A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING A LIMITATION ON THE DESIGNATED LANDS ONTO WHICH GRAY WOLVES MAY BE REINTRODUCED.

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.)

During the 2020 general election, the voters approved Proposition 114, which authorized the reintroduction of gray wolves on designated lands in Colorado west of the continental divide beginning no later than December 31, 2023. The bill excludes from the definition of "designated lands" the following:

- Lands within a county in which the majority of the votes
cast in the 2020 general election did not approve Proposition 114 unless, prior to a proposed reintroduction of gray wolves in that county, an election is held in the county and a majority of the votes cast from that county in the election approve of the reintroduction of the gray wolf in designated lands in the county; and

• Lands within a county in which is located prey of the gray wolf that, as determined by the parks and wildlife commission, either:
  • Is a candidate for listing or has been placed in the threatened or endangered species list pursuant to the federal "Endangered Species Act of 1973" or is listed as endangered or threatened pursuant to state law; or
  • The state has spent money to reintroduce or restore.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-2-105.8, amend (5)(a) as follows:

33-2-105.8. Reintroduction of gray wolves on designated lands west of the continental divide - public input in commission development of restoration plan - compensation to owners of livestock - definitions. (5) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Designated lands" means those lands west of the continental divide in Colorado that the commission determines are consistent with its plan to restore and manage gray wolves; EXCEPT THAT THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE LANDS WITHIN:

(I) A COUNTY IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION DID NOT APPROVE THIS SECTION, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AS PROPOSITION 114, UNLESS, PRIOR TO A PROPOSED REINTRODUCTION OF GRAY WOLVES IN THAT COUNTY, AN ELECTION IS HELD IN THE COUNTY AND A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST
FROM THAT COUNTY IN THE ELECTION APPROVE OF THE REINTRODUCTION
OF THE GRAY WOLF IN DESIGNATED LANDS IN THE COUNTY; OR

(II) A COUNTY IN WHICH IS LOCATED PREY OF THE GRAY WOLF
THAT, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, EITHER:

(A) IS A CANDIDATE FOR LISTING OR HAS BEEN PLACED IN THE
THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL
AMENDED, OR IS LISTED AS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 33-2-105; OR

(B) THE STATE HAS SPENT MONEY TO REINTRODUCE OR RESTORE.

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; 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 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.