

CHAPTER 219

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL 93-1069

BY REPRESENTATIVES Gordon, Agler, Armstrong, Blue, Coffman, Eisenach, Foster, Friednash, George, Greenwood, Hagedorn, R. Hernandez, Keller, Knox, Lyle, Morrison, Nichol, Piffner, Pierson, Reeser, Reeves, Rupert, Strom, Sullivan, Tanner, Williams, and Wright;
also SENATORS Ament, Bishop, Blickensderfer, Cassidy, Groff, Johnson, Martinez, Meiklejohn, Mendez, Pastore, Peterson, Rizzuto, Wattenberg, and Weissmann.

AN ACT**CONCERNING THE USE OF PLAIN LANGUAGE IN STATE LAWS.**

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

SECTION 1. 1-40-105 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1980 Repl. Vol., as amended by Senate Bill 93-135, enacted at the First Regular session of the Fifty-ninth General Assembly, is amended to read:

1-40-105. [Formerly 1-40-101 (1) and the first portion of 1-40-101 (2)] Filing procedure - review and comment - amendments - filing with secretary of state.
(1) The original typewritten draft of every initiative petition for a proposed law or amendment to the state constitution to be enacted by the people, before it is signed by any elector, shall be submitted by the proponents of the petition to the directors of the legislative council and the office of legislative legal services for review and comment. Proponents are encouraged to write such drafts in plain, nontechnical language and in a clear and coherent manner using words with common and everyday meaning which are understandable to the average reader. Upon request, any agency in the executive department shall assist in reviewing and preparing comments on the petition. No later than two weeks after the date of submission of the original draft, unless it is withdrawn by the proponents, the directors of the legislative council and the office of legislative legal services, or their designees, shall render their comments to the proponents of the petition concerning the format or contents of the petition at a meeting open to the public. WHERE APPROPRIATE, SUCH COMMENTS SHALL ALSO CONTAIN SUGGESTED EDITORIAL CHANGES TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLAIN

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

LANGUAGE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION. Except with the permission of the proponents, the comments shall not be disclosed to any person other than the proponents prior to the public meeting with the proponents of the petition.

SECTION 2. Article 2 of title 2, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1980 Repl. Vol., as amended, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART to read:

PART 8
PLAIN LANGUAGE IN STATE LAWS

2-2-801. Plain language requirement in state laws. ANY PERSON, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EMPLOYEES OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF, AND THE STAFF OF THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE, SHALL ENSURE THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ALL BILLS AND AMENDMENTS TO BILLS PREPARED OR PROPOSED BY SUCH PERSON ARE WRITTEN IN PLAIN, NONTECHNICAL LANGUAGE AND IN A CLEAR AND COHERENT MANNER USING WORDS WITH COMMON AND EVERYDAY MEANING WHICH ARE UNDERSTANDABLE TO THE AVERAGE READER. ENACTMENT OF A BILL BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL CREATE A PRESUMPTION THAT SUCH BILL CONFORMS TO THIS SECTION.

SECTION 3. Appropriations in separate legislative appropriation bill to be adjusted. For implementation of this act, appropriations made in the separate legislative appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1993, shall be adjusted to cover any additional costs that may be incurred by the office of legislative legal services and the legislative council. Such adjustments shall come from the amount set aside for contingencies contained in the separate legislative appropriation bill.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: June 3, 1993

Editor's note: This act is printed out of the usual order of approval date because the Governor's letter indicated that it was signed June 2.