

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0745.01 Clare Haffner x2045

HOUSE BILL 24-1265

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Soper and Bacon, Kipp, Lukens

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House Committees
Business Affairs & Labor

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE
102 TO STUDY CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY IN THE STATE.

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 creates a legislative interim committee (committee) to study cell phone connectivity in the state and make legislative recommendations concerning how to improve cell phone connectivity. The committee consists of 6 voting members of the general assembly and 6 nonvoting members, including 4 members of the cell phone industry, a representative of the department of transportation, and a representative of

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.

the department of public safety.

The committee must begin meeting no later than September 30, 2024, and may hold up to 6 meetings in the 2024 legislative interim and up to 6 meetings in the 2025 legislative interim. During each legislative interim, the committee may recommend up to 3 bills.

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

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

4 (a) Cell phones are an integral aspect of the lives of Coloradans
5 in that they:

6 (I) Keep Coloradans connected;

7 (II) Provide Coloradans with a sense of security; and

8 (III) Play a crucial role in emergencies;

9 (b) The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of the
10 use of cell phones as a means to stay connected during emergencies. For
11 instance, many Coloradans relied on their cell phones for mobile hotspots
12 or tethering during the pandemic.

13 (c) Cell phones are also crucial for tourists that visit Colorado.
14 Tourism is a vital part of Colorado's economy; 2022 saw a record high of
15 \$27.7 billion in travel spending and 90 million visitors. It is important that
16 tourists feel safe and prepared in the event of an emergency.

17 (d) Gaps in cell phone coverage exist throughout Colorado,
18 particularly in rural and mountainous areas. In addition, there are
19 disparities in cell phone coverage in communities of color and historically
20 disadvantaged communities throughout the state.

21 (e) Identifying gaps in cell phone coverage throughout the state,
22 and tools to cure these gaps, would help protect Coloradans and tourists
23 in emergency situations and is crucial to ensuring that no part of Colorado

1 is left behind when it comes to cell phone coverage.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 40-15-114 as
3 follows:

4 **40-15-114. Legislative interim committee on cell phone**
5 **connectivity - created - members - definitions - notice to revisor of**
6 **statutes - repeal.** (1) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 2-3-303.3, THE
7 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY IS
8 CREATED.

9 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO STUDY CELL PHONE
10 CONNECTIVITY IN THE STATE WITH A FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING GAPS IN CELL
11 PHONE COVERAGE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL FOCUS ON:

12 (a) MAJOR ROADWAYS, MOUNTAIN PASSES, AND POPULAR
13 TRAILHEADS;

14 (b) RURAL COMMUNITIES;

15 (c) HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES;

16 (d) EXAMINING WHETHER MAPS PROVIDED BY CELL PHONE
17 COMPANIES ACCURATELY DESCRIBE COVERAGE AREAS; AND

18 (e) DETERMINING STATE TOOLS AND RESOURCES THAT MAY BE
19 UTILIZED TO MINIMIZE GAPS IN COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

20 (3) (a) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING SIX VOTING
21 MEMBERS:

22 (I) THREE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, WITH TWO MEMBERS
23 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND ONE MEMBER
24 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

25 (II) THREE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WITH
26 TWO MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
27 REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY

1 LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

2 (b) THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING SIX
3 NONVOTING MEMBERS:

4 (I) FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WHO MUST
5 REPRESENT THE CELL PHONE INDUSTRY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE STATE,
6 AS FOLLOWS:

7 (A) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A CELL PHONE
8 COMPANY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE WESTERN SLOPE OF THE STATE;

9 (B) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A CELL PHONE
10 COMPANY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE EASTERN PLAINS OF THE STATE; AND

11 (C) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A CELL PHONE
12 COMPANY WITH A PRESENCE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREAS OF THE STATE;

13 (II) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
14 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-128.7 TO
15 REPRESENT THE DEPARTMENT; AND

16 (III) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
17 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-128.6 TO
18 REPRESENT THE DEPARTMENT.

19 (c) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS
20 OF THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2024. IF A VACANCY
21 ARISES ON THE COMMITTEE, THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT
22 A MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

23 (d) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL
24 DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE. IN THE CASE OF A TIE VOTE,
25 THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL CAST AN ADDITIONAL DECIDING
26 VOTE.

27 (4) THE COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING NO LATER

1 THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. THE COMMITTEE MAY MEET UP TO SIX TIMES
2 DURING THE 2024 INTERIM AND UP TO SIX TIMES DURING THE 2025
3 INTERIM. OF THE MEETINGS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (4), THE
4 COMMITTEE MAY TAKE UP TO TWO FIELD TRIPS PER YEAR IN CONNECTION
5 WITH ITS DUTIES MANDATED UNDER THIS SECTION TO BETTER
6 UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES OF CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY IN THE
7 STATE.

8 (5) THE COMMITTEE MAY RECOMMEND UP TO A TOTAL OF THREE
9 BILLS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CREATED IN SECTION 2-3-301 (1)
10 DURING EACH INTERIM IN WHICH THE COMMITTEE MEETS. LEGISLATION
11 RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE MUST BE TREATED AS LEGISLATION
12 RECOMMENDED BY AN INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR PURPOSES OF APPLICABLE
13 DEADLINES, BILL INTRODUCTION LIMITS, AND ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS
14 IMPOSED BY THE JOINT RULES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

15 (6) THE NONVOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE
16 WITHOUT COMPENSATION, BUT EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE MAY
17 BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE
18 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. LEGISLATIVE
19 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE COMPENSATED PURSUANT TO
20 SECTION 2-2-307 (3).

21 (7) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF AND THE OFFICE OF
22 LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE TO THE
23 COMMITTEE.

24 (8)(a) THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,
25 APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-3-304 (1), OR THE DIRECTOR'S
26 DESIGNEE SHALL NOTIFY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING IF THE
27 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-3-303.3 (3)(a),

1 DOES NOT PRIORITIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO
2 STUDY CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY FOR THE 2024 AND 2025 INTERIMS BY
3 E-MAILING THE NOTICE TO REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@COLEG.GOV.

4 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (8) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

5 (9) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

6 (a) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE
7 ON CELL PHONE CONNECTIVITY CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
8 SECTION.

9 (b) "RURAL COMMUNITY" MEANS ANY TERRITORY, INCORPORATED
10 OR UNINCORPORATED, THAT IS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN AN URBAN AREA, AS
11 DEFINED BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

12 (10) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.

13 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** (1) Except
14 as provided in subsection (2) of this section, this act takes effect at 12:01
15 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after
16 final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum
17 petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state
18 constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within
19 such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless
20 approved by the people at the general election to be held in November
21 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official
22 declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

23 (2) This act takes effect only if the legislative council, acting
24 pursuant to section 2-3-303.3 (3)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes, does not
25 prioritize the establishment of an interim committee to study cell phone
26 connectivity for the 2024 and 2025 interims and takes effect on the date
27 identified in a written notice from the director of research of the

1 legislative council, or the director's designee, to the revisor of statutes, as
2 required in section 40-15-114 (8)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes, in
3 section 2 of this act, that the legislative council did not prioritize the
4 establishment of the interim committee, or, if the notice does not specify
5 a date, on the date of the notice to the revisor of statutes, or on the
6 effective date of this act, whichever is later.