HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Committee

February 19, 2025 Date

Committee on Business Affairs & Labor.

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

<u>HB25-1080</u> be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on <u>Finance</u> with favorable recommendation:

Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and
 substitute:

3 "SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 39-3-139 as
4 follows:

39-3-139. Property tax relief for communication services
deployment - legislative declaration - definitions. (1) THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

8 (a) THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE TAX RELIEF CREATED IN THIS 9 SECTION IS TO ENCOURAGE THE DEPLOYMENT OF COMMUNICATION 10 SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE STATE, PARTICULARLY IN 11 RURAL AND UNSERVED AREAS, AND TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR 12 INVESTMENTS IN NEW COMMUNICATION SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE IN 13 ADDITION TO INCENTIVES ALREADY CREATED BY OTHER STATE OR 14 FEDERAL LAW;

(b) FINANCIAL INCENTIVES IN THE FORM OF TAX RELIEF ARE
NECESSARY TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND FREE UP RESOURCES FOR
COMMUNICATION SERVICES DEPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS THAT
HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS UNSERVED. THE INCENTIVES CAN BE
PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE WHEN OFFERED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY
COUNTIES THAT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE RELIEF BASED ON
SPECIFIC CRITERIA.

(c) PROVIDING TAX RELIEF STIMULATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN THE STATE AND SUPPORTS THE EXPANSION OF ESSENTIAL
COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO UNSERVED AREAS; AND

25 (d) WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, WHILE
26 SEEMINGLY INDEPENDENT, CRITICALLY RELY ON FORMS OF BROADBAND
27 LIKE FIBER AND LANDLINE NETWORKS FOR ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS

1 BACKHAUL, WHICH CONNECTS CELL TOWERS TO THE INTERNET BACKBONE 2 AND WHICH IS OFTEN PERFORMED BY NONWIRELESS PROVIDERS. 3 THEREFORE, THE POLICIES THAT IMPACT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE 4 MUST CONSIDER THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL TECHNOLOGIES, 5 INCLUDING THE DEPENDENCE OF WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ON THE 6 BROADER ECOSYSTEM, TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE 7 WIRELESS AND BROADBAND ACCESS FOR ALL COLORADANS.

8 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE 9 **REQUIRES:**

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(a) "COUNTY" MEANS A COUNTY OR A CITY AND COUNTY.

11 "QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY (b) (I) 12 FACILITY" MEANS ANY FACILITY, INFRASTRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT, OR OTHER 13 REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY USED IN THE PROVISION OF WIRELESS 14 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE AND FIXED BROADBAND OR MOBILE 15 BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE, AS DEFINED BY THE FEDERAL 16 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, AND INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO: 17

(A) ASYNCHRONOUS TRANSFER MODE SWITCHES;

(B) DIGITAL SUBSCRIBER LINE ACCESS MULTIPLEXERS;

- 19 (C) ROUTERS;
- 20 (D) SERVERS;
 - (E) MULTIPLEXERS;

22 (F) FIBER OPTICS; AND

(G) ANY RELATED EQUIPMENT.

24 (II) "QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY" 25 INCLUDES ANY FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE OR EQUIPMENT USED TO 26 PROVIDE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT 27 LIMITED TO, MACRO CELL TOWERS AND MICROCELL TOWERS.

28 (c) "UNSERVED AREA" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA IN WHICH 29 BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE FROM ANY 30 PROVIDER AT SPEEDS MEETING OR EXCEEDING THE MINIMUM BROADBAND 31 BENCHMARKS ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS 32 COMMISSION FOR FIXED BROADBAND AND MOBILE BROADBAND. A COUNTY 33 MAY DETERMINE WHETHER AN AREA IS UNSERVED BY REFERENCE TO THE 34 MOST RECENTLY AVAILABLE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 35 BROADBAND COVERAGE MAPS.

36 "WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE" MEANS (d)37 COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE, AS DEFINED IN 47 CFR 20.3.

38 (3) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY, A 39 COUNTY MAY NEGOTIATE AN INCENTIVE PAYMENT OR CREDIT WITH A 40 TAXPAYER THAT ESTABLISHES OR EXPANDS A QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION 41 SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY IN THE COUNTY IF THE FACILITY SERVES AN 42 UNSERVED AREA.

