

CHAPTER 149

NATURAL RESOURCES

SENATE BILL 20-003

BY SENATOR(S) Garcia and Hisey, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gonzales, Lee, Todd, Williams A., Bridges, Crowder, Danielson, Ginal, Hansen, Hill, Moreno, Pettersen, Story, Tate, Winter;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Esgar and Will, Bockenfeld, Buckner, Buentello, Duran, Exum, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Liston, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Roberts, Snyder, Titone, Valdez A., Weissman, Wilson.

AN ACT**CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE PARKS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

SECTION 1. Short title. The short title of this act is the "I Love Colorado State Parks Act".

SECTION 2. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

(a) Colorado is legendary for its outdoor recreation opportunities, and state parks provide an important gateway for Colorado citizens and visitors to experience the outdoors in a safe, family-friendly environment;

(b) The state's population is rapidly growing, and ninety percent of Coloradans participate in outdoor recreation activities. Overall, outdoor recreation contributes sixty-two billion dollars to Colorado's economy, and the industry pays twenty-one billion dollars annually in wages and salaries.

(c) Colorado's state park system accommodates more than fifteen million visitor days each year and contributes one billion two hundred million dollars annually to the state's economy. Visitation at state parks has grown steadily over the last five years, with a net increase of more than two million two hundred thousand visitor days from fiscal year 2014-15 through fiscal year 2018-19, and maintenance and capacity improvements have not kept up with this significant growth in demand.

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

(d) To address these visitation challenges, Senate Bill 18-143, the "Hunting, Fishing, and Parks for Future Generations Act" enacted in 2018, set a goal for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify and plan the development of a new state park. Colorado has not opened a new state park since Staunton State Park in 2013, and the state park system has lost acreage in the past decade.

(e) The Fishers Peak property in Las Animas county was identified as Colorado's next state park through a partnership between the city of Trinidad, Great Outdoors Colorado, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and Colorado parks and wildlife. The property provides an iconic backdrop to the city of Trinidad and presents a rare opportunity to benefit the local economy, achieve landscape-level conservation, and provide recreational access to more than thirty square miles of public land.

(f) In addition to developing new state parks, Colorado parks and wildlife must prevent Colorado's existing forty-one state parks from being "loved to death" by investing in infrastructure and maintenance to improve the visitor experience and increase capacity.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-302, **amend** (2)(hh) and (2)(ii); and **add** (2)(ll) as follows:

24-75-302. Capital construction fund - capital assessment fees - calculation - information technology capital account. (2) The controller shall transfer a sum as specified in this subsection (2) from the general fund to the capital construction fund as money becomes available in the general fund during the fiscal year beginning on July 1 of the fiscal year in which the transfer is made. Transfers between funds pursuant to this subsection (2) are not appropriations subject to the limitations of section 24-75-201.1. The amounts transferred pursuant to this subsection (2) are as follows:

(hh) For the 2019-20 fiscal year, one hundred seventy-eight thousand four hundred seventy-one dollars pursuant to H.B. 19-1250, enacted in 2019; ~~and~~

(ii) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, one hundred ten thousand six hundred fifty-two dollars pursuant to S.B. 19-172, enacted in 2019; AND

(ll) FOR THE 2020-21 STATE FISCAL YEAR, ONE MILLION DOLLARS UNDER S.B. 20-003, ENACTED IN 2020.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 33-9-113 as follows:

33-9-113. Parks and wildlife commission duties - gifts, grants, and donations for Fishers Peak state park - funding needs reporting - repeal (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING FISHERS PEAK STATE PARK.

(2) BY DECEMBER 1, 2020, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETAILING STATE PARK FUNDING NEEDS AND SHORTFALLS.

(3) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

SECTION 5. Appropriation - adjustments to 2020 long bill. To implement this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2020-21 state fiscal year to the office of the governor for use by the office of information technology for applications administration is decreased by \$1,000,000.

SECTION 6. Capital construction appropriation. (1) For the 2020-21 state fiscal year, \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources for use by the division of parks and wildlife. This appropriation is from the capital construction fund created in section 24-75-302, C.R.S. To implement this act, the division of parks and wildlife may use this appropriation for capital construction related to infrastructure development projects, including conducting any necessary cultural and natural resource studies, at the new Fishers Peak state park in Las Animas county.

(2) The appropriations made in subsection (1) of this section are available upon passage of this act, and if any appropriation project is initiated within the fiscal year, the appropriation for the project remains available until completion of the project or for three years, whichever comes first, at which time the unexpended and unencumbered balances revert to the capital construction fund.

SECTION 7. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: June 29, 2020