First Regular Session Seventy-third General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

This Unofficial Version Includes Committee Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading

LLS NO. 21-0633.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

HOUSE BILL 21-1150

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Jodeh,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Senate Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Finance

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW 102 AMERICANS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill creates, initially within the department of labor and employment, the Colorado office of new Americans (ONA). The bill sets forth the ONA's duties and responsibilities and provides details regarding funding. The ONA serves as the point of contact for immigrant-serving state agencies, private sector organizations, and the public about immigrant issues in Colorado, and has as one of its central purposes the

successful integration and inclusion of immigrants and refugees in our state's communities. As its main priority, the ONA is required to implement a statewide strategy to facilitate economic stability and promote successful economic, social, linguistic, and cultural integration by investing in the success of immigrants in Colorado.

1	Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
2	SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add article 3.7 to title
3	8 as follows:
4	ARTICLE 3.7
5	Colorado Office of New Americans
6	8-3.7-101. Legislative declaration - intent. (1) The General
7	ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
8	(a) COLORADO IS HOME TO MORE THAN HALF A MILLION
9	IMMIGRANTS, INCLUDING REFUGEES, WHO MAKE UP TEN PERCENT OF THE
10	STATE'S POPULATION AND PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN OUR STATE'S CULTURAL
11	FABRIC AND SHARED PROSPERITY;
12	(b) OVER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND INDIVIDUALS, WHO MAKE UP
13	ELEVEN PERCENT OF COLORADO'S POPULATION, ARE NATIVE-BORN
14	AMERICANS WITH AT LEAST ONE IMMIGRANT PARENT;
15	(c) IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF
16	COLORADO'S DIVERSE ECONOMY AND ARE A VITAL PART OF THE STATE'S
17	TAX BASE;
18	(d) IMMIGRANT-LED HOUSEHOLDS IN THE STATE PAID ONE AND A
19	HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES AND HAD A COMBINED
20	SPENDING POWER, AFTER TAX-INCOME, OF JUST OVER FOURTEEN BILLION
21	DOLLARS IN 2018;
22	(e) More than thirty-five thousand immigrant and refugee
23	ENTREPRENEURS EMPLOY OVER ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND INDIVIDUALS;

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1	(1) IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES MAKE UP A LITTLE OVER THIRTEEN
2	PERCENT OF COLORADO'S SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND
3	MATH (STEM) WORKFORCE, TWENTY-ONE PERCENT OF THE
4	CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE, SEVENTEEN PERCENT OF THE
5	MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE, AND NINETEEN PERCENT OF THE
6	ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT, WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND REMEDIATION
7	SERVICES WORKFORCES; AND
8	$(g)\ Between 2017 and 2019, naturalization rates increased$
9	BY SEVENTY-SEVEN PERCENT IN COLORADO AND AN ADDITIONAL ONE
10	HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE
11	COLORADANS ARE ELIGIBLE TO NATURALIZE.
12	(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
13	(a) SUPPORTING THE INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF IMMIGRANTS
14	AND REFUGEES IN OUR COMMUNITIES HELPS THE WHOLE STATE THRIVE;
15	(b) CREATING AND ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS
16	WILL HELP TO ORGANIZE A STRUCTURE FOR STATE AGENCIES AND
17	IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES TO PARTNER IN ORDER TO ENHANCE
18	INTEGRATION ACROSS THE STATE AND WILL PROVIDE IMMIGRANT
19	COMMUNITIES THE MEANS TO ADDRESS ANY CONCERNS AND OBSTACLES
20	THEY ENCOUNTER WHEN ACCESSING SERVICES; AND
21	(c) THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS A
22	CENTRALIZED LOCATION WHERE STATE PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, AND
23	POLICIES FOCUSED ON FACILITATING ECONOMIC STABILITY AND
24	PROMOTING SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION FOR IMMIGRANTS ARE HOUSED.
25	(3) It is the general assembly's intent that the office of
26	NEW AMERICANS:
27	(a) WILL GROW OVER TIME SO THAT IN THE FUTURE IT COULD

