

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 22-0431.01 Nicole Myers x4326

**SENATE BILL 22-012**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Donovan,** Bridges, Gonzales, Priola, Winter

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hooton,**

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**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING VERSIONS OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION.**

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**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 requires the secretary of state to create and maintain, or cause to be created and maintained, updated physical and electronic copies of the Colorado constitution. The secretary of state is required to update the physical and electronic copies of the Colorado constitution after each election at which the voters approve any amendment to the constitution. The secretary of state is also required to maintain all previous physical and electronic copies of the Colorado constitution created pursuant to the bill.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
March 14, 2022

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 11, 2022

The secretary of state may work with the state archivist to determine the format of the physical version of the Colorado constitution and to provide for the public display of and other educational opportunities related to it. The bill authorizes the secretary of state to solicit, accept, and expend bequests, gifts, grants, and donations to create and maintain the physical version of the Colorado constitution.

The secretary of state is required to ensure that each electronic version of the Colorado constitution is stored with the office of the secretary of state and is available to the public in a searchable format. In creating and maintaining the electronic versions of the Colorado constitution, the secretary of state is required to ensure that the constitution is easily accessible and user-friendly for the general population.

The bill requires the state archivist to submit to the state capitol building advisory committee and the capital development committee a proposal for displaying the original Colorado constitution in the state capitol building. The bill requires the state archivist to include certain information in the proposal. The bill also gives state archives the authority to solicit, accept, and expend bequests, gifts, grants, or donations for the display.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) Access to the Colorado constitution is a primary tool in our  
5 state's democracy. The Colorado constitution establishes the basic  
6 framework of the state's government and protects citizens' individual  
7 rights. Since 1910, it has provided Coloradans with the unique right to  
8 initiate laws, to hold referenda on laws enacted by the general assembly,  
9 and to amend the constitution.

10 (b) With over one hundred fifty amendments in its history, the  
11 constitution has been shaped and reshaped as the needs of Coloradans  
12 have transformed. Its thirty-nine founding delegates, representing every  
13 district in the Colorado territory, created a "rights first" approach to their  
14 new constitution, declaring the rights of the citizens before specifying the

1 structure of the government.

2 (c) From its early days as a tri-lingual document to its current  
3 form, the constitution is an informative, challenging, and inspirational  
4 document that establishes the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the  
5 citizens of Colorado and establishes the structure of our state government;

6 (d) From water to women's right to vote, the original Colorado  
7 constitution and its subsequent amendments illustrate our values and our  
8 process of determining who we are as Coloradans; and

9 (e) A hundred years after America's constitution boldly asserted  
10 people to be endowed with natural rights in addition to the rights granted  
11 by law, the Colorado constitution reaffirmed this ideal by stating a bill of  
12 rights first. This and other foundational philosophies are made clear in the  
13 Colorado constitution.

14 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that the  
15 history contained in the Colorado constitution is an important asset and  
16 that the original constitution, as well as updated digital and hard copies  
17 of the constitution, should be easily and freely available to all people in  
18 the state.

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20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-80-116 as  
21 follows:

22 **24-80-116. Display of original state constitution in state capitol**  
23 **- on-line display of state constitution - educational opportunities.**

24 (1) ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2023, THE STATE ARCHIVIST SHALL  
25 SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING ADVISORY  
26 COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT PUBLIC DISPLAY  
27 OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION INSIDE THE

