified in this subsection (2) from the
19 general fund to the capital construction fund as money becomes available
20 in the general fund during the fiscal year beginning on July 1 of the fiscal
21 year in which the transfer is made. Transfers between funds pursuant to
22 this subsection (2) are not appropriations subject to the limitations of
23 section 24-75-201.1. The amounts transferred pursuant to this subsection
24 (2) are as follows:

25 (hh) For the 2019-20 fiscal year, one hundred seventy-eight
26 thousand four hundred seventy-one dollars pursuant to H.B. 19-1250,
27 enacted in 2019; and

1 (ii) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, one hundred ten thousand six
2 hundred fifty-two dollars pursuant to S.B. 19-172, enacted in 2019; AND

3 (jj) FOR THE 2020-21 STATE FISCAL YEAR, ONE MILLION DOLLARS
4 UNDER S.B. 20-003, ENACTED IN 2020.

5 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 33-9-113 as
6 follows:

7 **33-9-113. Parks and wildlife commission duties - gifts, grants,**
8 **and donations for Fishers Peak State Park - funding needs reporting**

9 **- repeal** (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
10 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
11 PURPOSES OF DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING FISHERS PEAK STATE PARK.

12 (2) BY DECEMBER 1, 2020, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A
13 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETAILING STATE PARK FUNDING
14 NEEDS AND SHORTFALLS.

15 (3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

16 **SECTION 5. Appropriation - adjustments to 2020 long bill.** To
17 implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual
18 general appropriation act for the 2020-21 state fiscal year to the office of
19 the governor for use by the office of information technology for
20 applications administration is decreased by \$1,000,000.

21 **SECTION 6. Capital construction appropriation.** (1) For the
22 2020-21 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the department of
23 natural resources for use by the division of parks and wildlife. This
24 appropriation is from the capital construction fund created in section
25 24-75-302, C.R.S. To implement this act, the division of parks and
26 wildlife may use this appropriation for capital construction related to
27 infrastructure development projects, including conducting any necessary

1 cultural and natural resource studies, at the new Fishers Peak State Park
2 in Las Animas county.

3 (2) The appropriations made in subsection (1) of this section are
4 available upon passage of this act, and if any appropriation project is
5 initiated within the fiscal year, the appropriation for the project remains
6 available until completion of the project or for three years, whichever
7 comes first, at which time the unexpended and unencumbered balances
8 revert to the capital construction fund.

9 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.