

## CHAPTER 53

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**GOVERNMENT - STATE**


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**SENATE BILL 18-005**

BY SENATOR(S) Donovan and Scott, Aguilar, Fenberg, Kefalas, Kerr, Moreno, Court, Guzman, Kagan, Merrifield, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Crowder, Fields, Garcia, Jones;  
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Roberts, Arndt, Becker K., Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Exum, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Pabon, Pettersen, Rosenthal, Salazar, Singer, Valdez, Weissman, Winter, Young, Duran.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCING CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENTS THAT LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL JOB LOSS IN THOSE COMMUNITIES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS TO COORDINATE NONMONETARY ASSISTANCE TO ASSIST RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH JOB CREATION OR RETENTION.**

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 36 to article 32 of title 24 as follows:

PART 36  
 RURAL ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT  
 OF COLORADO TOWNS

**24-32-3601. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 36 IS THE "RURAL ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF COLORADO TOWNS (REACT) ACT".

**24-32-3602. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DETERMINES THAT:

(a) CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENTS, SUCH AS PLANT CLOSURES AND LAYOFFS, INCLUDING INDUSTRY-WIDE LAYOFFS, CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL JOB LOSSES, WHICH CAN HAVE AN ESPECIALLY DETRIMENTAL IMPACT WHEN SUCH JOB LOSSES OCCUR IN RURAL COMMUNITIES;

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

(b) THESE EVENTS MAY CREATE A SUDDEN NEED FOR INCREASED CAPACITY FOR WORKFORCE, COMMUNITY, OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT CANNOT REASONABLY BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH A RURAL COMMUNITY'S ONGOING OPERATIONS AND BUDGET; AND

(c) A RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCING A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENT MIGHT NOT HAVE THE STAFFING CAPACITY AND ABILITY TO FIND AND COORDINATE ALL OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITY WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION.

(2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINES AND DECLARES THAT A SINGLE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD COORDINATE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENTS THAT HAVE LED TO SUBSTANTIAL JOB LOSSES BY COORDINATING NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES OFFERED BY VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES TO HELP RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION.

**24-32-3603. Definitions - rules.** AS USED IN THIS PART 36, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.

(2) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

(3) (a) "RURAL" MEANS:

(I) A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN FIFTY THOUSAND; OR

(II) A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF FEWER THAN TWENTY THOUSAND IF THE MUNICIPALITY IS NOT CONTIGUOUS TO A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF TWENTY THOUSAND OR MORE.

(b) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY MODIFY, BY RULE, THE DEFINITION OF "RURAL" AS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS PART 36.

(4) "SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENT" OR "EVENT" MEANS AN ECONOMIC EVENT OCCURRING WITHIN A RURAL COMMUNITY OR REGION, SUCH AS A PLANT CLOSURE OR LAYOFFS, INCLUDING INDUSTRY-WIDE LAYOFFS, THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT, QUANTIFIABLE IMPACT ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JOBS WITHIN THE RURAL COMMUNITY, AS DETERMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHEN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR NONMONETARY ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-32-3604.

**24-32-3604. Rural economic advancement of Colorado towns - coordination of nonmonetary assistance - application - rules.** (1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH JOB RETENTION AND CREATION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL COORDINATE THE PROVISION OF AVAILABLE STATE NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE TO RURAL COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENT OR AN ANTICIPATED EVENT THAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED. ANY STAFF SUPPORT NEEDED FOR THE COORDINATION OF NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE MUST BE PROVIDED WITHIN THE

DEPARTMENT'S STAFFING STRUCTURE AS IT EXISTED ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE).

(2) (a) IF A RURAL COMMUNITY HAS EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC EVENT OR ANTICIPATES AN EVENT THAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, A PERSON MAY APPLY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF THE RURAL COMMUNITY FOR THE PROVISION AND COORDINATION OF AVAILABLE STATE NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND OTHER NONMONETARY ASSISTANCE. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL DETERMINE THE FORM AND MANNER OF APPLICATION FOR NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE AND SHALL PUBLISH APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND ANY NECESSARY FORMS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.

(b) IF A PERSON APPLYING ON BEHALF OF A RURAL COMMUNITY HAS SUFFICIENTLY DEMONSTRATED TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SATISFACTION THAT THE RURAL COMMUNITY QUALIFIES FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL COORDINATE THE RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-121, THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-48.5-101, AND THE REGIONAL MANAGER OF THE REGION COVERING THE RURAL COMMUNITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-125. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL EACH DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH ASSISTANCE REQUIRES ANY STAFFING SUPPORT. IF PRACTICABLE WITHIN THE AGENCIES' EXISTING RESOURCES, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY COORDINATE NONMONETARY RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE FROM ALL RELEVANT STATE AGENCIES TO THE RURAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

(I) CAPACITY-BUILDING RESOURCES AND SERVICES SUCH AS JOB TRAINING AND OTHER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

(II) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; AND

(III) OTHER NONMONETARY RESOURCES.

(3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY PROMULGATE RULES AS NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECTION.

**24-32-3605. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 36 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.

**SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018

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

Approved: March 22, 2018