1 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING. THE PROPOSAL SHALL INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS  
2 FOR HOW AND WHERE THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE COLORADO  
3 CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE DISPLAYED AND STORED AND A PROPOSAL FOR  
4 THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION TO BE DISPLAYED  
5 IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS OTHER THAN THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING.  
6 HISTORY COLORADO SHALL ADVISE AND CONSULT WITH THE STATE  
7 ARCHIVIST REGARDING THE CREATION ON AN APPROPRIATE DISPLAY THAT  
8 WILL SAFEGUARD THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION.  
9 THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL EVALUATE  
10 THE PROPOSAL AND CONSIDER WHETHER TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL IN  
11 ACCORDANCE WITH THE CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR PLACING OTHER  
12 DISPLAYS WITHIN THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING PURSUANT TO SECTION  
13 24-82-108 (3)(h). THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
14 SHALL ALSO EVALUATE THE PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH BEST  
15 PRACTICES FOR DISPLAYING HISTORIC DOCUMENTS IN A MANNER THAT  
16 SAFEGUARDS THE DOCUMENTS AGAINST DETERIORATION. THE DISPLAY  
17 MAY INCLUDE OTHER OBJECTS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS RELATED TO  
18 THE ADOPTION AND HISTORY OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION. THE  
19 STATE ARCHIVIST SHALL COLLABORATE WITH HISTORY COLORADO TO  
20 ENSURE ADHERENCE TO THE BEST PRACTICES WHEN PRESENTING THE  
21 COLORADO CONSTITUTION IN THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS  
22 OF THE STATE CAPITOL AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS OTHER THAN THE  
23 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING.

24 (2) THE STATE ARCHIVIST, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HISTORY  
25 COLORADO, SHALL CREATE AN ONLINE EXHIBITION OF THE COLORADO  
26 CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO CURRENTLY IN  
27 EFFECT. THE EXHIBITION SHALL INCLUDE ASPECTS OF EDUCATIONAL

1 OPPORTUNITIES AND HISTORY AND SHALL ENSURE THAT THE ELECTRONIC  
2 COPY OF EACH VERSION OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION CREATED  
3 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN A  
4 SEARCHABLE FORMAT THROUGH THE WEBSITE OF THE OFFICE OF THE  
5 STATE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COLORADO. THE STATE ARCHIVIST  
6 SHALL CONTRACT WITH AN ONLINE EXHIBIT DESIGN COMPANY TO  
7 DETERMINE THE BEST PRACTICES WHEN PRESENTING THE COLORADO  
8 CONSTITUTION IN AN EDUCATIONAL FORMAT THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE  
9 AND USER-FRIENDLY FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION OF THE STATE. THE  
10 EXHIBIT DESIGN COMPANY MAY COORDINATE AS NECESSARY WITH THE  
11 STATE ARCHIVIST, HISTORY COLORADO, THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE  
12 LEGAL SERVICES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE, AND OTHER  
13 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE CREATION OF THE ONLINE  
14 EXHIBITION.

15 (3) THE STATE ARCHIVIST, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HISTORY  
16 COLORADO, SHALL CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE UPDATED  
17 PHYSICAL COPIES OF THE CONSTITUTION OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL  
18 OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO THE UPDATED PHYSICAL COPY OF THE  
19 COLORADO CONSTITUTION WITHIN STATE OFFICES. THE STATE ARCHIVIST  
20 AND HISTORY COLORADO SHALL ENSURE THAT THE CONSTITUTION WILL  
21 BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND USER-FRIENDLY FOR THE GENERAL  
22 POPULATION OF THE STATE.

23 (4) THE STATE ARCHIVES:  
24 (a) REMAINS THE LEGAL CUSTODIAN OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF  
25 THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTINUING  
26 PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ORIGINAL DRAFT IN ACCORDANCE  
27 WITH SECTION 24-80-106;

1 (b) MAY ALLOW THE ORIGINAL DRAFT OF THE COLORADO  
2 CONSTITUTION TO BE REMOVED PERIODICALLY FROM THE DISPLAY FOR  
3 RESTORATION PURPOSES OR TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR OCCASIONAL  
4 TEMPORARY MUSEUM OR OTHER APPROPRIATE SECURE DISPLAYS; AND

5 (c) MAY SOLICIT, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND ANY BEQUESTS, GIFTS,  
6 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS OF ANY KIND FROM ANY PRIVATE SOURCE FOR THE  
7 PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION. NO APPROPRIATION SHALL BE  
8 MADE OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY CASH FUND FOR EXPENDITURES  
9 INCURRED BY DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL OR ANY OTHER DEPARTMENT  
10 OR AGENCY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

11 **SECTION 3.** Act subject to petition - effective date. This act  
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
14 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
15 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
16 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
17 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
18 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.