

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 20-0629.01 Jery Payne x2157

**SENATE BILL 20-003**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Garcia and Hisey**, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gonzales, Lee, Todd, Williams A.

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Esgar**,

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**Senate Committees**

Agriculture & Natural Resources

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE PARKS, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
102     **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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 transfers \$10,000,000 from the general fund to the capital construction fund to develop infrastructure to open a state park on the property surrounding Fishers Peak and to accommodate additional visitors at other state parks. Money appropriated to the department of natural resources is available to the department for 3 years, after which any unexpended and unencumbered money reverts back to the capital

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.*

construction fund.

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

2           **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the "I Love  
3 Colorado State Parks Act".

4           **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

6           (a) Colorado is legendary for its outdoor recreation opportunities,  
7 and state parks provide an important gateway for Colorado citizens and  
8 visitors to experience the outdoors in a safe, family-friendly environment;

9           (b) The state's population is rapidly growing, and ninety percent  
10 of Coloradans participate in outdoor recreation activities. Overall,  
11 outdoor recreation contributes sixty-two billion dollars to Colorado's  
12 economy, and the industry pays twenty-one billion dollars annually in  
13 wages and salaries.

14           (c) Colorado's state park system accommodates more than fifteen  
15 million visitor days each year and contributes one billion two hundred  
16 million dollars annually to the state's economy. Visitation at state parks  
17 has grown steadily over the last five years, with a net increase of more  
18 than two million two hundred thousand visitor days from fiscal year  
19 2014-15 through fiscal year 2018-19, and maintenance and capacity  
20 improvements have not kept up with this significant growth in demand.

21           (d) To address these visitation challenges, Senate Bill 18-143, the  
22 "Hunting, Fishing, and Parks for Future Generations Act" enacted in  
23 2018, set a goal for Colorado Parks and Wildlife to identify and plan the  
24 development of a new state park. Colorado has not opened a new state  
25 park since Staunton State Park in 2013, and the state park system has lost

1 acreage in the past decade.

2 (e) The Fishers Peak property in Las Animas county was  
3 identified as Colorado's next state park through a partnership between the  
4 city of Trinidad, Great Outdoors Colorado, The Nature Conservancy, The  
5 Trust for Public Land, and Colorado parks and wildlife. The property  
6 provides an iconic backdrop to the city of Trinidad and presents a rare  
7 opportunity to benefit the local economy, achieve landscape-level  
8 conservation, and provide recreational access to more than thirty square  
9 miles of public land.

10 (f) In addition to developing new state parks, Colorado parks and  
11 wildlife must prevent Colorado's existing forty-one state parks from being  
12 "loved to death" by investing in infrastructure and maintenance to  
13 improve the visitor experience and increase capacity.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-75-302, **amend**  
15 (2)(hh) and (2)(ii); and **add** (2)(jj) as follows:

16 **24-75-302. Capital construction fund - capital assessment fees**  
17 **- calculation - information technology capital account.** (2) The  
18 controller shall transfer a sum as specified in this subsection (2) from the  
19 general fund to the capital construction fund as money becomes available  
20 in the general fund during the fiscal year beginning on July 1 of the fiscal  
21 year in which the transfer is made. Transfers between funds pursuant to  
22 this subsection (2) are not appropriations subject to the limitations of  
23 section 24-75-201.1. The amounts transferred pursuant to this subsection  
24 (2) are as follows:

25 (hh) For the 2019-20 fiscal year, one hundred seventy-eight  
26 thousand four hundred seventy-one dollars pursuant to H.B. 19-1250,  
27 enacted in 2019; and

1 (ii) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, one hundred ten thousand six  
2 hundred fifty-two dollars pursuant to S.B. 19-172, enacted in 2019; AND

3 (jj) FOR THE 2019-20 STATE FISCAL YEAR, TEN MILLION DOLLARS  
4 UNDER S.B. 20-003, ENACTED IN 2020.

5 **SECTION 4. Capital construction appropriation.** (1) For the  
6 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$10,000,000 is appropriated to the department  
7 of natural resources for use by the parks and wildlife commission. This  
8 appropriation is from the capital construction fund created in section  
9 24-75-302, C.R.S. To implement this act, the parks and wildlife  
10 commission may use this appropriation as follows:

11 (a) \$4,000,000 for capital construction related to infrastructure  
12 development projects to facilitate the opening of a state park surrounding  
13 Fishers Peak in Las Animas county to the public; and

14 (b) \$6,000,000 for capital construction related to infrastructure  
15 improvements to address increased visitation at state parks.

16 (2) The appropriations made in subsection (1) of this section are  
17 available upon passage of this act, and if any appropriation project is  
18 initiated within the fiscal year, the appropriation for the project remains  
19 available until completion of the project or for three years, whichever  
20 comes first, at which time the unexpended and unencumbered balances  
21 revert to the capital construction fund.

22 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
23 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.