First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0591.01 Clare Haffner x6137 **SENATE BILL 25-127**

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Simpson and Roberts,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees
Transportation & Energy

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING MEASURES TO OPTIMIZE COLORADO'S ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION SYSTEM.

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.)

Current law requires the Colorado electric transmission authority (authority) to conduct a study on the need for expanded transmission capacity in the state and prepare a final report of the study on or before January 31, 2025. **Section 2** of the bill authorizes the authority to conduct the study on a recurring basis and requires the authority to present a statewide transmission plan, based on the results of the study, to the

Colorado public utilities commission (commission) and the legislature every 3 years, beginning on or before September 1, 2027.

Section 2 requires the authority to consider advanced transmission technologies in the study and identify certain projects that use advanced transmission technologies. "Advanced transmission technologies" is defined in **section 1** as hardware or software technologies that increase the capacity, efficiency, reliability, or resiliency of an existing or new transmission facility.

Section 3 designates the authority as a statewide transmission coordinator. Among other duties, the authority is required to facilitate coordinated statewide planning; engage with regional and interregional planning processes; and establish an expert advisory panel to review and provide feedback on model inputs, assumptions, and approaches.

Under current law, an electric utility must submit an electric resource plan to the commission for approval. **Sections 4 and 5** require an electric utility to:

- Include in the electric resource plan a transmission plan that identifies certain transmission resources and projects;
- Incorporate in the electric resource plan an evaluation of advanced transmission technologies or submit to the commission an explanation of why advanced transmission technologies are not included in the electric resource plan; and
- Provide model inputs and assumptions and other system information or methodology consultation necessary to support the authority in acting as a statewide transmission coordinator.

Section 4 allows the commission to design incentives for a retail electric utility that utilizes advanced transmission technologies.

Section 6 requires an electric utility to consider advanced transmission technologies in the electric utility's 10-year transmission plan.

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

SECTION 1. Short title. The short title of this act is the "Colorado Grid Optimization Act".

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-42-102, **add** (1.3), (1.5), and (12.5) as follows:

40-42-102. Definitions. As used in this article 42, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1.3) "ADVANCED CONDUCTOR" MEANS A CONDUCTOR THAT HAS A DIRECT CURRENT ELECTRICAL RESISTANCE THAT IS AT LEAST TEN PERCENT LOWER THAN EXISTING CONDUCTORS OF A SIMILAR DIAMETER ON THE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION SYSTEM.

(1.5) "ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES" MEANS HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES THAT INCREASE THE CAPACITY, EFFICIENCY, RELIABILITY, OR RESILIENCY OF AN EXISTING OR NEW TRANSMISSION FACILITY, INCLUDING:

(a) ADVANCED CONDUCTORS;

(b) GRID-ENHANCING TECHNOLOGIES; AND

(c) OTHER TECHNOLOGY AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.

(12.5) "GRID-ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY" MEANS A HARDWARE OR A SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY THAT REDUCES CONGESTION OR ENHANCES THE FLEXIBILITY OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS BY INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF A TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION LINE OR REROUTING ELECTRICITY FROM OVERLOADED LINES TO UNCONGESTED LINES, WHILE MAINTAINING INDUSTRY SAFETY STANDARDS. THIS INCLUDES:

(a) DYNAMIC LINE RATINGS;

(b) ADVANCED POWER FLOW CONTROLLERS;

(c) TOPOLOGY OPTIMIZATION; AND

(d) OTHER TECHNOLOGIES THAT INCREASE GRID RELIABILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND CAPACITY.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-42-109, **amend** (2); **repeal** (3); and **add** (1.5) as follows:

40-42-109. Study on expanding transmission capacity - reporting. (1.5) BEGINNING ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, AS PART

OF A STUDY CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE AUTHORITY SHALL:

(a) CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF HOW ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES CAN SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, INCLUDING BY OPTIMIZING THE DELIVERABILITY OF ELECTRICITY IN THE STATE, IMPROVING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCY, REDUCING TIME AND COST TO DEPLOY, AND ENHANCING THE CAPACITY AND SAFETY OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE;

(b) IDENTIFY PROJECTS THAT CAN ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING THROUGH THE USE OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES:

(I) AN INCREASE IN TRANSMISSION SYSTEM CAPACITY, EFFICIENCY, RELIABILITY, OR RESILIENCY;

(II) A REDUCTION OF TRANSMISSION SYSTEM CONGESTION;

(III) A REDUCTION OF CURTAILMENT OF RENEWABLE AND ZERO-CARBON RESOURCES;

(IV) A REDUCTION OF THE RISK OF IGNITING WILDFIRES; OR

(V) AN INCREASE IN CAPACITY TO CONNECT NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ZERO-CARBON RESOURCES; AND

(c) DEVELOP MODELING METHODOLOGIES CAPABLE OF COMPREHENSIVELY EVALUATING THE BENEFITS OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES. THE AUTHORITY MAY CONTRACT WITH AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTING FIRM AS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT THE MODELING WORK.

