

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0466.01 Rebecca Bayetti x4348

HOUSE BILL 26-1084

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING VOTER TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS TO EXPAND**
102 **INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OF INITIATED STATEWIDE**
103 **BALLOT MEASURES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
104 **REQUIRING THE BALLOT TITLE AND ABSTRACT OF THE FISCAL**
105 **IMPACT STATEMENT FOR CERTAIN INITIATED STATEWIDE**
106 **BALLOT MEASURES TO IDENTIFY THE MAIN AREAS OF STATE**
107 **EXPENDITURE THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE MEASURE.**

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>.)

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.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 6, 2026

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 5, 2026

The bill requires that certain language appear in the ballot title for an initiated statewide measure that would increase state expenditures but does not identify and provide for a sufficient source of revenue or sufficient reductions in state spending for specific public services or program areas to account for the increased expenditures (measure that increases state expenditures). The ballot title for a measure that increases state expenditures must include language identifying the 3 largest program areas of state expenditures for which state expenditures will be reduced if the measure passes, which must be in a format substantially similar to the following language: "... will reduce state expenditures for program areas that include (the 3 largest areas of program expenditure) by an estimated (projected dollar figure of reduction to those areas in the first full fiscal year that the measure will cause the reduction) ...". If the ballot measure specifies the public services or programs that are to be reduced, those public services or programs must be stated in the ballot title.

The bill also requires the ballot information booklet entry for a measure that increases state expenditures to include a description of the measure's projected effect on the 3 largest areas of program expenditure of the state and modifies existing statutory language to mirror this change.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-40-106, **amend**
3 **(3)(e) and (3)(h); and add (3)(e.5) and (3)(i)(III) as follows:**

4 **1-40-106. Title board - meetings - ballot title - initiative and**
5 **referendum - definitions - rules.**

6 (3) (e) For measures that reduce state tax revenue through a tax
7 change, the ballot title must begin "Shall there be a reduction to the
8 (description of tax) by (the percentage by which the tax is reduced in the
9 first full fiscal year that the measure reduces revenue) thereby reducing
10 state revenue, which will **LIKELY** reduce funding for state expenditures
11 that include but are not limited to (the three largest areas of program
12 expenditure) by an estimated (projected dollar figure of revenue reduction
13 to the state in the first full fiscal year that the measure reduces revenue)

1 in tax revenue...?". If the ballot measure specifies the public services or
2 programs that are to be reduced by the tax change, those public services
3 or programs must be stated in the ballot title. If the public services or
4 programs identified in the measure are insufficient to account for the full
5 dollar value of the tax change in the first full fiscal year that the measure
6 reduces revenue, then the three largest areas of program expenditure must
7 be stated in the bill title along with the public services or programs
8 identified in the measure. The estimates reflected in the ballot title shall
9 not be interpreted as restrictions of the state's budgeting process.

10 (e.5) FOR A MEASURE THAT INCREASES STATE EXPENDITURES
11 AS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (3)(i)(III) OF THIS SECTION, THE BALLOT TITLE
12 MUST INCLUDE LANGUAGE IDENTIFYING THE TOP THREE AREAS OF STATE
13 EXPENDITURES FOR WHICH STATE EXPENDITURES WILL LIKELY BE
14 REDUCED IF THE MEASURE PASSES. THIS LANGUAGE MAY APPEAR
15 ANYWHERE IN THE BALLOT TITLE AND MUST BE IN A FORMAT
16 SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: "... WILL LIKELY
17 REDUCE STATE EXPENDITURES FOR PROGRAM AREAS THAT INCLUDE (THE
18 THREE LARGEST AREAS OF PROGRAM EXPENDITURE) BY AN ESTIMATED
19 (PROJECTED DOLLAR FIGURE OF REDUCTION TO THOSE AREAS IN THE FIRST
20 FULL FISCAL YEAR THAT THE MEASURE WILL CAUSE THE REDUCTION) ...".
21 IF THE BALLOT MEASURE SPECIFIES THE PUBLIC SERVICES OR PROGRAMS
22 THAT ARE TO BE REDUCED, THOSE PUBLIC SERVICES OR PROGRAMS MUST
23 BE STATED IN THE BALLOT TITLE. IF THE REDUCED PUBLIC SERVICES OR
24 PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED IN THE MEASURE ARE INSUFFICIENT TO ACCOUNT
25 FOR THE FULL DOLLAR VALUE OF THE PROJECTED REDUCTION IN THE FIRST
26 FULL FISCAL YEAR THAT THE MEASURE REDUCES FUNDING, THEN THE
27 THREE LARGEST AREAS OF PROGRAM EXPENDITURE MUST BE STATED IN

1 THE BILL TITLE ALONG WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICES OR PROGRAMS
2 IDENTIFIED IN THE MEASURE. THE ESTIMATES REFLECTED IN THE BALLOT
3 TITLE MUST NOT BE INTERPRETED AS RESTRICTIONS OF THE STATE'S
4 BUDGETING PROCESS.

