

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado General Assembly

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Diane Schwenke and David Davia
FROM: Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services
DATE: April 1, 2020
SUBJECT: Proposed initiative measure 2019-2020 #313, concerning Oil and Gas Development Rules

Section 1-40-105 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the directors of the Colorado Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to "review and comment" on initiative petitions for proposed laws and amendments to the Colorado constitution. We hereby submit our comments to you regarding the appended proposed initiative.

The purpose of this statutory requirement of the directors of Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services is to provide comments intended to aid proponents in determining the language of their proposal and to avail the public of knowledge of the contents of the proposal. Our first objective is to be sure we understand your intent and your objective in proposing the amendment. We hope that the statements and questions contained in this memorandum will provide a basis for discussion and understanding of the proposal.

This initiative was submitted with a series of initiatives including proposed initiatives 2019-2020 #307 to #312. The comments and questions raised in this memorandum will not include comments and questions that were addressed in the memoranda for proposed initiatives 2019-2020 #307 to #312, except as necessary to fully understand the issues raised by the revised proposed initiative. Comments and questions addressed in those other memoranda may also be relevant, and those questions and comments are hereby incorporated by reference in this memorandum.

Purposes

The major purpose of the proposed amendment to the Colorado Revised Statutes appears to be to keep various oil and gas conservation commission and air quality control commission rules that regulate oil and gas development from being repealed or amended to be less stringent.

Substantive Question

The substance of the proposed initiative raises the following comments and questions:

1. Article V, section 1 (5.5) of the Colorado constitution requires all proposed initiatives to have a single subject. What is the single subject of the proposed initiative?

Technical Comments

The following comments address technical issues raised by the form of the proposed initiative. These comments will be read aloud at the public meeting only if the proponents so request. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about these comments at the review and comment meeting. Please consider revising the proposed initiative as suggested below.

1. The headnote for section 34-60-132 should not be shown in small capital letters and only the first word should be capitalized.
2. The headnote should end with a period and subsection (1) should follow the headnote on the same line. For example:
34-60-132. Oil and gas development rules. (1) The following rules ...