First Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

This Unofficial Version Includes Committee Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading

LLS NO. 23-0682.01 Megan McCall x4215

HOUSE BILL 23-1289

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pugliese and Bird,

Liston and Bridges,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

House Committees

Finance Appropriations **Senate Committees**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101	CONCERNING INCOME TAX CREDITS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
102	ADVANCEMENTS IN THE AVIATION INDUSTRY, AND, IN
103	CONNECTION THEREWITH, ALLOWING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT
104	FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND
105	SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND ALLOWING AN INCOME TAX CREDIT
106	FOR INVESTMENTS MADE IN A BUSINESS IN THE STATE THAT
107	RESEARCHES, DEVELOPS, OR PRODUCES ALTERNATIVE AVIATION
108	FUELS OR ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT POWERPLANTS.

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 creates a new refundable income tax credit for income tax years commencing on and after January 1, 2024, but before January 1, 2033, for the purchase or lease of electric-powered aviation ground support equipment that is purchased or leased to replace similar models of gas-powered or diesel-powered aviation ground support equipment in the amount of 18% of the actual cost to purchase the equipment that may be claimed by a qualifying taxpayer; except that the total amount of credits available to be claimed is \$250,000 in each tax year and is available on a first come, first served basis. A qualifying taxpayer is an aviation business, an airport, or a fixed base operator. Only one tax credit may be claimed per individual piece of equipment.

Section 2 creates a new refundable income tax credit for income tax years commencing on and after January 1, 2024, but before January 1, 2033, for an investment made by a qualified investor in a qualified business that researches, develops, or produces alternative aviation fuels or alternative aircraft powerplants in the amount of 30% of the investment; except that the total amount of credits available to be claimed is capped for each tax year for which the credit is allowed and is available on a first come, first served basis. The investment must be used by the qualified business in furtherance of research, development, or production of alternative aviation fuels or alternative aircraft powerplants. The executive director of the department of revenue is authorized to promulgate rules to implement the tax credit, including precertification of a business as a qualified business eligible to receive a qualified investment.

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SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 39-22-516.9 as

3 follows:

39-22-516.9. Tax credit for innovative aviation ground
support equipment - tax preference performance statement definitions - repeal. (1) (a) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 39-21-304
(1), WHICH REQUIRES EACH BILL THAT CREATES A NEW TAX EXPENDITURE
TO INCLUDE A TAX PREFERENCE PERFORMANCE STATEMENT AS PART OF A
STATUTORY LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS
AND DECLARES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS TAX EXPENDITURE IS TO

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

INDUCE CERTAIN DESIGNATED BEHAVIOR BY TAXPAYERS, SPECIFICALLY
 THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT
 EQUIPMENT, AND PROVIDE TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN BUSINESSES OR
 INDIVIDUALS WHO PURCHASE ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND
 SUPPORT EQUIPMENT.

6 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE STATE AUDITOR SHALL
7 MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CREDIT IN ACHIEVING THE PURPOSES
8 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION BASED ON THE NUMBER
9 AND VALUE OF THE CREDITS CLAIMED.

10 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
11 REQUIRES:

(a) "ACTUAL COST INCURRED" MEANS THE ACTUAL COST PAID BY
THE PURCHASER FOR ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT
EQUIPMENT OR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENTS DUE BY A LESSEE
UNDER A LEASE FOR ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT
EQUIPMENT, MINUS ANY CREDITS, GRANTS, OR REBATES, INCLUDING
FEDERAL CREDITS, GRANTS, OR REBATES RECEIVED BUT EXCLUDING THE
CREDIT SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.

19 (b) "AIRPORT" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION
20 41-3-103 (2).

(c) "AVIATION BUSINESS" IS A BUSINESS LOCATED AT AN AIRPORT
 THAT IS ENGAGED IN AVIATION OPERATIONS OR AVIATION SUPPORT.

(d) "AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT" MEANS NEW
GROUND POWER UNITS, BAGGAGE CARTS, TUGS, AIR STAIRS, BELT
LOADERS, AND DE-ICING EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING THE CHARGING SYSTEM
USED TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY TO THE EQUIPMENT, THAT IS EXCLUSIVELY
USED FOR AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT OPERATIONS AT AN AIRPORT IN THE

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- 1 STATE AND THAT HAS BEEN ASSIGNED A UNIQUE SERIAL NUMBER BY ITS
- 2 MANUFACTURER.

3 (e) "COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE" OR "OFFICE" MEANS THE
4 COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.5-101.

