

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0541.01 Nicole Myers x4326

HOUSE BILL 24-1168

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Froelich and Rutinel,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen,

House Committees

Transportation, Housing & Local Government

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS.

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>.)

The bill requires state and local public bodies (public bodies) to ensure that the following accessibility requirements are implemented by July 1, 2025:

- Any public meeting at which public business is discussed, formal action may be taken, or recommendations to the governing body of the public body may be discussed (meeting) held by a public body is required to be accessible in real time by live streaming video or audio that is

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

- recorded and accessible to individuals with disabilities;
- A public body is required to post on its website, at least 24 hours before a meeting, any documents that will be distributed during the meeting;
- For any meeting of a public body during which public testimony will be heard, the public body is required to allow any individual to participate in the meeting and offer public testimony by using a video conferencing platform unless the meeting occurs in a geographic location that lacks broadband internet service; and
- A public body is required to provide any auxiliary aids or services requested in time for the meeting for which they were requested. A public body may require that a request for auxiliary aids or services to attend a meeting of the public body with the use of the video conferencing platform be made up to 7 days before the date of the meeting.

Nothing in the bill prohibits a public body from promulgating rules for the administration of public testimony so long as the rules apply to both in-person and remote testimony, and nothing in the bill requires a public body to provide hardware or software or internet or phone access at an individual's home.

The failure of any public body to comply with the applicable requirements of the bill constitutes discrimination on the basis of disability. Any individual who is subjected to a violation is entitled to seek relief as currently provided in law.

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

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

4 (a) The federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" has
5 been law for over three decades;

6 (b) The federal "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990"
7 mandates equal access to everyday activities for individuals with
8 disabilities;

9 (c) Many places of public business continue to be inaccessible to
10 individuals with disabilities; and

1 (d) It is the right of every individual to participate in public
2 discourse and it is imperative to a healthy and functional democracy that
3 all citizens have access to their government.

4 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that it is
5 necessary to codify the right to accessible and transparent governance to
6 protect access and promote greater equity.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 17 to article
8 1 of title 29 as follows:

9

PART 17

10

ACCESSIBILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

11

29-1-1701. Local public bodies - meetings - accessibility -

12

definitions. (1) AS USED IN THIS PART 17, UNLESS THE CONTEXT

13

OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

14

(a) "AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES" MEANS AN AID OR SERVICE

15

THAT IS USED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A

16

COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, INTELLECTUAL, NEUROLOGICAL, OR

17

PHYSICAL DISABILITY, AND IS AVAILABLE IN A FORMAT OR MANNER THAT

18

ALLOWS THE INDIVIDUAL TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION.

19

(b) (I) "LOCAL PUBLIC BODY" MEANS ANY BOARD, COMMITTEE,

20

COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR OTHER ADVISORY, POLICY-MAKING,

21

RULE-MAKING, OR FORMALLY CONSTITUTED BODY OF ANY POLITICAL

22

SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE AND ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY TO WHICH

23

A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION, OR AN OFFICIAL THEREOF, HAS DELEGATED A

24

GOVERNMENTAL DECISION-MAKING FUNCTION BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE

25

INDIVIDUALS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY.

26

(II) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I)

27

OF THIS SECTION, TO ASSURE SCHOOL BOARD TRANSPARENCY, "LOCAL

1 PUBLIC BODY" INCLUDES MEMBERS OF A BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL
2 ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF WHO ARE
3 INVOLVED IN A MEETING WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF EMPLOYEES AT
4 WHICH A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT IS DISCUSSED.

5 (III) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I)
6 OF THIS SECTION, "LOCAL PUBLIC BODY" INCLUDES THE GOVERNING BOARD
7 OF AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL THAT IS AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO
8 PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22.

9 (c) "PUBLIC MEETING" MEANS ANY MEETING HELD BY A LOCAL
10 PUBLIC BODY AT WHICH PUBLIC BUSINESS IS DISCUSSED, FORMAL ACTION
11 MAY BE TAKEN, OR RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MAY BE MADE TO THE
12 GOVERNING BODY OF A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY MAY BE DISCUSSED.

13 (2) EACH LOCAL PUBLIC BODY SHALL ENSURE THAT THE
14 ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 17 ARE
15 IMPLEMENTED BY JULY 1, 2025, TO ENSURE THE FULL AND EQUAL
16 ENJOYMENT OF THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY BY INDIVIDUALS IN PROTECTED
17 CLASSES, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, AS REQUIRED BY
18 SECTIONS 24-34-601 AND 24-34-802.

