

## CHAPTER 289

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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**


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**HOUSE BILL 14-1303**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Scott and Ferrandino, Conti, Court, Exum, Fields, Foote, Garcia, Hamner, Hullinghorst, Kraft-Tharp, Labuda, Lawrence, Lee, Mitsch Bush, Pabon, Peniston, Pettersen, Primavera, Priola, Rankin, Ryden, Salazar, Sonnenberg, Tyler, Williams, Wright, Young, Becker, Holbert, Melton, Murray, Rosenthal, Singer;  
 also SENATOR(S) Schwartz, Aguilar, Guzman, Heath, Hodge, Kefalas, Kerr, King, Newell, Nicholson, Rivera, Roberts, Steadman, Todd, Carroll.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS AROUND THE STATE BY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-303, **amend** (2) introductory portion; and **add** (2) (g) as follows:

**2-3-303. Functions - report - definitions.** (2) In addition to any other powers and duties set forth in law, the executive committee ~~shall have~~ OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS the following powers and duties:

(g) (I) (A) TO CONSIDER, RECOMMEND, AND ESTABLISH POLICIES ALLOWING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES TO TAKE REMOTE TESTIMONY FROM ONE OR MORE CENTRALIZED REMOTE SITES LOCATED AROUND THE STATE.

(B) IF REMOTE TESTIMONY IS APPROVED, AT LEAST ONE REMOTE SITE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (I) MUST BE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN SLOPE AREA OF THE STATE.

(C) THE VIDEO TELECONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY NEED NOT TELEVISION, NOR OTHERWISE ALLOW TESTIFYING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SEE, THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, SO LONG AS THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ABLE TO HEAR SUCH PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE COMMITTEE.

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

(II) IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PARAGRAPH (g), THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO USE THOSE INSTITUTIONS AS THE CENTRALIZED REMOTE SITES AND TO USE THE RESOURCES, INCLUDING FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND STAFF, OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS.

(III) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, IMPLEMENT THE USE OF VIDEO TELECONFERENCING IN PHASES.

(IV) NOTHING IN THIS PARAGRAPH (g) SUPERSEDES THE POWER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE TO ADOPT RULES OR JOINT RULES, OR BOTH, FOR THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF THEIR AFFAIRS.

(V) AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2016, THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REPORT CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PERTAINING TO REMOTE TESTIMONY TAKEN PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (g):

(A) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO TESTIFIED REMOTELY;

(B) THE LOCATIONS OF THE SITES FROM WHICH SUCH PERSONS TESTIFIED;

(C) THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF HEARINGS AT WHICH REMOTE TESTIMONY WAS ACCEPTED;

(D) THE ESTIMATED CALCULATION OF TRAVEL MILES SAVED BY ALLOWING PERSONS TO TESTIFY REMOTELY;

(E) THE COST TO IMPLEMENT THE REMOTE TESTIMONY PROCESS;

(F) THE TECHNOLOGICAL OR OTHER ISSUES, IF ANY, THAT AROSE;

(G) IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER SUITABLE SITES FROM WHICH REMOTE TESTIMONY CAN BE TAKEN, IN A MANNER THAT ENSURES THAT ADEQUATE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF SITES IS ACHIEVED;

(H) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE DIRECTOR BELIEVES WOULD IMPROVE THE TAKING OF REMOTE TESTIMONY; AND

(I) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE DIRECTOR BELIEVES RELEVANT OR USEFUL.

**SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2014 long bill.** (1) For the implementation of this act, the general fund appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act to the controlled maintenance trust fund created in section 24-75-302.5 (2) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, is decreased by \$135,354.

(2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the general fund, not otherwise appropriated, to the legislative department, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, the sum of \$135,354 and 1.0

FTE, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be allocated to legislative council staff for the implementation of this act.

**SECTION 3. 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 (August 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); 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 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 31, 2014