- 5 (f) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.
- 6 (g) "FIXED BASE OPERATOR" MEANS A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS
 7 THAT IS GRANTED THE RIGHT TO OPERATE AT AN AIRPORT AND PROVIDE
 8 ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING AERONAUTICAL SERVICES:
- 9 (I) FUELING;
- 10 (II) HANGARING;
- 11 (III) TIE-DOWN AND PARKING;
- 12 (IV) AIRCRAFT RENTAL;
- 13 (V) AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE; OR
- 14 (VI) FLIGHT INSTRUCTION.

15 (h) "QUALIFIED TAXPAYER" MEANS AN AVIATION BUSINESS,
16 AIRPORT, OR FIXED BASE OPERATOR THAT IS SUBJECT TO TAX UNDER THIS
17 ARTICLE 22.

18 (3) (a) FOR INCOME TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER 19 JANUARY 1, 2024, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, A QUALIFIED TAXPAYER 20 IS ALLOWED A CREDIT AGAINST THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE 22 IN 21 AN AMOUNT EOUAL TO EIGHTEEN PERCENT OF THE ACTUAL COST PAID TO 22 PURCHASE OR LEASE ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT 23 EQUIPMENT THAT IS PURCHASED OR LEASED TO REPLACE SIMILAR MODELS 24 OF GAS-POWERED OR DIESEL-POWERED AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT 25 EQUIPMENT AND THAT IS PLACED IN SERVICE DURING THE INCOME TAX 26 YEAR.

27 (b) IF ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

IS LEASED, THE LEASE MUST BE FOR A TERM OF AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND
 THE LESSEE, NOT THE LESSOR, IS ALLOWED TO CLAIM THE CREDIT
 ALLOWED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

4 (4) (a) A QUALIFIED TAXPAYER SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO 5 THE OFFICE FOR A TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE TO CLAIM THE CREDIT 6 ALLOWED BY THIS SECTION IN A FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE 7 OFFICE. THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION TO ALLOW THE 8 OFFICE TO MAKE A DETERMINATION THAT THE APPLICANT IS A OUALIFIED 9 TAXPAYER AND THAT THE AMOUNT APPLIED FOR IS THE ACTUAL COST PAID 10 TO PURCHASE OR LEASE ELECTRIC-POWERED AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT 11 EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH A CREDIT IS ALLOWED BY THIS SECTION.

(b) THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ALL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATES
issued by the office pursuant to this subsection (4) must not
exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars per income tax year.
IN APPLYING THE LIMIT IN THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b) TO INCOME TAX YEARS
BEGINNING ON ANY DATE OTHER THAN JANUARY 1, THE AMOUNT OF THE
TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE ISSUED IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE YEAR IN WHICH
THE INCOME TAX YEAR BEGINS.

(c) THE OFFICE SHALL, IN A SUFFICIENTLY TIMELY MANNER TO
ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCESS RETURNS CLAIMING THE INCOME
TAX CREDIT ALLOWED IN THIS SECTION, PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH
AN ELECTRONIC REPORT OF EACH QUALIFIED TAXPAYER THAT THE OFFICE
APPROVED FOR THE INCOME TAX CREDIT ALLOWED IN THIS SECTION FOR
THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION:

26 (I) THE TAXPAYER'S NAME;

27 (II) THE TAXPAYER'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR THE

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TAXPAYER'S COLORADO ACCOUNT NUMBER AND FEDERAL EMPLOYER
 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER; AND

(III) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE.

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4 (5) NO MORE THAN ONE TAX CREDIT SHALL BE GRANTED 5 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL PIECE OF 6 ELECTRIC-POWERED GROUND SUPPORT AVIATION EQUIPMENT. A 7 QUALIFIED TAXPAYER SHALL PROVIDE THE OFFICE WITH THE SERIAL 8 NUMBER OF THE AVIATION GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH THE 9 QUALIFIED TAXPAYER CLAIMS A CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, AND 10 THE OFFICE SHALL TRACK THE SERIAL NUMBERS.

(6) IF THE AMOUNT OF A CREDIT ALLOWED BY THIS SECTION
EXCEEDS A QUALIFIED TAXPAYER'S ACTUAL TAX LIABILITY FOR AN INCOME
TAX YEAR, THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT NOT USED TO OFFSET THE
QUALIFIED TAXPAYER'S INCOME TAX LIABILITY IS NOT REFUNDED TO THE
QUALIFIED TAXPAYER AND IS NOT CARRIED FORWARD AS A TAX CREDIT
AGAINST THE QUALIFIED TAXPAYER'S INCOME TAX LIABILITY IN ANY
SUBSEQUENT TAX YEAR.