(2) The authority shall, ~~prepare:~~

~~(a) An initial report of the study, including any recommendations, and present the initial report to the commission on or before September 1, 2024; and~~

~~(b) A final report of the study, including any recommendations~~ EVERY THREE YEARS, BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027, PREPARE A STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLAN BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT STUDY CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION and present the ~~final report~~ STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLAN to the COMMISSION AND THE joint committee of the house of representatives energy and environment committee and the senate transportation and energy committee, or their successor committees. ~~on or before January 31, 2025.~~

(3) ~~This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2025.~~

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-42-104, **add** (1.5) as follows:

40-42-104. General and specific powers and duties of the authority. (1.5) THE AUTHORITY SHALL ACT AS A STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION COORDINATOR BY:

(a) COORDINATING THE AUTHORITY'S STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLANS, COMPLETED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-42-109 (2), WITH ELECTRIC UTILITY TRANSMISSION PLANS, PREPARED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 40-2-125.5 (5.5)(a) AND 40-2-134 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMISSION RULES, INCLUDING BY PROVIDING REPORTS TO ELECTRIC UTILITIES OR THE COMMISSION REGARDING THE ALIGNMENT OF ELECTRIC UTILITY TRANSMISSION PLANS WITH THE AUTHORITY'S STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLANS;

(b) MAINTAINING A SINGLE-SYSTEM STATEWIDE MODEL OF TRANSMISSION, INCLUDING BY:

(I) COORDINATING MODELING INPUTS, ASSUMPTIONS, AND METHODOLOGIES WITH ELECTRIC UTILITIES, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS SET

BY THE COMMISSION; AND

(II) MAKING MODEL PARAMETERS AND SOFTWARE AVAILABLE TO STAKEHOLDERS TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, SUBJECT TO COST, PRIVACY, AND SECURITY CONSTRAINTS;

(c) REQUIRING ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO CONSULT OR ENGAGE THE AUTHORITY IN REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL PLANNING PROCESSES;

(d) CONVENING AND STAFFING AN EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL, SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION PROTECTION, WHICH PANEL SHALL REVIEW AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON MODEL INPUTS AND ASSUMPTIONS AND THE MODELING APPROACH; AND

(e) ENSURING ADEQUATE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON THE STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLANS COMPLETED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-42-109 (2).

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-2-125.5, **add** (5.5) and (5.7) as follows:

40-2-125.5. Carbon dioxide emission reductions - goal to eliminate by 2050 - legislative declaration - interim targets - submission and approval of plans - definitions - cost recovery - reports - rules. (5.5) **Transmission plans and consideration of advanced transmission technologies.** (a) AN ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN THAT A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY FILES WITH THE COMMISSION ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, MUST INCLUDE A TRANSMISSION PLAN THAT ALIGNS WITH THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S TEN-YEAR TRANSMISSION PLAN CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-2-126 (6) AND THAT, ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2027, ALIGNS WITH THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY'S STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLAN CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-42-109 (2). THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S

TRANSMISSION PLAN MUST IDENTIFY:

(I) TRANSMISSION RESOURCES THAT INTERCONNECT AND TRANSMIT THE GENERATION RESOURCE MIX IDENTIFIED IN THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S RESOURCE ACQUISITION PERIOD CONTAINED IN THE ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN;

(II) CONCEPTUAL TRANSMISSION RESOURCES THAT MAY BE NEEDED TO INTERCONNECT AND TRANSMIT THE GENERATION RESOURCE MIX IDENTIFIED IN THE UTILITY'S CLEAN ENERGY PLAN TO MEET THE 2045 AND 2050 DECARBONIZATION GOALS;

(III) TRANSMISSION PROJECTS THAT WOULD INCREASE INTERCONNECTION CAPACITY WITH NEIGHBORING ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT REGIONAL MARKET ACTIVITY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-5-108 AND IN COORDINATION WITH ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY CREATED IN SECTION 40-42-103 (1) AND REGIONAL PLANNING GROUPS;

(IV) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE THE USE OF THE EXISTING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES; AND