5 (h) In determining whether a ballot title qualifies as brief for
6 purposes of section 1-40-102 (10) and subsection (3)(b) of this section,
7 the language required by subsection (3)(e), **(3)(e.5)**, (3)(f), (3)(g), or (3)(j)
8 of this section may not be considered.

9 (i) As used in this subsection (3), unless the context otherwise
10 requires:

11 (III) "MEASURE THAT INCREASES STATE EXPENDITURES" MEANS
12 AN INITIATED BALLOT ISSUE THAT WILL RESULT IN INCREASED STATE
13 EXPENDITURES, EXCEPT FOR DE MINIMIS AND ADMINISTRATIVE
14 EXPENDITURES, AS SHOWN IN THE FISCAL SUMMARY PREPARED PURSUANT
15 TO SECTION 1-40-105.5 (1.5), AND THAT DOES NOT IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE
16 FOR A SUFFICIENT SOURCE OF REVENUE OR SUFFICIENT REDUCTIONS IN
17 STATE SPENDING FOR SPECIFIC PUBLIC SERVICES OR PROGRAM AREAS TO
18 ACCOUNT FOR THE INCREASED EXPENDITURES.

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-40-124.5, **amend**
20 (1)(b) introductory portion, (1)(b)(III)(L), and (1)(b)(IV); and **add**
21 (1)(b)(V) as follows:

22 **1-40-124.5. Ballot information booklet.**

23 (1) (b) The director of research of the legislative council of the
24 general assembly shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for every
25 initiated or referred measure, taking into consideration fiscal impact
26 information submitted by the office of state planning and budgeting, the
27 department of local affairs or any other state agency, and any proponent

1 or other interested person. The fiscal impact statement prepared for every
2 measure ~~shall~~ MUST be substantially similar in form and content to the
3 fiscal notes provided by the legislative council of the general assembly for
4 legislative measures pursuant to section 2-2-322. A complete copy of the
5 fiscal impact statement for ~~such~~ THE measure ~~shall~~ MUST be available
6 through the legislative council of the general assembly. The ballot
7 information booklet ~~shall~~ MUST indicate whether there is a fiscal impact
8 for each initiated or referred measure and ~~shall~~ MUST abstract the fiscal
9 impact statement for ~~such~~ THE measure. The abstract for every measure
10 ~~shall~~ MUST appear after the arguments for and against ~~such~~ THE measure
11 in the analysis section of the ballot information booklet and ~~shall~~ MUST
12 include, but ~~shall~~ IS not ~~be~~ limited to:

13 (III) For any initiated or referred measure that modifies the state
14 tax laws, if the measure would either increase or decrease individual
15 income tax revenue or state sales tax revenue, a table that shows the
16 number of tax filers in each income category, the total change in the
17 amount of tax owed for each income category, and the average change in
18 the amount of tax owed for each filer within each income category. If the
19 change in the amount of tax owed shown in the table is an increase, the
20 change must be expressed as a dollar amount preceded by a plus sign. If
21 the change in the amount of tax owed shown in the table is a decrease, the
22 change must be expressed as a dollar amount preceded by a negative sign.
23 The table must use the following income categories:

24 (L) Federal adjusted gross income greater than or equal to one
25 million dollars; ~~and~~

26 (IV) If the measure contains a proposed tax change, as defined in
27 section 1-40-106 (3)(i)(II), that reduces state tax revenue, a description of

1 the MEASURE'S **LIKELY** EFFECT ON THE three largest areas of program
2 expenditure, as defined in section 1-40-106 (3)(i)(I); AND

3 (V) FOR AN INITIATED MEASURE THAT IS A MEASURE THAT
4 INCREASES STATE EXPENDITURES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1-40-106
5 (3)(i)(III), A DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURE'S **LIKELY** EFFECT ON THE
6 THREE LARGEST AREAS OF PROGRAM EXPENDITURE, AS DEFINED IN
7 SECTION 1-40-106 (3)(i)(I).

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

18 (2) This act applies to initiative petition drafts submitted to the
19 secretary of state for title setting on or after the applicable effective date
20 of this act.