19 (3) (a) ANY PUBLIC MEETING MUST BE ACCESSIBLE IN REAL TIME
20 BY LIVE STREAMING VIDEO OR AUDIO THAT IS RECORDED AND ACCESSIBLE
21 TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

22 (b) A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY MUST POST ON ITS WEBSITE ANY
23 DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED OR DISCUSSED DURING A PUBLIC
24 MEETING. A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY MUST POST SUCH DOCUMENTS AT LEAST
25 TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE PUBLIC MEETING OR, IF POSTING THE
26 DOCUMENTS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE PUBLIC MEETING IS NOT
27 POSSIBLE, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BEFORE THE PUBLIC MEETING; EXCEPT

1 THAT, IF THE DOCUMENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED, NOT
2 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL DISTRIBUTED OR DISCUSSED, OR NOT IN
3 THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY'S POSSESSION BEFORE THE MEETING, A LOCAL
4 PUBLIC BODY MUST POST THE DOCUMENTS IN REAL TIME DURING THE
5 PUBLIC MEETING. ANY DOCUMENTS THAT A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY POSTS
6 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b) MUST MEET CURRENT PREVAILING
7 DOCUMENT AND INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS AND MUST REMAIN
8 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY'S WEBSITE FOR
9 ON-DEMAND USE IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY
10 MAKES THE WRITTEN RECORD OF THE MEETING AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

11 (c) A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAKE THE
12 VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF ANY PUBLIC MEETING AVAILABLE TO THE
13 PUBLIC FOR ON-DEMAND USE.

14 (4) (a) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF
15 THIS SECTION, FOR ANY PUBLIC MEETING DURING WHICH THE LOCAL
16 PUBLIC BODY WILL HEAR PUBLIC TESTIMONY, THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY
17 MUST ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC MEETING
18 AND OFFER PUBLIC TESTIMONY BY USING A VIDEO CONFERENCING
19 PLATFORM. THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY MUST ENSURE THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL
20 SEEKING THE USE OF A VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM TO PARTICIPATE
21 IN THE PUBLIC MEETING IS PROVIDED ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC MEETING BY
22 USE OF THE VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM AT THE SAME TIMES AND
23 UPON THE SAME TERMS AS INDIVIDUALS WHO APPEAR AT THE PUBLIC
24 MEETING IN PERSON. IT IS IN A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY'S DISCRETION TO
25 DETERMINE WHICH VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM WILL BE USED FOR
26 SUCH PARTICIPATION SO LONG AS THE PLATFORM IS ACCESSIBLE TO
27 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

1 (b) NOTHING IN THIS PART 17 PROHIBITS A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY
2 FROM PROMULGATING RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC
3 TESTIMONY SO LONG AS THE RULES APPLY TO BOTH IN-PERSON AND
4 REMOTE TESTIMONY.

5 (c) THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION DO
6 NOT APPLY WHEN A PUBLIC MEETING OCCURS IN A GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION
7 THAT IS IN AN UNSERVED AREA OF THE STATE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
8 40-15-102 (32).

9 (d) A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY THAT IS EXEMPT FROM THE
10 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL USE AN
11 ALTERNATIVE TO A VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM, SUCH AS A
12 TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL, TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION IN A PUBLIC
13 MEETING. THE ALTERNATIVE OPTION USED MUST BE ACCESSIBLE TO
14 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

15 (5) (a) A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY MAY REQUIRE THAT A REQUEST FOR
16 AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
17 LOCAL PUBLIC BODY WITH THE USE OF THE VIDEO CONFERENCING
18 PLATFORM SELECTED BY THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY PURSUANT TO
19 SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION BE MADE UP TO SEVEN DAYS BEFORE
20 THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR WHICH THE AUXILIARY AIDS OR
21 SERVICES ARE REQUESTED.

22 (b) A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY SHALL PROVIDE ANY AUXILIARY AIDS
23 OR SERVICES TIMELY REQUESTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS
24 SECTION IN TIME FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR WHICH THE AUXILIARY
25 AIDS OR SERVICES WERE REQUESTED WITHOUT REQUIRING OR REQUESTING
26 AN EXPLANATION OF THE NEED FOR THE AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES.

