

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0625.02 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 25-1258

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Story and Velasco,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REQUIRING THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO**
102 **USE THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE TO MANAGE WILDLIFE.**

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>.)

In Colorado's wildlife statutes, the legislative declaration commits the state to use hunting, trapping, and fishing as the primary methods of effecting wildlife harvests. The bill requires the parks and wildlife commission to use the best available wildlife and ecological science to adopt rules that benefit wildlife, whole ecosystem health, and all Coloradans.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-1-101, **amend** (4)
3 as follows:

4 **33-1-101. Legislative declaration.** (4) The state ~~shall utilize~~ MAY
5 AUTHORIZE hunting, trapping, and fishing ~~as the primary methods of~~
6 ~~effecting necessary wildlife harvests~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BEST
7 AVAILABLE WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE TO BENEFIT WILDLIFE,
8 WHOLE ECOSYSTEM HEALTH, AND ALL COLORADANS.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-1-104, **amend** (1)
10 as follows:

11 **33-1-104. General duties of commission.** (1) The commission
12 is responsible for all wildlife management, for licensing requirements,
13 and for the ~~promulgation~~ ADOPTION of rules ~~regulations~~, and ISSUANCE OF
14 orders concerning wildlife programs. THE COMMISSION SHALL APPLY, IN
15 ITS DECISION-MAKING, THE BEST AVAILABLE WILDLIFE AND ECOLOGICAL
16 SCIENCE TO ADOPT RULES THAT BENEFIT WILDLIFE, WHOLE ECOSYSTEM
17 HEALTH, AND ALL COLORADANS.

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

- 1 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.