(V) STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE THE FOLLOWING TRANSMISSION BENEFITS:

(A) AVOIDED OR DEFERRED RELIABILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AND AGING INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT;

(B) REDUCED LOSS OF LOAD PROBABILITY OR REDUCED PLANNING RESERVE MARGIN;

(C) PRODUCTION COST SAVINGS;

(D) REDUCED TRANSMISSION ENERGY LOSSES;

(E) REDUCED CONGESTION DUE TO TRANSMISSION OUTAGES;

(F) MITIGATION OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND UNEXPECTED SYSTEM CONDITIONS; AND

(G) CAPACITY COST BENEFITS FROM REDUCED PEAK ENERGY LOSSES.

(b) (I) ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL INCORPORATE AN EVALUATION OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY'S ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN. THE EVALUATION MUST INCLUDE:

(A) A TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT;

(B) A COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS;

(C) A BASE MODELING SCENARIO AND A MODELING SCENARIO THAT INCORPORATES ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES THAT MAY INCREASE SYSTEM CAPACITY, INCREASE CAPACITY TO CONNECT TO NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ZERO-CARBON RESOURCES, AND LOWER COSTS; AND

(D) AN INVENTORY OF THE UTILITY'S EXISTING AND PLANNED ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES.

(II) IF A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY DOES NOT INCORPORATE AN EVALUATION OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN, THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL SUBMIT A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF WHY AN EVALUATION WAS NOT INCORPORATED, WHICH EXPLANATION MUST INCLUDE RELEVANT ANALYSES DEMONSTRATING WHY ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES WERE NOT FOUND TO OFFER A MORE COST-EFFECTIVE STRATEGY, WHETHER IN COMBINATION WITH OR INSTEAD OF OTHER CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS LISTED IN SECTION 40-42-109 (1.5)(b).

(c) A QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY SHALL PROVIDE MODEL INPUTS AND ASSUMPTIONS, INCLUDING LOADS AND RESOURCES FROM APPROVED ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLANS, TRANSMISSION CONTRACT COMMITMENTS, AND OTHER OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS AND OTHER SYSTEM INFORMATION OR METHODOLOGY CONSULTATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY IN CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A SINGLE-SYSTEM STATEWIDE MODEL OF TRANSMISSION.

(d) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (5.5) AND SUBSECTION (5.7) OF THIS SECTION, "ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 40-42-102 (1.5).

(5.7) **Performance-based incentives for advanced transmission technologies.** (a) THE COMMISSION MAY INVESTIGATE NEW INCENTIVES FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES THAT DEMONSTRATE AN ABILITY TO:

(I) PROVIDE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION SYSTEM CONGESTION RELIEF;

(II) INTERCONNECT NEW LOAD OR GENERATION THAT THE QUALIFYING RETAIL UTILITY IS OTHERWISE UNABLE TO INTEGRATE ONTO THE GRID IN A TIMELY AND PRACTICABLE MANNER THROUGH EXISTING TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION INVESTMENTS;

(III) REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK AND ENHANCE RESILIENCY TO WILDFIRE IMPACTS AND OTHER EXTREME CONDITIONS, HAZARDS, OR RISKS; OR

(IV) AVOID, REDUCE, OR DEFER THE ACTIVATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUT OFFS OR DE-ENERGIZATION EVENTS.

(b) IN DESIGNING INCENTIVES FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES THAT DEMONSTRATE THE BENEFITS

OUTLINED IN SUBSECTION (5.7)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER:

(I) SHARED SAVINGS APPROACHES;

(II) PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE MECHANISMS; AND

(III) APPROPRIATE CONSUMER PROTECTIONS TO ENSURE ANY ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR COST RECOVERY AUTHORIZED AS A RESULT OF THE INCENTIVE IS PRUDENT.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-2-134, **amend** (2); and **add** (3) and (4) as follows:

40-2-134. Wholesale electric cooperatives - electric resource planning - definitions - rules. (2) ~~As used in this section, "wholesale electric cooperative" means any generation and transmission cooperative electric association that provides wholesale electric service directly to cooperative electric associations.~~ ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, AN INTEGRATED OR ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN THAT A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SUBMITS TO THE COMMISSION MUST INCLUDE:

(a) A TRANSMISSION PLAN THAT ALIGNS WITH THE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S TEN-YEAR TRANSMISSION PLAN CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-2-126 (6) AND THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY'S STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLAN, IDENTIFYING:

