

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0347.01 Jacob Bennington x2371

**SENATE BILL 26-047**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Danielson and Marchman,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Duran,**

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**Senate Committees**  
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE DEFINITION OF A GENERAL ELECTION**  
102           **FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING A QUESTION TO THE VOTERS**  
103           **TO ALLOW FIREFIGHTERS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN WITH**  
104           **THEIR PUBLIC EMPLOYERS.**

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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>.)*

Current law allows voters to circulate a petition for a ballot question requiring a local government to engage in collective bargaining with the fire department for the local government and extend coverage 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 "Colorado Firefighter Safety Act" to firefighters employed by the local government (question). The question may be added to the ballot for any general election, defined as a general municipal election, regular special district board election, statewide primary election, or statewide general election. The bill changes the definition of a general election for the purpose of determining when a question may be added to the ballot to include a statewide general election in an odd-numbered year only if it qualifies as a coordinated election, as defined in the "Uniform Election Code of 1992".

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-203, **amend**  
3           (11) as follows:

4           **29-5-203. Definitions.**

5           As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

6           (11) "General election" means a general municipal election,  
7           regular special district board election, statewide primary election, or  
8           statewide general election AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1-12-100.5 (7.5), SO  
9           LONG AS AN ELECTION HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF NOVEMBER IN AN  
10           ODD-NUMBERED YEAR QUALIFIES AS A COORDINATED ELECTION AS  
11           DEFINED IN SECTION 1-1-104 (6.5).

12           **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
13           takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
14           ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
15           12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
16           referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
17           state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
18           within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
19           unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

1      November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
2      official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.