

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9/9/24

Bill 6

LLS NO. 25-0213.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Representative Hugh McKean
Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: Youth Involvement in Environmental Justice

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO INVOLVE YOUTH IN ENVIRONMENTAL**
102 **JUSTICE.**

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/>.)

Representative Hugh McKean Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee. The environmental justice advisory board in the department of public health and environment (advisory board) advises the environmental justice ombudsperson, develops recommendations related to adverse environmental effects on disproportionately impacted communities, and supports the

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

implementation of a grant program to finance environmental mitigation projects. **Section 1** of the bill adds 2 seats to the advisory board for youth ages 14 to 21. The youth advisory board members serve terms of 2 years.

Section 2 requires the Colorado energy office, on or before December 31, 2026, and on an annual basis thereafter, to coordinate and facilitate the hosting of a community engagement event for youth (event) to educate and hear from youth about environmental matters. The energy office may coordinate with various other state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and other persons with expertise in environmental matters in the coordination and hosting of the annual event. The energy office may finance all or a portion of the annual event through gifts, grants, or donations received from private or public sources.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1-134, **amend**
3 (2)(b), (2)(c) introductory portion, (2)(c)(I), (2)(c)(II), and (2)(d)(I); and
4 **add** (2)(d)(III) and (2)(d.5) as follows:

5 **25-1-134. Environmental justice - ombudsperson - advisory**
6 **board - grant program - definitions - repeal. (2) Environmental**
7 **justice advisory board.** (b) Except as otherwise provided in this
8 subsection (2), the members of the advisory board are appointed by the
9 governor. ~~The governor shall make the initial appointments as soon as~~
10 ~~practicable, but no later than four months after July 2, 2021.~~ An
11 appointing authority may remove a member of the advisory board for
12 malfeasance in office, failure to regularly attend meetings, or any cause
13 that renders the member unable or unfit to discharge the member's duties.

14 (c) The advisory board consists of the following ~~twelve~~ **FOURTEEN**
15 members who, to the extent practicable, must reside in different
16 geographic areas of the state, reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the
17 state, and have experience with a range of environmental issues, including
18 air pollution, water contamination, and public health impacts:

1 (I) ~~Four~~ FIVE voting members appointed by the governor, who
2 must be or have been residents of a disproportionately impacted
3 community, ONE OF WHOM MUST BE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS FOURTEEN TO
4 TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT;

5 (II) ~~Three~~ FOUR voting members appointed by the governor, one
6 of whom must be from a nongovernmental organization that represents
7 statewide interests to advance racial justice, one of whom must be from
8 a nongovernmental organization that represents statewide interests to
9 advance environmental justice, ~~and~~ one of whom must represent worker
10 interests in disproportionately impacted communities, AND ONE OF WHOM
11 MUST BE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS FOURTEEN TO TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE
12 AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT;

13 (d) (I) Except as provided in ~~subsection~~ SUBSECTIONS (2)(d)(II)
14 AND (2)(d)(III) of this section, each member's term of appointment is four
15 years. Voting members may serve no more than two terms; EXCEPT THAT
16 THE TWO VOTING YOUTH MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO
17 SUBSECTIONS (2)(c)(I) AND (2)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION, WHO WERE
18 FOURTEEN TO TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF INITIAL
19 APPOINTMENT, MAY BE REAPPOINTED FOR A SECOND TERM ONLY IF THEY
20 ARE STILL IN THAT AGE RANGE AT THE TIME OF REAPPOINTMENT. The
21 governor shall fill any vacancies on the advisory board, including for the
22 remainder of any unexpired term. A member appointed to fill a vacancy
23 may serve the remainder of the unexpired term of the member whose
24 vacancy is being filled, and this remainder counts as one term for that
25 appointee.

26 (III) THE TWO VOTING YOUTH MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO
27 SUBSECTIONS (2)(c)(I) AND (2)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION SERVE TERMS OF

1 TWO YEARS.

2 (d.5) (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAKE INITIAL APPOINTMENTS OF
3 THE TWO VOTING YOUTH MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO
4 SUBSECTIONS (2)(c)(I) AND (2)(c)(II) OF THIS SECTION ON OR BEFORE
5 SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.

6 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(d.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
7 2026.

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-38.5-123 as
9 follows:

10 **24-38.5-123. Annual youth community engagement event on**
11 **environmental matters - gifts, grants, or donations - definitions.**

12 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
13 REQUIRES:

14 (a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE ENERGY AND CARBON
15 MANAGEMENT COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION 34-60-104.3 (1).

16 (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
17 AND ENVIRONMENT CREATED IN SECTION 25-1-102 (1).

18 (c) "ENERGY OFFICE" MEANS THE COLORADO ENERGY OFFICE
19 CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.5-101 (1).

20 (d) "OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF
21 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CREATED IN SECTION 25-1-133.5.

22 (e) "OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY" MEANS THE OFFICE OF
23 SUSTAINABILITY CREATED IN SECTION 24-30-2303.

24 (f) "YOUTH" MEANS INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE THIRTEEN TO
25 NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE.

26 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND ON AN ANNUAL BASIS
27 THEREAFTER, THE ENERGY OFFICE SHALL COORDINATE AND FACILITATE

1 THE HOSTING OF A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT FOR YOUTH TO
2 EDUCATE AND HEAR FROM YOUTH ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

3 (3) THE ENERGY OFFICE MAY PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL
4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT AND MAY INVITE TO PRESENT AT THE
5 ANNUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT THE FOLLOWING ENTITIES AND
6 INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

- 7 (a) THE COMMISSION;
- 8 (b) THE DEPARTMENT;
- 9 (c) THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE;
- 10 (d) THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY;
- 11 (e) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS;
- 12 (f) TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS;
- 13 (g) FEDERAL AGENCIES;
- 14 (h) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;
- 15 (i) UTILITIES AND OTHER ENERGY PROVIDERS;
- 16 (j) MEMBERS OF ACADEMIA; AND
- 17 (k) ANY OTHER ENTITY OR INDIVIDUAL THAT THE ENERGY OFFICE
18 WOULD LIKE TO COORDINATE WITH OR INVITE TO PRESENT BASED ON
19 EXPERTISE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

20 (4) THE COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
21 JUSTICE, AND OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO
22 WORK WITH THE ENERGY OFFICE TO COORDINATE AND PRESENT AT THE
23 ANNUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT IF THE ENERGY OFFICE SO
24 REQUESTS.

25 (5) THE ENERGY OFFICE MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
26 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
27 PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION. THE ENERGY OFFICE SHALL TRANSMIT ANY

1 MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE
2 TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE ENERGY FUND
3 CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.5-102.4 (1)(a)(I).

4 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
5 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
6 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
7 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
8 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
9 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
10 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
11 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.