27 (c) NOTHING IN THIS PART 17 REQUIRES A LOCAL PUBLIC BODY TO

1 PROVIDE HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE OR INTERNET OR PHONE ACCESS AT AN
2 INDIVIDUAL'S HOME.

3 (6) NOTHING IN THIS PART 17 SUPERSEDES OR NEGATES THE
4 REQUIREMENTS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, PART 4 OF ARTICLE 6 OF
5 TITLE 24, OR THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE
6 72 OF TITLE 24.

7 (7) THE FAILURE OF ANY LOCAL PUBLIC BODY TO COMPLY WITH
8 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PART 17 CONSTITUTES DISCRIMINATION ON
9 THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 24-34-802. ANY
10 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SUBJECTED TO A VIOLATION OF THIS PART 17 IS
11 ENTITLED TO SEEK ALL RELIEF PROVIDED IN SECTION 24-34-802.

12 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 14 to article
13 82 of title 24 as follows:

14 PART 14

15 ACCESSIBILITY OF STATE GOVERNMENT

16 **24-82-1401. State public bodies - meetings - accessibility -**
17 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS PART 14, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
18 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

19 (a) "AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES" MEANS AN AID OR SERVICE
20 THAT IS USED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A
21 COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, INTELLECTUAL, NEUROLOGICAL, OR
22 PHYSICAL DISABILITY, AND IS AVAILABLE IN A FORMAT OR MANNER THAT
23 ALLOWS THE INDIVIDUAL TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION.

24 (b) "PUBLIC MEETING" MEANS ANY MEETING HELD BY A STATE
25 PUBLIC BODY AT WHICH PUBLIC BUSINESS IS DISCUSSED, FORMAL ACTION
26 MAY BE TAKEN, OR RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MAY BE MADE TO THE
27 GOVERNING BODY OF A STATE PUBLIC BODY MAY BE DISCUSSED.

1 (c) (I) "STATE PUBLIC BODY" MEANS ANY BOARD, COMMITTEE,
2 COMMISSION, OR OTHER ADVISORY, POLICY-MAKING, RULE-MAKING,
3 DECISION-MAKING, OR FORMALLY CONSTITUTED BODY OF ANY STATE
4 AGENCY, STATE AUTHORITY, GOVERNING BOARD OF A STATE INSTITUTION
5 OF HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDING THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
6 COLORADO, A NONPROFIT CORPORATION INCORPORATED PURSUANT TO
7 SECTION 23-5-121 (2), OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND ANY PUBLIC OR
8 PRIVATE ENTITY TO WHICH THE STATE, OR AN OFFICIAL THEREOF, HAS
9 DELEGATED A GOVERNMENTAL DECISION-MAKING FUNCTION BUT DOES
10 NOT INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF OF THE STATE
11 PUBLIC BODY.

12 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (1)(c)(I)
13 OF THIS SECTION, "STATE PUBLIC BODY" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE
14 GOVERNING BOARD OF AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL THAT IS
15 AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22.

16 (2) EACH STATE PUBLIC BODY SHALL ENSURE THAT THE
17 ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 14 ARE
18 IMPLEMENTED BY JULY 1, 2025, TO ENSURE THE FULL AND EQUAL
19 ENJOYMENT OF THE STATE PUBLIC BODY BY INDIVIDUALS IN PROTECTED
20 CLASSES, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, AS REQUIRED BY
21 SECTIONS 24-34-601 AND 24-34-802.

22 (3) (a) ANY PUBLIC MEETING MUST BE ACCESSIBLE IN REAL TIME
23 BY LIVE STREAMING VIDEO OR AUDIO THAT IS RECORDED AND ACCESSIBLE
24 TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

25 (b) A STATE PUBLIC BODY MUST POST ON ITS WEBSITE ANY
26 DOCUMENTS THAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED OR DISCUSSED DURING A PUBLIC
27 MEETING. A STATE PUBLIC BODY MUST POST SUCH DOCUMENTS AT LEAST

1 TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE PUBLIC MEETING OR, IF POSTING THE
2 DOCUMENTS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING IS NOT POSSIBLE,
3 AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BEFORE THE MEETING; EXCEPT THAT IF THE
4 DOCUMENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVILEGED, NOT AVAILABLE TO THE
5 PUBLIC UNTIL DISTRIBUTED OR DISCUSSED, OR NOT IN THE STATE PUBLIC
6 BODY'S POSSESSION BEFORE THE MEETING, THE STATE PUBLIC BODY MUST
7 POST THE DOCUMENTS IN REAL TIME DURING THE PUBLIC MEETING. ANY
8 DOCUMENTS THAT A STATE PUBLIC BODY POSTS PURSUANT TO THIS
9 SUBSECTION (3)(b) MUST MEET CURRENT PREVAILING DOCUMENT AND
10 INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS AND MUST REMAIN AVAILABLE TO
11 THE PUBLIC ON THE STATE PUBLIC BODY'S WEBSITE FOR ON-DEMAND USE
12 IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH THE LOCAL STATE BODY MAKES THE
13 WRITTEN RECORD OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

14 (c) A STATE PUBLIC BODY MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAKE THE
15 VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF ANY PUBLIC MEETING AVAILABLE TO THE
16 PUBLIC FOR ON-DEMAND USE.

