

HB15-1057
**CONCERNING THE PROCESS FOR A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE
TO BE PLACED ON A BALLOT**
Court-DelGrosso
Sonnenberg-Hodge

Colorado’s statewide ballot initiative system provides an opportunity for citizens to ask their fellow Coloradans to weigh in on public policy issues of interest or concern via direct democracy.

To ensure the electorate is fully informed, a clear understanding of the fiscal impact and/or benefit of a measure – as early in the process as possible – is wise.

HB15-1057 utilizes the current approach in place for the creation of the Blue Book Voter Guide by requiring the Legislative Council to prepare a preliminary fiscal impact statement for any measure that receives a Title from the Title Board.

The fiscal impact statement would be included, along with the synopsis of the proposed measure, on the first page of the petition template utilized for collecting signatures to place a measure before voters in November.

More than 50 percent of states who use the initiative system require a fiscal impact statement be included to adequately educate voters. Neighboring states Montana and Utah, as well as Alaska, California, Maine and Missouri, have laws that require a fiscal statement to be published on the petition form.

Worthy of note, the measure creates parity with the process utilized for referred measures, as a proposal considered for ballot placement by the Colorado General Assembly has a fiscal note prepared prior to its consideration by members of the Legislature.

Additionally, the legislation requires that both designated representatives of a proposed ballot measure attend the Review and Comment Hearing staffed by the Legislative Council. This ensures the individuals have an opportunity to gain the expertise of professional staff regarding how best to craft a measure, as well as to respond to any questions regarding their submission. Current law requires both designated representatives to attend the Title Board Hearing. This legislation mirrors that process.

Questions?

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Endorsing Organizations (as of 5/4/15):

Action 22
Associated General Contractors of Colorado
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Club 20
Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry
Colorado Association of Homebuilders
Colorado Association of Realtors
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Bankers Association
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Counties, Inc.
Colorado Competitive Council (C3)
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Dairy Farmers
Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association
Colorado Municipal League
Colorado Petroleum Association
Colorado Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors
Colorado Business Roundtable
Colorado Concern
Colorado Contractors Association
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Mining Association
Colorado Oil and Gas Association
Colorado Restaurant Association
Colorado Retail Council
Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance
Colorado Water Congress
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Denver South Economic Development Partnership
Douglas County Business Alliance
Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
Independent Bankers of Colorado
League of Women Voters of Colorado
NAIOP Colorado
National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
The Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce
Progressive 15