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(b) THE BURDEN IS ON A TAXPAYER SEEKING TAX RELIEF TO

DEMONSTRATE, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COUNTY, THAT THE AREA TO
 BE SERVED BY THE PROPOSED INVESTMENT IS AN UNSERVED AREA. THE
 TAXPAYER MAY RELY ON THE MOST RECENTLY AVAILABLE FEDERAL
 COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION COVERAGE MAPS TO MAKE THE
 DETERMINATION.

6 (c) A COUNTY SHALL NOT NEGOTIATE AN INCENTIVE PAYMENT OR
7 CREDIT THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES LEVIED BY THE
8 COUNTY UPON THE TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY OR BUSINESS PERSONAL
9 PROPERTY LOCATED AT OR WITHIN THE QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION
10 SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY FOR THE CURRENT PROPERTY TAX YEAR.

(4) A COUNTY SHALL EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY GRANTED UNDER
 THIS SECTION IN A NONDISCRIMINATORY AND COMPETITIVELY NEUTRAL
 MANNER.

(5) A COUNTY THAT NEGOTIATES AN AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO
THIS SECTION SHALL INFORM ANY MUNICIPALITY, SPECIAL DISTRICT AS
DEFINED IN SECTION 32-1-103, AND SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE
QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY WILL BE
ESTABLISHED OR EXPANDED OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TAXPAYER.

19 (6) A COUNTY MAY ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF ITS TAX LEVY
20 AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION 29-1-301 OR PURSUANT TO A COUNTY
21 HOME RULE CHARTER, WHICHEVER IS APPLICABLE, BY AN ADDITIONAL
22 AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ANNUAL
23 INCENTIVE PAYMENTS OR CREDITS THAT THE COUNTY MAKES.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 32-1-1703 as
follows:

32-1-1703. Property tax relief for communication services
deployment - legislative declaration - definitions. (1) THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(a) THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE TAX RELIEF CREATED IN THIS
SECTION IS TO ENCOURAGE THE DEPLOYMENT OF COMMUNICATION
SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE STATE, PARTICULARLY IN
RURAL AND UNSERVED AREAS, AND TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR
INVESTMENTS IN NEW COMMUNICATION SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE IN
ADDITION TO INCENTIVES ALREADY CREATED BY OTHER STATE OR
FEDERAL LAW;

(b) FINANCIAL INCENTIVES IN THE FORM OF TAX RELIEF ARE
NECESSARY TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND FREE UP RESOURCES FOR
COMMUNICATION SERVICES DEPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS THAT
HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS UNSERVED. THE INCENTIVES CAN BE
PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE WHEN OFFERED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY
SPECIAL DISTRICTS THAT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE RELIEF
BASED ON SPECIFIC CRITERIA.

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(c) PROVIDING TAX RELIEF STIMULATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IN THE STATE AND SUPPORTS THE EXPANSION OF ESSENTIAL
 COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO UNSERVED AREAS; AND

3 (d) WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, WHILE 4 SEEMINGLY INDEPENDENT, CRITICALLY RELY ON FORMS OF BROADBAND 5 LIKE FIBER AND LANDLINE NETWORKS FOR ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS 6 BACKHAUL, WHICH CONNECTS CELL TOWERS TO THE INTERNET BACKBONE 7 AND WHICH IS OFTEN PERFORMED BY NONWIRELESS PROVIDERS. 8 THEREFORE, THE POLICIES THAT IMPACT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE 9 MUST CONSIDER THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL TECHNOLOGIES, 10 INCLUDING THE DEPENDENCE OF WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ON THE 11 BROADER ECOSYSTEM, TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE 12 WIRELESS AND BROADBAND ACCESS FOR ALL COLORADANS.

13 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE14 REQUIRES:

15 (a) "QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY"
16 HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 39-3-139 (2)(b).

17 (b) "UNSERVED AREA" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION18 39-3-139 (2)(c).

19(c)"WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE" MEANS20COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE, AS DEFINED IN 47 CFR 20.3.