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1	PROVIDE GRANTS TO LOCAL IMMIGRANT-FOCUSED, COMMUNITY-BASED
2	ORGANIZATIONS, DEPENDING ON AVAILABLE FUNDS; AND
3	(b) BE FUNDED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS
4	THROUGH THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR AND THAT IN THE SECOND
5	REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AN
6	APPROPRIATION BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATION
7	ACT FOR THE OFFICE'S STATE FUNDING AND ASSOCIATED FTE; BUT
8	NOTHING PRECLUDES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM MAKING AN
9	APPROPRIATION TO THE OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS PRIOR TO THE SECOND
10	REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
11	8-3.7-102. Definitions. As used in this article 3.7, unless the
12	CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
13	(1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
14	EMPLOYMENT CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-121.
15	(2) "Immigrant" or "new American" means a Coloradan
16	WHO HAS ARRIVED, AND A PERSON WHO WILL ARRIVE, TO COLORADO AS
17	AN IMMIGRANT OR REFUGEE, AND INCLUDES THEIR CHILDREN. THE
18	POPULATION INCLUDES: REFUGEES, ASYLEES, SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA
19	HOLDERS, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, RECIPIENTS OF THE FEDERAL
20	DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVAL PROGRAM, AND ALL OTHER
21	IMMIGRANTS AND ASPIRING CITIZENS SEEKING OPPORTUNITY, SAFETY, OR
22	REUNIFICATION OF FAMILY.
23	(3) "Integration" means a dynamic, two-way process in
24	WHICH IMMIGRANTS AND NEW AMERICANS AND THE RECEIVING
25	COMMUNITY WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD SECURE, VIBRANT, AND COHESIVE
26	COMMUNITIES WITHOUT HAVING TO FOREGO THEIR OWN CULTURAL
27	IDENTITY.

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1	(4) "ONA" MEANS THE COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS
2	CREATED IN SECTION 8-3.7-103.
3	8-3.7-103. Colorado office of new Americans - creation - duties
4	- report. (1) (a) There is hereby created, initially in the
5	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, THE COLORADO OFFICE OF
6	NEW AMERICANS, THE HEAD OF WHICH SHALL BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE
7	COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE
8	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT. THE DIRECTOR OF THE ONA
9	HAS REGULAR ACCESS TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND HAS THE
10	POWER TO CONVENE OTHER STATE AGENCIES.
11	(b) The director shall staff the ONA in order to
12	EFFECTIVELY MEET THE GOALS AND INTENTIONS SET FORTH IN THIS
13	ARTICLE 3.7 AND TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS OF COLORADO'S NEW AMERICAN
14	COMMUNITY. IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT THE ONA'S
15	PURPOSE, IT IS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S INTENT THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S
16	LIVED EXPERIENCE OR WORK WITHIN THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY BE
17	CONSIDERED WHEN HIRING DECISIONS ARE MADE FOR ONA STAFF. THE
18	ONA SERVES AS THE POINT OF CONTACT FOR IMMIGRANT-SERVING STATE
19	AGENCIES, PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT
20	IMMIGRANT ISSUES IN COLORADO.
21	
22	(c) (I) THE ONA SHALL CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS AND STATE
23	AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, THE
24	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY
25	AGENCIES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT,
26	TO DEVELOP A RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON WHAT
27	STATE AGENCIES OR OFFICES ARE BEST SUITED TO ADMINISTER THE

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1	COLORADO REFUGEE SERVICES PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 26-2-138,
2	AND ANY RELATED PROGRAMS, SO THAT THE ONA'S REFUGEE
3	INTEGRATION GOALS ARE MET OR EXCEEDED.
4	(II) THE ONA SHALL COMPLETE A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION
5	BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, AND SHALL COMPLETE A FINAL
6	RECOMMENDATION, WHICH THE ONA SHALL PROVIDE TO THE GOVERNOR'S
7	OFFICE, NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
8	SUBSECTION $(1)(c)$.
9	(III) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT ON THE ONA, INCLUDING
10	THE DRAFT AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS
11	(1)(c)(I) AND $(1)(c)(II)$ OF THIS SECTION, AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S
12	ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO ITS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE
13	PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203. IF NECESSARY, THE COMMITTEE MAY
14	MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
15	SPONSOR APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION REGARDING THE COLORADO REFUGEE
16	SERVICES PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 26-2-138.
17	(2) THE COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS SHALL:
18	(a) IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE STRATEGY TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC
19	STABILITY AND PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, LINGUISTIC,
20	AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION BY INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF
21	IMMIGRANTS IN COLORADO;
22	(b) IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO INTEGRATION;
23	(c) FOSTER ENHANCED INCLUSION FOR IMMIGRANTS;
24	(d) Ensure equitable opportunities and access to services
25	FOR IMMIGRANTS;
26	(e) ESTABLISH AND WORK WITH A COMMUNITY ADVISORY
27	COMMITTEE THAT CAN PROVIDE INDIT TO THE STATE FROM COLORADO'S

