

HB24-1012 Front Range Passenger Rail District Statutory Clean up

Sponsors: Rep. Tisha Mauro, Rep. Andrew Boesenecker and Senator Rachel Zenzinger and Senator Cleave Simpson

Background:

Since the passage of SB21-238 and the creation of the Front Range Passenger Rail District (District), language in the implementing statutes warrant revision to advance District efficiency and operating clarity. These changes are considered non-substantial modifications to the administration of the District.

What the bill does:

HB24-1012 provides the following efficiencies for the management of the FRPR.

- Changes ‘joint meeting’ to ‘annual update’ that can be electronic, given by the FRPR District staff. This change clarifies that virtual presentations could be included in the updates, and that staff can update partner agencies, and District Board members are able to join, but all board members are not *required*, as current statute states.
- Clarifies the quorum requirement for FRPR board meetings to ensure that only voting members count towards a quorum, as stated in the internal District bylaws.
- Allows FRPR District General Manager to enter into some contracts, such as small administrative and consultant contracts, instead of only the board having procurement authority. This improves administrative efficiency, and follows the District’s internal Procurement and Purchasing Policy.
- Clarifies Board authority to determine non-voting Director participation in discussions directly impacting their business, eg. The District discussing negotiations around access freight rail lines.
- Specifies that a plan must be in place prior to going to the taxpayers with a ballot measure for future funding. The bill strikes “service development” which is a kind of federal plan required for the Federal Rail Administration, but not necessarily the right plan to communicate to voters prior to an election.
- Clarifies start times for Board Director terms moving forward.

Proposed Senate Amendments:

- **Secretary of State Ballot Language Certification**: This language creates efficiencies in how the District refers ballot measures to the thirteen county ballots. With this option, the District will send the Secretary of State the approved ballot language for certification, instead of sending it through the thirteen County Clerks’ offices to be certified at the county level. Under the amended process, the District must submit approved ballot measure language to the SOS within 60 days of the election. The SOS certifies it and sends that certification to the counties who must accept it and integrate it into their ballots.

- **Board Terms:** MPOs nominated their FRPRD Board Directors in various months in the beginning of 2022. Now some of those initial two-year terms are up and the clean up bill addresses this staggering effect. The amended language changes the date MPOs and the Governor make appointments to the Board of Directors by January 1.
- **Retain the Senate confirmation of Local Gov appointments:** This language was removed in the House and the amendment retains that confirmation.

Please support HB24-1012

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