(3) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY, A SPECIAL
DISTRICT MAY NEGOTIATE AN INCENTIVE PAYMENT OR CREDIT WITH A
TAXPAYER THAT ESTABLISHES OR EXPANDS A QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION
SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY IN THE SPECIAL DISTRICT IF THE FACILITY
SERVES AN UNSERVED AREA.

(b) THE BURDEN IS ON A TAXPAYER SEEKING TAX RELIEF TO
DEMONSTRATE, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE SPECIAL DISTRICT, THAT THE
AREA TO BE SERVED BY THE PROPOSED INVESTMENT IS AN UNSERVED
AREA. THE TAXPAYER MAY RELY ON THE MOST RECENTLY AVAILABLE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION COVERAGE MAPS TO MAKE THE
DETERMINATION.

(c) A SPECIAL DISTRICT SHALL NOT NEGOTIATE AN INCENTIVE
PAYMENT OR CREDIT THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF THE TAXES LEVIED
BY THE SPECIAL DISTRICT UPON THE TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY OR
BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT OR WITHIN THE QUALIFIED
COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY FOR THE CURRENT
PROPERTY TAX YEAR.

38 (4) A SPECIAL DISTRICT SHALL EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY GRANTED
 39 UNDER THIS SECTION IN A NONDISCRIMINATORY AND COMPETITIVELY
 40 NEUTRAL MANNER.

41 (5) A SPECIAL DISTRICT THAT NEGOTIATES AN AGREEMENT
42 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL INFORM ANY MUNICIPALITY AND
43 COUNTY IN WHICH THE QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY

1 FACILITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED OR EXPANDED OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH 2 THE TAXPAYER.

3 (6) A SPECIAL DISTRICT MAY ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF ITS TAX 4 LEVY AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION 29-1-301 BY AN ADDITIONAL 5 AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ANNUAL 6 INCENTIVE PAYMENTS OR CREDITS THAT THE SPECIAL DISTRICT MAKES.

7 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 22-40-111 as 8 follows:

9 22-40-111. Property tax relief for communication services 10 deployment - legislative declaration - definitions. (1) THE GENERAL 11 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

12 (a) THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE TAX RELIEF CREATED IN THIS 13 SECTION IS TO ENCOURAGE THE DEPLOYMENT OF COMMUNICATION 14 SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE STATE, PARTICULARLY IN 15 RURAL AND UNSERVED AREAS, AND TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR 16 INVESTMENTS IN NEW COMMUNICATION SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE IN 17 ADDITION TO INCENTIVES ALREADY CREATED BY OTHER STATE OR 18 FEDERAL LAW;

19 (b) FINANCIAL INCENTIVES IN THE FORM OF TAX RELIEF ARE 20 NECESSARY TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND FREE UP RESOURCES FOR 21 COMMUNICATION SERVICES DEPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS THAT 22 HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS UNSERVED. THE INCENTIVES CAN BE 23 PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE WHEN OFFERED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY 24 SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE RELIEF 25 BASED ON SPECIFIC CRITERIA.

26 (c) PROVIDING TAX RELIEF STIMULATES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 27 IN THE STATE AND SUPPORTS THE EXPANSION OF ESSENTIAL 28 COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO UNSERVED AREAS; AND

29 (d) WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, WHILE 30 SEEMINGLY INDEPENDENT, CRITICALLY RELY ON FORMS OF BROADBAND 31 LIKE FIBER AND LANDLINE NETWORKS FOR ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS 32 BACKHAUL, WHICH CONNECTS CELL TOWERS TO THE INTERNET BACKBONE 33 AND WHICH IS OFTEN PERFORMED BY NONWIRELESS PROVIDERS. 34 THEREFORE, THE POLICIES THAT IMPACT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE 35 MUST CONSIDER THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL TECHNOLOGIES, 36 INCLUDING THE DEPENDENCE OF WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ON THE 37 BROADER ECOSYSTEM, TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE 38 WIRELESS AND BROADBAND ACCESS FOR ALL COLORADANS.

39 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE 40 **REQUIRES:**

41 (a) "QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY" 42 HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 39-3-139 (2)(b).

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(b) "UNSERVED AREA" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION

1 39-3-139 (2)(c).

2 (c) "WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE" MEANS
3 COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE, AS DEFINED IN 47 CFR 20.3.