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1	IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES;
2	(f) WORK DIRECTLY WITH IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS TO HEAR AND
3	ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS AND OBSTACLES IN ACCESSING SERVICES;
4	(g) COORDINATE WITH THE COLORADO REFUGEE SERVICES
5	PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION $26-2-138$ TO ALIGN IT WITH THE GOALS OF
6	THE ONA, AND MANAGE OR DIRECT ANY OTHER RELEVANT PROGRAMS
7	THAT MIGHT EXIST OR BE CREATED ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF
8	THIS SUBSECTION (2)(g), INCLUDING IMMIGRANT-FOCUSED STATE
9	PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, AND POLICIES, THAT MIGHT EXIST OR BE CREATED
10	IN THE FUTURE, SO THAT THE STATE'S SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS AND THE
11	STATE'S APPROACH TO IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION ARE COHESIVE
12	INTEGRATED, AND ELEGANT;
13	(h) COORDINATE WITH AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
14	GOVERNOR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND STATE AGENCIES ON WAYS TO
15	IMPROVE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION
16	ACROSS THE STATE, SUCH AS:
17	(I) RECOMMENDING CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION,
18	MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMS, AND BUDGET OF STATE AGENCIES IN ORDER TO
19	PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS;
20	(II) COORDINATING WITH STATE AGENCIES AND PUBLIC-PRIVATE
21	PARTNERSHIPS;
22	(III) SERVING AS A RESOURCE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED
23	ORGANIZATIONS SERVING IMMIGRANTS IN COLORADO;
24	(IV) CREATING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PROGRAM TO BUILD UP
25	IMMIGRANT-SERVING NONPROFITS STATEWIDE;
26	(V) RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES AND SERVING AS THE POINT OF
27	CONTACT FOR IMMIGRANT-SERVING AGENCIES, STATE AGENCIES, AND THE

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1	PUBLIC ABOUT IMMIGRANT ISSUES IN COLORADO; AND
2	(VI) RECOMMENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN CULTURAL
3	COMPETENCY AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION TRAINING FOR
4	STATE DEPARTMENTS;
5	(i) Ensure the ONA is utilizing data only as authorized
6	UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO INFORM THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO
7	ADVANCE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND INTEGRATION FOR IMMIGRANTS. THE
8	ONA SHALL NEVER USE OR SHARE DATA SOLELY FOR THE USE OF CIVIL
9	IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT.
10	(j) As funding allows, undertake studies, symposia
11	RESEARCH, AND FACTUAL REPORTS TO GATHER INSIGHT AND TO
12	FORMULATE AND PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR, STATE
13	AGENCIES, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATED TO ISSUES OF CONCERN
14	AND IMPORTANCE TO IMMIGRANTS IN COLORADO. THE ONA SHALL ALSO
15	ANALYZE ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN ORDER TO MAKE
16	POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR.
17	STATE AGENCIES, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
18	(k) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ENSURE THAT ALL ONA SERVICES.
19	SYSTEMS, VITAL DOCUMENTS, AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS AND
20	RESOURCES, INCLUDING WEBSITES, ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL COLORADANS
21	REGARDLESS OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND DISABILITIES. WHERE
22	APPLICABLE AND POSSIBLE, THE ONA SHALL ENSURE COMPLIANCE
23	EXCEEDS THE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS
24	WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS
25	AMENDED, ANY AVAILABLE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLANS, AND THE
26	COLORADO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT IN PART 6 OF ARTICLE 34 OF TITLE
27	24.

