

# STATE OF COLORADO

## Colorado General Assembly

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Steven Merkel and Jonathan Greene  
**FROM:** Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services  
**DATE:** January 24, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed initiative measure 2019-2020 #244, concerning prohibiting certain firearms

Section 1-40-105 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the directors of the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to "review and comment" on initiative petitions for proposed laws and amendments to the Colorado constitution. We hereby submit our comments to you regarding the appended proposed initiative.

The purpose of this statutory requirement of the directors of the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services is to provide comments intended to aid proponents in determining the language of their proposal and to avail the public of knowledge of the contents of the proposal. Our first objective is to be sure we understand your intent and your objective in proposing the amendment. We hope that the statements and questions contained in this memorandum will provide a basis for discussion and understanding of the proposal.

### Purposes

The major purpose of the proposed initiative appears to be to prohibit ownership and possession of a firearm that is capable of firing more than thirty rounds in one minute.

### Substantive Comments and Questions

The substance of the proposed initiative raises the following comments and questions:

1. Article V, section 1 (5) of the Colorado constitution provides that the "draft of the text of proposed initiated constitutional amendments and initiated laws shall be submitted to the legislative research and drafting offices of the general assembly for review and comment." The proponents have indicated what they want the initiated law to do but have not submitted the text of the law. To comply with this constitutional requirement, the proponents should submit the text as they wish it to appear in the Colorado constitution or the Colorado Revised Statutes for review and comment.
2. Under article V, section 1 (2) of the Colorado constitution, proposed initiatives amend either the Colorado constitution or state law (i.e., the Colorado Revised Statutes). Does the proposed initiative seek to amend the Colorado constitution or the Colorado Revised Statutes?
3. Article V, section 1 (8) of the Colorado constitution requires that the following enacting clause be the style for all laws adopted by the initiative: "Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:". To comply with this constitutional requirement, this phrase should be added to the beginning of the proposed initiative.
4. Article V, section 1 (5.5) of the Colorado constitution requires all proposed initiatives to have a single subject. What is the single subject of the proposed initiative?
5. What will be the effective date of the proposed initiative?
6. Under section 1-40-105.5, Colorado Revised Statutes, the director of research of the Legislative Council is required to prepare an initial fiscal impact statement, which includes an abstract that appears on petition sections, for each initiative that is submitted to the Title Board. In preparing the statement, the director is required to consider any fiscal impact estimate prepared by the proponents.
  - a. Will you submit the initiative to the Title Board? If so, when do you intend to do so?
  - b. Are you submitting a fiscal impact estimate today? If not, do you plan to submit an estimate in the future, and if so, when do you intend to do so?
  - c. To ensure that there is time for consideration, you are strongly encouraged to submit your estimate, if any, at least twelve days before the measure is scheduled for a Title Board hearing. The estimate should

be submitted to the Legislative Council staff at [BallotImpactEstimates.ga@state.co.us](mailto:BallotImpactEstimates.ga@state.co.us).

## Technical Comments

The following comments address technical issues raised by the form of the proposed initiative. These comments will be read aloud at the public meeting only if the proponents so request. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about these comments at the review and comment meeting. Please consider revising the proposed initiative as suggested below.

1. Before the amending clause, number each section, part, etc. that is being amended or added with a section number (e.g., SECTION 1., SECTION 2.). For example:

**SECTION 1.** In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** article \_\_ as follows:

2. Each constitutional and statutory section being amended, repealed, or added is preceded by a separate amending clause explaining how the law is being changed. For example, "In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** section \_\_ as follows:".
3. It is standard drafting practice to use SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS, rather than ALL CAPS, to show the language being added to and ~~stricken~~ type to show language being removed from the Colorado constitution or the Colorado Revised Statutes.
4. Although the text of added language should be in small capital letters, use an uppercase letter to indicate capitalization where appropriate. The following should be capitalized:
  - a. The first letter of the first word of each sentence;
  - b. The first letter of the first word of each entry of an enumeration paragraphed after a colon; and
  - c. The first letter of proper names.