

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 24-0745.01 Clare Haffner x2045

**HOUSE BILL 24-1265**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Soper and Bacon**, Kipp, Lukens

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Baisley and Roberts**, Bridges, Rich, Will

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**House Committees**

Business Affairs & Labor  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
102 **TO STUDY CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY IN THE STATE.**

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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 creates a legislative interim committee (committee) to study cell phone connectivity in the state and make legislative recommendations concerning how to improve cell phone connectivity. The committee consists of 6 voting members of the general assembly and 6 nonvoting members, including 4 members of the cell phone industry, a representative of the department of transportation, and a representative of

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

the department of public safety.

The committee must begin meeting no later than September 30, 2024, and may hold up to 6 meetings in the 2024 legislative interim and up to 6 meetings in the 2025 legislative interim. During each legislative interim, the committee may recommend up to 3 bills.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Cell phones are an integral aspect of the lives of Coloradans  
5 in that they:

6 (I) Keep Coloradans connected;

7 (II) Provide Coloradans with a sense of security; and

8 (III) Play a crucial role in emergencies;

9 (b) The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of the  
10 use of cell phones as a means to stay connected during emergencies. For  
11 instance, many Coloradans relied on their cell phones for mobile hotspots  
12 or tethering during the pandemic.

13 (c) Cell phones are also crucial for tourists that visit Colorado.  
14 Tourism is a vital part of Colorado's economy; 2022 saw a record high of  
15 \$27.7 billion in travel spending and 90 million visitors. It is important that  
16 tourists feel safe and prepared in the event of an emergency.

17 (d) Gaps in cell phone coverage exist throughout Colorado,  
18 particularly in rural and mountainous areas. In addition, there are  
19 disparities in cell phone coverage in communities of color and historically  
20 disadvantaged communities throughout the state.

21 (e) Identifying gaps in cell phone coverage throughout the state,  
22 and tools to cure these gaps, would help protect Coloradans and tourists  
23 in emergency situations and is crucial to ensuring that no part of Colorado

1 is left behind when it comes to cell phone coverage.

2           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 40-15-114 as  
3 follows:

4           **40-15-114. Legislative interim committee on cell phone**  
5 **connectivity - created - members - definitions - notice to revisor of**  
6 **statutes - repeal.** (1) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 2-3-303.3, THE  
7 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY IS  
8 CREATED.

9           (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO STUDY CELL PHONE  
10 CONNECTIVITY IN THE STATE WITH A FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING GAPS IN CELL  
11 PHONE COVERAGE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL FOCUS ON:

12           (a) MAJOR ROADWAYS, MOUNTAIN PASSES, AND POPULAR  
13 TRAILHEADS;

14           (b) RURAL COMMUNITIES;

15           (c) HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES;

16           (d) EXAMINING WHETHER MAPS PROVIDED BY CELL PHONE  
17 COMPANIES ACCURATELY DESCRIBE COVERAGE AREAS; AND

18           (e) DETERMINING STATE TOOLS AND RESOURCES THAT MAY BE  
19 UTILIZED TO MINIMIZE GAPS IN COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

20           (3) (a) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING SIX VOTING  
21 MEMBERS:

22           (I) THREE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, WITH TWO MEMBERS  
23 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND ONE MEMBER  
24 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

25           (II) THREE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WITH  
26 TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
27 REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY

1 LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

2 (b) THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING SIX  
3 NONVOTING MEMBERS:

4 (I) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WHO MUST  
5 REPRESENT THE CELL PHONE INDUSTRY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE STATE,  
6 AS FOLLOWS:

7 (A) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A CELL PHONE  
8 COMPANY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE WESTERN SLOPE OF THE STATE;

9 (B) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A CELL PHONE  
10 COMPANY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE EASTERN PLAINS OF THE STATE; AND

11 (C) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A CELL PHONE  
12 COMPANY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREAS OF THE STATE;

13 (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
14 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-128.7 TO  
15 REPRESENT THE DEPARTMENT; AND

16 (III) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
17 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-128.6 TO  
18 REPRESENT THE DEPARTMENT.

19 (c) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS  
20 OF THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2024. IF A VACANCY ARISES  
21 ON THE COMMITTEE, THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT A  
22 MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

23 (d) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL  
24 DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE. IN THE CASE OF A TIE VOTE,  
25 THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL CAST AN ADDITIONAL DECIDING  
26 VOTE.

27 (4) THE COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING NO LATER

1 THAN JUNE 30, 2024. THE COMMITTEE MAY MEET UP TO SIX TIMES DURING  
2 THE 2024 INTERIM AND UP TO SIX TIMES DURING THE 2025 INTERIM. OF  
3 THE MEETINGS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4), THE COMMITTEE  
4 MAY TAKE UP TO TWO FIELD TRIPS PER YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH ITS  
5 DUTIES MANDATED UNDER THIS SECTION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE  
6 CHALLENGES OF CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY IN THE STATE.

7 (5) THE COMMITTEE MAY RECOMMEND UP TO A TOTAL OF THREE  
8 BILLS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-301 (1)  
9 DURING EACH INTERIM IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE MEETS. LEGISLATION  
10 RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE MUST BE TREATED AS LEGISLATION  
11 RECOMMENDED BY AN INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR PURPOSES OF APPLICABLE  
12 DEADLINES, BILL INTRODUCTION LIMITS, AND ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS  
13 IMPOSED BY THE JOINT RULES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

14 (6) THE NONVOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE  
15 WITHOUT COMPENSATION, BUT EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE MAY  
16 BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE  
17 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. LEGISLATIVE  
18 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPENSATED PURSUANT TO  
19 SECTION 2-2-307 (3).

20 (7) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF AND THE OFFICE OF  
21 LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE  
22 COMMITTEE.

23 ■ ■

24 (8) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

25 (a) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE  
26 ON CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS  
27 SECTION.

1 (b) "RURAL COMMUNITY" MEANS ANY TERRITORY, INCORPORATED  
2 OR UNINCORPORATED, THAT IS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN AN URBAN AREA, AS  
3 DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

4 (9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

5 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
8 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
9 institutions. ■