

Title: HB 20-1039 – Transparent State Web Portal

Sponsors: Reps. Coleman & Baisley, Sens. Zenzinger & Tate

Purpose:

HB 20-1039 will improve the quality and legitimacy of administrative rulemaking. State departments currently communicate their rulemaking processes locally, which creates a challenge for individuals without a political background and companies without dedicated political operatives to engage with the creation of rules that impact their lives and businesses. As amended, this bill will create a task force that will discover the best way to stimulate better public comments and more public engagement in the administrative rulemaking process.

Background:

State rulemaking processes are too difficult for the average citizen or businesses to engage with. The Colorado Secretary of State's website has an option to search for administrative rules of state agencies, but it is not a user-friendly search mechanism and only includes finalized versions of rules. The challenge is in discovering how to search rules, and then the further challenge of finding the correct rules hampers our ability to maintain a vibrant business economy shared by all Coloradans. However, after months of stakeholder engagement, the best way to develop a transparent state web portal is to have a yearlong task force engineering our approach.

This action has demonstrated effectiveness. Federal rulemaking has been centralized for over ten years, and their new site has significantly improved functionality. At least three other states have also made significant strides toward transparency and efficiency in regulatory processes by technological investment.

Bill Action:

As amended, the bill will not create the transparent state web portal as envisioned, but will create a task force that will work to engineer the best possible approach to a transparent state web portal. This task force will be as inclusive as possible to ensure that all of the agencies and entities affected will be able to voice their concerns and have their perspectives understood.

Support Logos