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1	(3) AS FUNDING ALLOWS, THE ONA SHALL PROMOTE INTEGRATION
2	ACTIVITIES AMONG IMMIGRANTS BY USING A MODEL SIMILAR TO THE
3	FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 18 OF TITLE
4	26 WITH THE GOAL OF IMPLEMENTING IMMIGRANT SUPPORT THROUGH
5	COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHERE
6	IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES CAN ACCESS FORMAL AND
7	INFORMAL SUPPORT TO PROMOTE THEIR HEALTH, ECONOMIC WELL-BEING,
8	AND INTEGRATION. THE ACTIVITIES SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED
9	TO:
10	(a) ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS:
11	(I) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, SKILLS RECOGNITION, AND
12	BARRIER REDUCTION;
13	(II) INITIATIVES THAT INCREASE ECONOMIC STABILITY;
14	(III) ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT;
15	AND
16	(IV) NATURALIZATION AMONG ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS;
17	(b) INCREASED ACCESS, SUCH AS:
18	(I) CONNECTING IMMIGRANTS TO LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL
19	RESOURCES, AND TO OTHER RESOURCES AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE OR
20	RELEVANT TO MEET THE IMMIGRANTS' NEEDS;
21	(II) CONNECTING IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES WITH
22	ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAMS; AND
23	(III) PROVIDING IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRANT FAMILIES WITH
24	REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS; AND
25	(c) STATE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH BY:
26	(I) PROMOTING AND CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS AND
27	CONTRIBUTIONS OF COLORADO'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY: AND

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1	(II) ENGAGING WITH THE RECEIVING COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO
2	FOSTER INCLUSIVITY AND INTEGRATION BY BUILDING AWARENESS,
3	PROMOTING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND INCREASING SOCIAL BRIDGING
4	OPPORTUNITIES.
5	(4) THE ONA SHALL ADVISE AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE
6	GOVERNOR, STATE AGENCIES, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ANY
7	IMMIGRANT ISSUE.
8	(5) (a) On or before November 1, 2022, and,
9	NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11), ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1
10	EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NEW
11	AMERICANS, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO
12	THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A REVIEW AND
13	SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITY, INFORMATION, AND DATA ON ALL THE
14	PROGRAMS THAT THE OFFICE ADMINISTERED DURING THE PRIOR FISCAL
15	YEAR.
16	(b) In order to minimize the costs associated with
17	PREPARING THE REPORT REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION $(5)(a)$ OF THIS SECTION,
18	THE ONA IS AUTHORIZED TO INCORPORATE OR APPEND TO SUCH REPORT
19	ANY OTHER REPORTS IT IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO DEVELOP.
20	8-3.7-104. Colorado office of new Americans - funding. THE
21	GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND
22	OR FROM ANY OTHER AVAILABLE SOURCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ONA
23	SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE 3.7. THE ONA MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND
24	EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES
25	FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 3.7.
26	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-121, add (3)(k)
27	as follows:

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1	24-1-121. Department of labor and employment - creation.
2	(3) The department of labor and employment consists of the following
3	divisions and programs:
4	(k) The office of New Americans, or "ONA", created in
5	ARTICLE 3.7 OF TITLE 8, THE HEAD OF WHICH IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
6	ONA. THE ONA AND THE DIRECTOR SHALL EXERCISE THEIR POWERS,
7	DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
8	EMPLOYMENT AS IF TRANSFERRED BY A TYPE 1 TRANSFER.
9	
10	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-138, amend (4)
11	as follows:
12	26-2-138. Refugee services program - state plan - rules -
13	definitions. (4) The program may provide other services or assistance to
14	support refugee resettlement and integration. THE PROGRAM SHALL ASSIST
15	THE COLORADO OFFICE OF NEW AMERICANS IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES
16	AND GOALS AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 8-3.7-103 (2)(g), INCLUDING THE
17	SHARING OF OUTCOMES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND THE ALIGNMENT OF MISSION
18	AND PURPOSE.
19	SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
20	takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21	ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
22	that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
23	of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
24	act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
25	effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
26	November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
27	official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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