4 (3) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY, THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY NEGOTIATE AN
INCENTIVE PAYMENT OR CREDIT WITH A TAXPAYER THAT ESTABLISHES OR
EXPANDS A QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY IN
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IF THE FACILITY SERVES AN UNSERVED AREA.

9 (b) THE BURDEN IS ON A TAXPAYER SEEKING TAX RELIEF TO 10 DEMONSTRATE, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF 11 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, THAT THE AREA TO BE SERVED BY THE PROPOSED 12 INVESTMENT IS AN UNSERVED AREA. THE TAXPAYER MAY RELY ON THE 13 MOST RECENTLY AVAILABLE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 14 COVERAGE MAPS TO MAKE THE DETERMINATION.

(c) THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT
NEGOTIATE AN INCENTIVE PAYMENT OR CREDIT THAT EXCEEDS THE
AMOUNT OF THE TAXES LEVIED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT UPON THE
TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY OR BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT
OR WITHIN THE QUALIFIED COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY
FOR THE CURRENT PROPERTY TAX YEAR.

21 (4) THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL
22 EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION IN A
23 NONDISCRIMINATORY AND COMPETITIVELY NEUTRAL MANNER.

(5) THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
NEGOTIATES AN AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL INFORM
ANY MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY IN WHICH THE QUALIFIED
COMMUNICATION SERVICES PROPERTY FACILITY WILL BE ESTABLISHED OR
EXPANDED OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TAXPAYER.

(6) THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ADJUST
THE AMOUNT OF ITS TAX LEVY AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO SECTION
29-1-301 BY AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL
AMOUNT OF ANNUAL INCENTIVE PAYMENTS OR CREDITS THAT THE SCHOOL
DISTRICT MAKES.

34 SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 39-26-130 as
35 follows:

36 39-26-130. Refund for property used for communication
37 services - legislative declaration - definitions. (1) THE GENERAL
38 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE
39 TAX INCENTIVE CREATED IN THIS SECTION IS TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR
40 INVESTMENT IN COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN ADDITION TO INCENTIVES
41 ALREADY CREATED BY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.

42 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE43 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "PROVIDER" MEANS A PROVIDER OF COMMUNICATION 2 SERVICES.

(b) "SUBSIDIARY" MEANS A SUBSIDIARY OF A PROVIDER.

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4 (3) (a) A PROVIDER IS ENTITLED TO A REFUND OF SALES AND USE
5 TAX IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 26 ON THE SALE, LEASE,
6 RENTAL, STORAGE, USE, OR OTHER CONSUMPTION OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL
7 PROPERTY IF:

8 (I) THE PROPERTY IS SOLD, LEASED, RENTED, STORED, USED, OR
9 CONSUMED BY THE PROVIDER OR A SUBSIDIARY; AND

(II) THE PROPERTY IS DIRECTLY USED OR CONSUMED BY THE
 PROVIDER OR A SUBSIDIARY IN OR DURING THE PROVISION, TRANSMISSION,
 CONVEYANCE, ROUTING, OR RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION,
PROPERTY THAT IS DIRECTLY USED OR CONSUMED IN OR DURING THE
PROVISION, CREATION, OR PRODUCTION OF A DATA PROCESSING SERVICE
OR INFORMATION SERVICE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A REFUND UNDER THIS
SECTION.

18 (c) THE AMOUNT OF A REFUND TO WHICH A PROVIDER OR
19 SUBSIDIARY IS ENTITLED UNDER THIS SECTION FOR A CALENDAR YEAR IS
20 EQUAL TO:

(I) THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX THAT THE PROVIDER OR SUBSIDIARY
PAID DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR ON PROPERTY THAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A
REFUND PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAX PAID
BY ALL PROVIDERS AND SUBSIDIARIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A REFUND
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR UNDER THIS SECTION IS NOT MORE THAN ONE
MILLION DOLLARS; OR

(II) A PRO RATA SHARE OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS IF THE TOTAL
AMOUNT OF TAX PAID BY ALL PROVIDERS AND SUBSIDIARIES THAT ARE
ELIGIBLE FOR A REFUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR UNDER THIS SECTION IS
MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

31 SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act 32 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the 33 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V 34 35 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this 36 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take 37 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in 38 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the 39 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.".

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