17 (4) (a) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF
18 THIS SECTION, FOR ANY PUBLIC MEETING DURING WHICH THE STATE PUBLIC
19 BODY WILL HEAR PUBLIC TESTIMONY, THE STATE PUBLIC BODY MUST
20 ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC MEETING AND
21 OFFER PUBLIC TESTIMONY WITH THE USE OF A VIDEO CONFERENCING
22 PLATFORM. THE STATE PUBLIC BODY MUST ENSURE THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL
23 SEEKING THE USE OF A VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM TO PARTICIPATE
24 IN THE PUBLIC MEETING IS PROVIDED ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC MEETING BY
25 USE OF THE VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM AT THE SAME TIMES AND
26 UPON THE SAME TERMS AS INDIVIDUALS WHO APPEAR AT THE MEETING IN
27 PERSON. IT IS IN A STATE PUBLIC BODY'S DISCRETION TO DETERMINE WHICH

1 VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM WILL BE USED FOR SUCH PARTICIPATION
2 SO LONG AS THE PLATFORM IS ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH
3 DISABILITIES.

4 (b) NOTHING IN THIS PART 14 PROHIBITS A STATE PUBLIC BODY
5 FROM PROMULGATING RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC
6 TESTIMONY SO LONG AS THE RULES APPLY TO BOTH IN-PERSON AND
7 REMOTE TESTIMONY.

8 (c) THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION DO
9 NOT APPLY WHEN A PUBLIC MEETING OF A STATE PUBLIC BODY OCCURS IN
10 A GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION THAT IS IN AN UNSERVED AREA OF THE STATE,
11 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-15-102 (32).

12 (d) A STATE PUBLIC BODY THAT IS EXEMPT FROM THE
13 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL USE AN
14 ALTERNATIVE TO A VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM, SUCH AS A
15 TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL, TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION IN A PUBLIC
16 MEETING. THE ALTERNATIVE OPTION USED MUST BE ACCESSIBLE TO
17 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

18 (5) (a) A STATE PUBLIC BODY MAY REQUIRE THAT A REQUEST FOR
19 AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES TO ATTEND A PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE USE
20 OF THE VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM SELECTED BY THE STATE PUBLIC
21 BODY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION, BE MADE UP TO
22 SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR WHICH THE
23 AIDS OR SERVICES ARE REQUESTED.

24 (b) A STATE PUBLIC BODY SHALL PROVIDE ANY AUXILIARY AIDS OR
25 SERVICES TIMELY REQUESTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS
26 SECTION IN TIME FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR WHICH THE AUXILIARY
27 AIDS OR SERVICES WERE REQUESTED WITHOUT REQUIRING OR REQUESTING

1 AN EXPLANATION OF THE NEED FOR THE AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES.

2 (c) NOTHING IN THIS PART 14 REQUIRES A STATE PUBLIC BODY TO
3 PROVIDE HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE OR INTERNET OR PHONE ACCESS AT AN
4 INDIVIDUAL'S HOME.

5 (6) NOTHING IN THIS PART 14 SUPERSEDES OR NEGATES THE
6 REQUIREMENTS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, PART 4 OF ARTICLE 6 OF THIS
7 TITLE 24, OR THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT", PART TWO OF
8 ARTICLE 72 OF THIS TITLE 24.

9 (7) THE FAILURE OF ANY STATE PUBLIC BODY TO COMPLY WITH
10 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PART 14 CONSTITUTES DISCRIMINATION ON
11 THE BASIS OF DISABILITY IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 24-34-802. ANY
12 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SUBJECTED TO A VIOLATION OF THIS PART 14 IS
13 ENTITLED TO SEEK ALL RELIEF PROVIDED IN SECTION 24-34-802.

14 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
15 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
16 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
17 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
18 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
19 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
20 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
21 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
22 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.