(I) TRANSMISSION RESOURCES THAT INTERCONNECT AND TRANSMIT THE GENERATION RESOURCE MIX IDENTIFIED IN THE RESOURCE ACQUISITION PERIOD CONTAINED, PURSUANT TO COMMISSION RULES, IN THE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN;

(II) CONCEPTUAL TRANSMISSION RESOURCES THAT MAY BE NEEDED TO INTERCONNECT AND TRANSMIT THE GENERATION RESOURCE

MIX THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO MEET 2045 AND 2050 DECARBONIZATION GOALS;

(III) TRANSMISSION PROJECTS THAT WOULD INCREASE INTERCONNECTION CAPACITY WITH NEIGHBORING ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT REGIONAL MARKET ACTIVITY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-5-108 AND IN COORDINATION WITH ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY CREATED IN SECTION 40-42-103 (1) AND REGIONAL PLANNING GROUPS;

(IV) STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE THE USE OF THE EXISTING TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, INCLUDING THROUGH THE USE OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES; AND

(V) STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE THE FOLLOWING TRANSMISSION BENEFITS:

(A) AVOIDED OR DEFERRED RELIABILITY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AND AGING INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT;

(B) REDUCED LOSS OF LOAD PROBABILITY OR REDUCED PLANNING RESERVE MARGIN;

(C) PRODUCTION COST SAVINGS;

(D) REDUCED TRANSMISSION ENERGY LOSSES;

(E) REDUCED CONGESTION DUE TO TRANSMISSION OUTAGES;

(F) MITIGATION OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND UNEXPECTED SYSTEM CONDITIONS; AND

(G) CAPACITY COST BENEFITS FROM REDUCED PEAK ENERGY LOSSES; AND

(b) (I) AN EVALUATION OF ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING:

(A) A TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT;

(B) A COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS;

(C) A BASE MODELING SCENARIO AND A MODELING SCENARIO THAT INCORPORATES ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES THAT MAY INCREASE SYSTEM CAPACITY, INCREASE CAPACITY TO CONNECT TO NEW RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ZERO-CARBON RESOURCES, AND LOWER COSTS; AND

(D) AN INVENTORY OF THE UTILITY'S EXISTING AND PLANNED ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES.

(II) IF A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DOES NOT EVALUATE ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE INTEGRATED OR ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN, THE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SHALL SUBMIT A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF WHY AN EVALUATION WAS NOT INCORPORATED, WHICH EXPLANATION MUST INCLUDE RELEVANT ANALYSES DEMONSTRATING WHY ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES WERE NOT FOUND TO OFFER A MORE COST-EFFECTIVE STRATEGY, WHETHER IN COMBINATION WITH OR INSTEAD OF OTHER CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS LISTED IN SECTION 40-42-109 (1.5)(b).

(3) A WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SHALL PROVIDE MODEL INPUTS AND ASSUMPTIONS, INCLUDING LOADS AND RESOURCES FROM APPROVED ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLANS, TRANSMISSION CONTRACT COMMITMENTS, AND OTHER OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS AND OTHER SYSTEM INFORMATION OR METHODOLOGY CONSULTATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY IN CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A SINGLE-SYSTEM STATEWIDE MODEL OF TRANSMISSION.

(4) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

(a) "ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 40-42-102 (1.5).

(b) "WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE" MEANS A GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION THAT PROVIDES WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE DIRECTLY TO COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATIONS.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 40-2-126, **amend** (6) as follows:

40-2-126. Transmission facilities - biennial review - energy resource zones - definitions - plans - approval - cost recovery - powerline trail consideration. (6) The commission shall amend its rules requiring the filing of ten-year transmission plans by utilities to also require utilities to:

(a) Consider and address plans for the construction of new powerline trails in coordination with applicable local governments in each two-year update to a ten-year transmission plan; ~~and~~

(b) Demonstrate compliance with section 33-45-103 (2);

(c) CONSIDER ADVANCED TRANSMISSION TECHNOLOGIES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 40-42-102 (1.5), IN EACH TEN-YEAR TRANSMISSION PLAN;

(d) ALIGN EACH TEN-YEAR TRANSMISSION PLAN WITH THE UTILITY'S ELECTRIC RESOURCE PLAN AND CLEAN ENERGY PLAN AND THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY'S STATEWIDE TRANSMISSION PLAN COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 40-42-109; AND

(e) IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE FOR IDENTIFIED PROJECTS IN THE UTILITY'S

TEN-YEAR TRANSMISSION PLANS, INCLUDING BY USING THE PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY OF THE COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY.

SECTION 8. 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 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.