

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 each page of a 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 1/8/15):

Aurora Chamber of Commerce

Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry

Colorado Municipal League

Colorado Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors

Colorado Business Roundtable

Colorado Concern

Colorado Contractors Association

Colorado Mining Association

Colorado Oil and Gas Association

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Denver South Economic Development Partnership

Douglas County Business Alliance

Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce

Independent Bankers of Colorado