

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0220.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

HOUSE BILL 22-1058

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mullica and Garnett,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Business Affairs & Labor

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CONTRACT DISPUTES INVOLVING THE BROADCAST OF
102 PROFESSIONAL SPORTING EVENTS.

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 authorizes the attorney general to require a cable provider and regional sports network to submit to nonbinding arbitration when negotiation for the renewal of a contract to broadcast professional sporting events continues for at least 6 weeks after the contract has expired.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 14 to article
3 1 of title 6 as follows:

4 PART 14

5 ACCESS TO COLORADO'S PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS

6 **6-1-1401. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
7 FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

8 (a) COLORADANS TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE STATE'S
9 PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS;

10 (b) WITH THE STATE'S PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS ALL LOCATED
11 IN THE DENVER METRO AREA, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF COLORADANS
12 ONLY HAVE ACCESS TO THE TEAMS THROUGH TELEVISION BROADCASTS OF
13 THE TEAMS' SPORTING EVENTS;

14 (c) IN THE PAST, TELEVISION BROADCASTS OF SOME PROFESSIONAL
15 SPORTS TEAMS' EVENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED THROUGH CONTRACTS
16 BETWEEN CABLE PROVIDERS AND REGIONAL SPORTS NETWORKS. AN
17 UNWILLINGNESS BY A CABLE PROVIDER OR REGIONAL SPORTS NETWORK TO
18 NEGOTIATE SUCH A CONTRACT IN GOOD FAITH MAY LEAVE MANY
19 COLORADANS WHO HAVE CABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
20 VIEWING TELEVISION BROADCASTS OF THE SPORTING EVENTS WITHOUT
21 ACCESS TO THE EVENTS.

22 (d) IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE STATE TO ENSURE THAT ALL
23 COLORADANS WHO WISH TO ACCESS SPORTING EVENTS INVOLVING THE
24 STATE'S PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS HAVE ACCESS TO THOSE SPORTING
25 EVENTS THROUGH TELEVISION BROADCASTS; AND

26 (e) IT IS ALSO IN THE INTEREST OF THE STATE, WHEN POSSIBLE, TO

1 FACILITATE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CABLE PROVIDERS AND
2 REGIONAL SPORTS NETWORKS WHEN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR TO
3 HAVE REACHED AN IMPASSE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL COLORADANS
4 MAY ENJOY THE STATE'S PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS.

5 **6-1-1402. Contract disputes between a cable provider and**
6 **regional sports network - authority of the attorney general to**
7 **intervene.** IN A DISPUTE BETWEEN A CABLE PROVIDER AND REGIONAL
8 SPORTS NETWORK REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT THAT
9 PROVIDES THE CABLE PROVIDER'S SUBSCRIBERS WITH ACCESS TO
10 BROADCASTS OF SPORTING EVENTS INVOLVING COLORADO'S
11 PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY REQUIRE
12 THE PARTIES TO SUBMIT THE DISPUTE TO NONBINDING ARBITRATION WHEN
13 THE DISPUTE CONTINUES FOR AT LEAST SIX WEEKS AFTER THE CONTRACT
14 HAS EXPIRED.

15 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
18 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
19 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
20 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
21 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
22 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
23 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.