

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

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

LLS NO. 26-0347.01 Jacob Bennington x2371

SENATE BILL 26-047

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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.**

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.

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 11, 2026

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 10, 2026

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".

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~~ REGULAR municipal
7 election, regular special district board election, statewide primary
8 election, ~~or~~ statewide general election, OR COORDINATED ELECTION AS
9 DEFINED IN SECTION 1-1-104 (6.5).

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-206, **amend (1)**
11 as follows:

12 **29-5-206. Vote of the citizens to obligate a public employer to**
13 **engage in collective bargaining.**

14 (1) If a petition signed by at least five percent of the number of
15 persons who voted in the last ~~general~~ REGULAR municipal election,
16 general district election, or the total votes of each party's general election
17 in the case of a fire authority, unless petition requirements are otherwise
18 outlined by city charter or local ordinance, asks the public employer to
19 engage in collective bargaining with a named employee organization, the
20 public employer shall place on the ballot at the next general election the

1 following question for a yes or no vote: "Should the firefighters employed
2 by the [name of the public employer] be covered by the 'Colorado
3 Firefighter Safety Act'?". If a majority of the registered electors voting on
4 this question vote "yes", the public employer is obligated to engage in
5 collective bargaining pursuant to this part 2, and the employee
6 organization named in the petition becomes the exclusive representative
7 of the firefighters of that public employer. If a majority of the registered
8 electors voting on this question vote "no", the public employer will not be
9 obligated to engage in collective bargaining under this part 2, and the
10 meet and confer process in section 29-5-205 will continue to apply to that
11 public employer.

12 **SECTION 3. 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
20 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
21 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.