

## DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVES

### **Proposed Initiative: Colorado Clarity Act**

Pursuant to section 1-40-106, C.R.S., the proponents hereby designate the following individuals to represent the proponents in all matters affecting the petition:

#### **Designated Representative #1:**

Shawn Bennett



#### **Designated Representative #2:**

Gennae Bennett



# Colorado Clarity Act

**A Statutory Initiative to Require Transparency, Standardization, and Public Access to State Financial and Performance Data**

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## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This act shall be known and may be cited as the **“Colorado Clarity Act.”**

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## SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION AND PURPOSE

The people of the State of Colorado hereby find and declare that:

1. Taxpayers fund the operations of state government and are entitled to **clear, consistent, and accessible information** regarding how public funds are collected, allocated, and spent.
2. Existing public reporting mechanisms are **fragmented, inconsistent, and difficult for the average citizen to interpret**, limiting meaningful public oversight.
3. Transparency improves **public trust, fiscal discipline, performance accountability, and democratic participation**.

**The purpose of this act** is to require standardized, publicly accessible reporting of state financial and performance data in a centralized format that allows citizens to understand how state government operates and how taxpayer dollars are used.

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## **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. **“State agency”** means any department, division, office, board, bureau, or commission within the executive branch of state government, excluding institutions of higher education governed by independent boards.
2. **“Public funds”** means any funds derived from taxes, fees, fines, federal transfers, grants, or other revenues received or administered by a state agency.
3. **“Clarity Portal”** means the centralized, publicly accessible online platform established pursuant to this act.
4. **“Performance metrics”** means measurable indicators used by a state agency to evaluate program effectiveness, outcomes, and efficiency.
5. **“Machine-readable format”** means a structured data format that can be automatically read and processed by a computer without human intervention.

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## **SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLORADO CLARITY PORTAL**

1. The Office of the State Controller, in coordination with the Office of Information Technology, shall establish and maintain a **publicly accessible online platform**, to be known as the **Colorado Clarity Portal**.
2. The Clarity Portal shall serve as a **central repository** for standardized financial and performance data reported by state agencies.
3. The Clarity Portal shall be available to the public **without registration, fees, or restrictions**.

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## **SECTION 5. REQUIRED DISCLOSURES**

Each state agency shall submit and maintain the following information on the Clarity Portal:

### **(a) Financial Transparency**

1. Annual budgets and actual expenditures, displayed by:
  - Program
  - Line item
  - Fund source
2. Contracts, grants, and vendor payments exceeding thresholds established by rule.
3. Transfers of public funds between agencies or programs.

### **(b) Program Performance**

1. A plain-language description of each major program.
2. Identified performance metrics for each program.
3. Annual performance outcomes compared to stated objectives.

### **(c) Historical Data**

Agencies shall maintain no fewer than **five years of historical data**, where available, to allow year-over-year comparison.

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## **SECTION 6. DATA STANDARDS AND FORMAT**

1. All information submitted under this act shall:
  - Be presented in **plain language**, and
  - Be made available in **machine-readable formats**.
2. The State Controller may adopt rules establishing:
  - Uniform data standards
  - Reporting schedules
  - Formatting requirements
3. Agencies shall use **existing data systems** to the maximum extent practicable.

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## **SECTION 7. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

1. Each state agency shall designate a compliance officer responsible for submissions under this act.
2. Failure to submit required information shall be documented in an annual compliance report published on the Clarity Portal.
3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to create a private right of action.

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## **SECTION 8. LIMITATIONS**

1. This act does **not** require the disclosure of:
  - Personally identifiable information
  - Confidential law enforcement data
  - Information protected under state or federal law
2. This act shall not be interpreted to require new appropriations.

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## **SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

1. Initial implementation shall begin no later than **July 1 following voter approval**.
2. Full compliance by all state agencies shall be required within **18 months** of the effective date.

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## **SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

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## **SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This act shall take effect upon proclamation of the Governor declaring the official vote count.