

House Bill 17-1217
Legislation Resulting from the History Colorado Performance Audit (July 2014)
Concerning the Governance Structure of the State Historical Society
Recommendation No. 6, Page 54

What Would This Bill Do?

House Bill 17-1217 would amend Section 24-80-201.5, C.R.S., to repeal certain obsolete provisions of the statute, including the provision requiring the board of directors of the state historical society (board) to recommend 4 members of the board for appointment by the government. The bill also would change the language from establishing the council to allowing the board to establish the council and would repeal the section authorizing the council's establishment if not established by June 1, 2020.

What Did The Audit Find?

Our July 2014 audit found that the State Historical Society's (aka History Colorado's) Board of Directors' composition lacked state representation and was not defined in statute. The audit recommended that History Colorado management and its Board of Directors work with the Department of Higher Education to develop an appropriate governance and organizational structure that balanced its needs as a non-profit corporation with that of a State agency, and achieves its organizational objectives and obligations.

Subsequent to our audit, the General Assembly passed legislation (SB 15-225) that established a new gubernatorial appointed board for the State Historical Society, effective July 1, 2015. The legislation specifically established powers and duties for the Board and created a Director's Council to provide advice, counsel, and expertise to the Board.

History Colorado and the Department of Higher Education have requested legislation to eliminate the extra nomination step for four Board members, to make the creation of the Directors Council permissive rather than mandatory, and to include a sunset date for the Directors Council.

Comments: History Colorado and the Department of Higher Education support this bill.