

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M22-0767.01 Megan Waples x4348

SM22-001

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Coleman and Gonzales,

Senate Committees

SENATE MEMORIAL 22-001

101 **MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE VOTING**
102 **RIGHTS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF**
103 **AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND THE SACRED RIGHT TO VOTE.**

1 WHEREAS, Every January we honor the memory of Dr. Martin
2 Luther King, Jr., and his heroic efforts to advance voting rights and we
3 aspire to follow in his footsteps; and

4 WHEREAS, No one did more to promote the right to vote for
5 disenfranchised Americans than the civil rights leaders of the 1960s,
6 including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congressman John Lewis, Fannie
7 Lou Hamer, and Ella Baker; and

8 WHEREAS, Until the United States Congress passed the federal
9 "Voting Rights Act of 1965", people of color in the United States were
10 frequently subject to poll taxes, literacy tests, and fraud and intimidation,
11 preventing them from exercising their right to cast a ballot; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Senate is considering critical
13 federal elections reform and long overdue updates to the federal "Voting
14 Rights Act of 1965" to preserve voting rights for generations to come, in

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 honor of the legacy of the late Congressman John Lewis; and

2 WHEREAS, Colorado's electoral system serves as an example to
3 the rest of the nation, and in fact the world, of how to expand voter access
4 while protecting electoral integrity through safeguards including
5 risk-limiting audits and signature verification; and

6 WHEREAS, In the 2020 election, Colorado had the second highest
7 voter turnout of any state in the nation, and Colorado's largest voting bloc
8 -- young people ages 18 to 34 -- turned out in record numbers; and

9 WHEREAS, Efforts to suppress the vote and disenfranchise
10 Americans who historically have had the least access to the ballot have
11 been on the rise across the country in recent years; and

12 WHEREAS, Last year, more than 440 bills with provisions that
13 restrict voting access were introduced in 49 states, including here in
14 Colorado, where legislation was introduced to restrict voters' access to
15 Colorado's vote by mail system, a national model of excellence for
16 election access, security, and integrity; and

17 WHEREAS, Last year, 19 states passed 34 laws restricting access
18 to voting, including Georgia's Senate Bill 202 and Texas' Senate Bill No.
19 1, both of which made it more difficult for voters to exercise their
20 fundamental right to vote enshrined in the United States Constitution and
21 the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965"; and

22 WHEREAS, Falsehoods and conspiracies regarding the integrity
23 of the 2020 election have run rampant in our media and public discourse;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The months-long, coordinated attempt to interfere
26 with the democratic process following the November 2020 election and
27 prevent the peaceful transfer of power by overturning the legitimate
28 results of the presidential election, which culminated at the United States
29 Capitol on January 6, 2021, serves as a violent reminder of the fragility
30 of our democracy; now, therefore,

31 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General*
32 *Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

33 That we, the members of the Colorado Senate:

1 (1) Reassert the validity of the 2020 presidential election results
2 as legitimate and verified;

3 (2) Offer Colorado's premier electoral system as a model for states
4 across the country to adopt in order to increase voter participation while
5 ensuring electoral integrity; and

6 (3) Call on the United States Congress, and specifically members
7 of the United States Senate, to pass comprehensive voting rights
8 legislation to protect the fundamental right to vote, which has been the
9 cornerstone of our democracy since the founding of our republic.

10 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Memorial be sent to the
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority
12 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority
13 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the
14 United States Senate, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the
15 Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and all members of the
16 Colorado Congressional delegation.