18 (7) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIMITATION ON THE MAXIMUM
19 TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDITS THAT MAY BE CLAIMED FOR AN INCOME TAX
20 YEAR SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION, QUALIFIED
21 TAXPAYERS ARE ALLOWED THE TAX CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
22 IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THE OFFICE RECEIVES A COMPLETED APPLICATION
23 THAT COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION AND ANY
24 OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE OFFICE.

(8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2031.
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 39-22-549 as
follows:

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1 **39-22-549.** Tax credit for investment in sustainable aviation 2 technologies and advancements - tax preference performance 3 statement - rules - definitions - repeal. (1) (a) IN ACCORDANCE WITH 4 SECTION 39-21-304(1), WHICH REQUIRES EACH BILL THAT CREATES A NEW 5 TAX EXPENDITURE TO INCLUDE A TAX PREFERENCE PERFORMANCE 6 STATEMENT AS PART OF A STATUTORY LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION, THE 7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS TAX 8 EXPENDITURE IS TO INDUCE CERTAIN DESIGNATED BEHAVIOR BY 9 TAXPAYERS, IMPROVE INDUSTRY COMPETITIVENESS, AND PROVIDE TAX 10 RELIEF FOR CERTAIN BUSINESSES OR INDIVIDUALS BY ENCOURAGING 11 INVESTMENT IN BUSINESSES IN THE STATE THAT RESEARCH, DEVELOP, OR 12 PRODUCE ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUELS OR ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT 13 POWERPLANTS.

(b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE STATE AUDITOR SHALL
MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CREDIT IN ACHIEVING THE PURPOSES
SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION BASED ON THE NUMBER
AND VALUE OF THE CREDITS CLAIMED.

18 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE19 REQUIRES:

20 (a) "AIRCRAFT POWERPLANT" MEANS THE ENGINE OF AN AIRCRAFT
 21 THAT PROVIDES MECHANICAL FORCE TO POWER OR PROPEL THE AIRCRAFT
 22 AND ASSOCIATED ACCESSORIES NECESSARY FOR FLIGHT.

(b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.

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(c) "SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL" MEANS LIQUID FUEL THAT
MEETS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN 26 U.S.C. SECS. 40B (d) AND 40B (e),
AS AMENDED.

27 (d) (I) "QUALIFIED BUSINESS" MEANS A CORPORATION, LIMITED

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LIABILITY COMPANY, PARTNERSHIP, OR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITY THAT IS
 ENGAGED IN THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, OR PRODUCTION OF
 ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUELS OR ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT POWERPLANTS
 IN THE STATE, INCLUDING ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT PROPULSION SYSTEMS,
 SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL, HYDROGEN, ALTERNATIVES TO LEADED
 AVIATION GAS, OR DEVELOPMENT OF RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE
 STATE.

8 (II) A "QUALIFIED BUSINESS" MAY BE A QUALIFIED INVESTOR FOR
9 PURPOSES OF MAKING A QUALIFIED INVESTMENT PURSUANT TO THIS
10 SECTION.

(e) "QUALIFIED INVESTMENT" MEANS AN INVESTMENT MADE AT
ANY TIME AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2033, IN AN
EQUITY SECURITY THAT MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

(I) THE EQUITY SECURITY IS IN COMMON STOCK, PREFERRED
STOCK, AN INTEREST IN A PARTNERSHIP OR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY,
A SECURITY THAT IS CONVERTIBLE INTO AN EQUITY SECURITY, OR
CONVERTIBLE DEBT INVESTMENT;

18 (II) THE INVESTMENT IS AT LEAST TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS; AND 19 (III) THE INVESTMENT IS USED BY THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS IN 20 FURTHERANCE OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, OR PRODUCTION OF 21 ALTERNATIVE AVIATION FUELS OR ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT POWERPLANTS 22 IN THE STATE, INCLUDING ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT PROPULSION SYSTEMS, 23 SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL, HYDROGEN, ALTERNATIVES TO LEADED 24 AVIATION GAS, OR DEVELOPMENT OF RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE 25 STATE.

26 (f) "QUALIFIED INVESTOR" MEANS A TAXPAYER WHO MAKES A
27 QUALIFIED INVESTMENT IN A QUALIFIED BUSINESS.

