

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

March 12, 2026
Date

Committee on State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB26-1252 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, page 2, line 2, strike "24-33.5-705" and substitute
- 2 "24-33.5-1604".

- 3 Page 2, line 3, strike "(6.5)" and substitute "(7)".

- 4 Page 2, strike lines 4 through 6 and substitute:
 - 5 **"24-33.5-1604. Duties and powers of the division - rules.**
 - 6 (7) THE DIVISION SHALL SUPPORT HOMELAND SECURITY
 - 7 INITIATIVES BY:".

- 8 Page 3, line 12, after "MAINTAIN" insert "AND LEAD".

- 9 Page 6, strike lines 6 through 27.

- 10 Page 7, strike lines 1 through 27.

- 11 Page 8, strike lines 1 through 5 and substitute:
 - 12 **"SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add with amended**
 - 13 **and relocated provisions 24-33.5-2502.5 as follows:**
 - 14 **24-33.5-2502.5. [Formerly 24-33.5-705.5] Auxiliary**
 - 15 **communications unit - powers and duties of unit and office of public**
 - 16 **safety communications regarding auxiliary communications -**
 - 17 **definitions.**
 - 18 (1) As used in this section, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
 - 19 REQUIRES:
 - 20 (a) "Auxiliary emergency communicator" means an amateur radio

1 operator licensed by the United States federal communications
2 commission pursuant to 47 CFR 97 who meets the training requirements
3 and is credentialed by the office. An auxiliary emergency communicator
4 meeting the requirements of this paragraph (a) SUBSECTION (1)(a) serves
5 as ~~an authorized~~ A QUALIFIED volunteer of the ~~office~~ DIVISION for
6 purposes of article 10 of this ~~title~~ TITLE 24.

7 ~~(b) "Division" means the division of homeland security and~~
8 ~~emergency management created in section 24-33.5-1603.~~

9 ~~(c) "Office" means the office of emergency management created~~
10 ~~in section 24-33.5-705 (1).~~

11 ~~(d) (b) "Unit" means the auxiliary emergency communications~~
12 ~~unit of the office.~~

13 (c) "UNIT MEMBER" MEANS AN AUXILIARY EMERGENCY
14 COMMUNICATOR OR OTHER UNIT LEADERSHIP OR SUPPORT STAFF.

15 (2) The auxiliary ~~emergency~~ communications unit is ~~hereby~~
16 ~~established~~ CREATED within the office. The unit is in the charge of the
17 director of the office.

18 (3) The unit has the following powers, ~~and~~ duties, AND
19 PROTECTIONS:

20 (a) Establish programs for the training and credentialing of
21 auxiliary emergency communicators across the state, which training and
22 credentialing is declared to be a matter of statewide concern. In
23 connection with such training and credentialing, the use of the term
24 "auxiliary emergency communications" within the state is limited to
25 individuals, entities, associations, and units of local government that have
26 been certified by the director of the office as meeting the training and
27 credentialing requirements established by the department for auxiliary
28 emergency communicators.

29 (b) Assume all of the duties and possess all of the authority and
30 responsibilities of the radio amateur civil emergency service, referred to
31 in this section as "RACES", 47 CFR 97.407, within the state. Any
32 reference to RACES in any federal law or regulation, and any federal,
33 state, or local government emergency or disaster plans is to be interpreted
34 as referring to the unit, and the unit is the successor entity to any state
35 RACES organization referenced in any such law, regulation, or plan. No
36 other individual, entity, association, or government agency may represent
37 that it is a state RACES organization.

38 ~~(c) Ensure that auxiliary emergency communicators are authorized~~
39 ~~volunteers~~ AUTHORIZE UNIT MEMBERS AS QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS.
40 QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS ARE ENTITLED TO THE PROTECTIONS AND BENEFITS OF
41 part 8 of this article 33.5 when ~~assisting with the installation,~~
42 ~~maintenance, or demolition of communication facilities of any county~~
43 ~~sheriff, local government, local emergency planning committee, local~~

1 ~~emergency management agency, or state agency~~ PARTICIPATING IN
2 DIVISION ACTIVITIES, whether or not ~~such~~ THE activities occur during a
3 disaster; except that sections 24-33.5-825 and 24-33.5-826 do not apply
4 to a training exercise, drill, or class without the express prior consent and
5 approval of the volunteer's employer. THE UNIT MAY USE OR OPERATE
6 STATE VEHICLES WHILE PARTICIPATING IN DIVISION ACTIVITIES.

7 (4) In connection with the powers and duties of the unit as
8 specified in this section, the director of the office may:

9 (a) Develop and issue a credential that is recognized throughout
10 the state for the purpose of granting access to government facilities,
11 emergency operations centers, incident command posts, and disaster
12 scenes;

13 (b) Conduct criminal background investigations on candidates for
14 credentialing as ~~auxiliary emergency communicators~~ UNIT MEMBERS in
15 accordance with the security needs of the department. When the results
16 of a fingerprint-based criminal history record check of an applicant
17 performed pursuant to this section reveal a record of arrest without a
18 disposition, the DIVISION director shall require that applicant to submit to
19 a name-based judicial record check, as defined in section 22-2-119.3
20 (6)(d). The ~~unit~~ DIVISION DIRECTOR may deny credentialing to any
21 candidate based upon the results of a background check.

22 (c) Reimburse ~~auxiliary emergency communicators~~ UNIT
23 MEMBERS for necessary travel and other reasonable expenses incurred in
24 the performance of their duties; ~~including projects, training, drills,~~
25 ~~exercises, and disaster response activities;~~

26 (d) Expend state ~~moneys~~ MONEY, including, but not limited to,
27 grant ~~moneys~~ MONEY or ~~moneys~~ MONEY otherwise budgeted to the office,
28 to enhance the communication infrastructure as necessary to supplement
29 or reinforce the existing amateur radio systems and networks within the
30 state for the purposes of maximizing disaster preparedness and response.

31 **SECTION 6. Repeal of relocated provisions in this act.** In
32 Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal 24-33.5-705.5."

33 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

34 Page 12, line 20, after "portion" insert "(2)(a)(VIII)(A)," and strike
35 "(2)(a)(VIII)(L),".

36 Page 12, line 22, strike "(2)(a)(VIII)(M)" and substitute "(2)(a)(VIII)(M);
37 and **add** (2)(a)(VIII)(O)".

38 Page 13, after line 12 add:

1 "(A) A representative of ~~Colorado counties, incorporated, or its~~
2 ~~successor entity~~ A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF COLORADO COUNTIES;".

3 Page 13, strike lines 17 and 18.

4 Page 13, line 23, strike "security." and substitute "security; AND
5 (O) AN EMERGENCY MANAGER FROM A RURAL COUNTY.".

6 Page 14, strike lines 12 through 15 and substitute "the fund a ~~per diem~~
7 ~~allowance of fifty dollars for each day spent attending official board~~
8 ~~meetings;~~ REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE MEMBER'S TRAVEL EXPENSES
9 INCURRED FOR ATTENDING OFFICIAL BOARD MEETINGS IN ACCORDANCE
10 WITH STATE FISCAL RULES AND DEPARTMENT POLICY.".

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