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1 (3) FOR INCOME TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 2 1, 2024, BUT BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, A QUALIFIED INVESTOR IS 3 ALLOWED A CREDIT AGAINST THE INCOME TAXES IMPOSED BY THIS 4 ARTICLE 22 FOR A QUALIFIED INVESTMENT MADE IN A QUALIFIED BUSINESS 5 IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THIRTY PERCENT OF THE QUALIFIED 6 INVESTMENT; EXCEPT THAT THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF TAX CREDITS 7 ALLOWED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT EXCEED TWO HUNDRED 8 FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS PER INCOME TAX YEAR.

9 (4) (a) IN ORDER TO CLAIM THE CREDIT, A QUALIFIED INVESTOR
10 AND A QUALIFIED BUSINESS MUST KEEP RECORDS RELATED TO THE
11 QUALIFIED INVESTMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE
12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO
13 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING RULES TO PRECERTIFY QUALIFIED
14 BUSINESSES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE QUALIFIED INVESTMENTS.

15 (b) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS BY THE
16 DEPARTMENT, RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE QUALIFIED INVESTOR MUST
17 SHOW:

18 (I) THE DATE THE QUALIFIED INVESTMENT IS MADE AND THE19 AMOUNT OF THE INVESTMENT; AND

(II) CERTIFICATION THAT THE TAX CREDIT WAS A SIGNIFICANT
FACTOR IN THE QUALIFIED INVESTOR'S DECISION TO MAKE THE
INVESTMENT AND THAT WITHOUT THE TAX CREDIT, THE QUALIFIED
INVESTOR WOULD NOT HAVE MADE THE INVESTMENT OR WOULD HAVE
MADE AN INVESTMENT IN A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER AMOUNT.

(c) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE
 DEPARTMENT, RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS MUST
 SHOW THAT IT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE QUALIFIED INVESTMENTS UNDER

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THIS SECTION AND THAT IT HAS USED OR INTENDS TO USE THE QUALIFIED
 INVESTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2)(e)(III) OF THIS
 SECTION.

4 (d) THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 5 FROM A QUALIFIED INVESTOR OR FROM A QUALIFIED BUSINESS IN ORDER 6 TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR THE TAX CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS 7 SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISALLOW THE TAX CREDIT IF THE 8 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THERE IS A MISREPRESENTATION 9 REGARDING WHETHER THE TAXPAYER CLAIMING THE CREDIT IS A 10 QUALIFIED INVESTOR OR MADE A QUALIFIED INVESTMENT. THE 11 DEPARTMENT SHALL DISALLOW THE TAX CREDIT IF THE DEPARTMENT 12 DETERMINES THAT THERE IS A MISREPRESENTATION REGARDING WHETHER 13 THE INVESTMENT WAS MADE TO A QUALIFIED BUSINESS AND WHETHER THE 14 QUALIFIED INVESTOR KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OF THE 15 MISREPRESENTATION AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE CREDIT WAS CLAIMED. IF 16 THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THERE HAS BEEN A 17 MISREPRESENTATION BY A QUALIFIED BUSINESS, THE QUALIFIED BUSINESS 18 LOSES THE PRECERTIFICATION ALLOWED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a)19 OF THIS SECTION AND THE DEPARTMENT'S RULES, IF APPLICABLE.

(e) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIMITATION ON THE MAXIMUM
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDITS THAT MAY BE CLAIMED FOR AN INCOME TAX
YEAR SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, QUALIFIED
INVESTORS ARE ALLOWED THE TAX CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN
THE ORDER IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES A COMPLETED
APPLICATION THAT COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION
AND ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH BY THE DEPARTMENT.

27 (5) IF THE AMOUNT OF A CREDIT ALLOWED BY THIS SECTION

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EXCEEDS A QUALIFIED INVESTOR'S ACTUAL TAX LIABILITY FOR AN INCOME
 TAX YEAR, THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT NOT USED TO OFFSET THE
 QUALIFIED INVESTOR'S INCOME TAX LIABILITY IS NOT REFUNDED TO THE
 QUALIFIED INVESTOR AND IS NOT CARRIED FORWARD AS A TAX CREDIT
 AGAINST THE QUALIFIED INVESTOR'S INCOME TAX LIABILITY IN ANY
 SUBSEQUENT TAX YEAR.

7 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2031. 8 **SECTION 3.** Act subject to petition - effective date. This act 9 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the 10 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except 11 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V 12 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this 13 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take 14 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in 15 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the 16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.