

First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 17-0613.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

HOUSE BILL 17-1225

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hansen, Becker J., Esgar, Ginal, Kennedy, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Willett, Winter

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Transportation & Energy

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**
102 **HEARING ON THE EFFECTS THAT A RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE**
103 **PROVIDER'S PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION**
104 **ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE IN COLORADO.**

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>.)

A regional transmission organization is an independent electric transmission operator that provides wholesale transmission services to more than one provider of retail electric service within a defined

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

geographic region by pooling together a number of transmission assets into a single electricity transmission market from which participating retail electric service providers may purchase wholesale transmission services.

The bill directs the transportation legislation review committee to conduct a hearing during the 2017 interim on the effects that participation by retail electric service providers in a regional transmission organization would have on the providers, their ratepayers, and Colorado's market for renewable energy. The hearing must take place on or before December 1, 2017.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 43-2-145.7 as**
3 **follows:**

4 **43-2-145.7. Transportation legislation review committee -**
5 **review of participation in regional transmission organizations -**
6 **legislative declaration - definitions - hearing - repeal.** (1) (a) THE
7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT:

8 (I) RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THEIR RATEPAYERS
9 MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THE RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS'
10 PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION BECAUSE
11 THE REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION COULD:

12 (A) PROVIDE TRANSMISSION ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF RETAIL
13 ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS, THUS POTENTIALLY LOWERING COSTS FOR
14 RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS;

15 (B) ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE BY
16 POOLING TOGETHER A NUMBER OF TRANSMISSION ASSETS THROUGHOUT
17 THE REGION SERVED BY THE REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION;

18 (C) FACILITATE REGION-WIDE PLANNING OF TRANSMISSION
19 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT; AND

20 (D) DEVELOP ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION MARKETS THAT, WITHIN

1 THE REGION SERVED, ARE BETTER ABLE TO SERVICE ENERGY DEMAND AND
2 MATCH ENERGY SUPPLY TO THAT DEMAND; AND

3 (II) WHILE POTENTIALLY PROVIDING MANY BENEFITS,
4 PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION MIGHT
5 DISADVANTAGE RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS, THEIR CUSTOMERS,
6 AND THE STATE OF COLORADO BECAUSE SUCH PARTICIPATION COULD:

7 (A) INVOLVE ADDED COSTS FOR PARTICIPATING RETAIL ELECTRIC
8 SERVICE PROVIDERS, WHICH COSTS WOULD THEN BE PASSED ON TO THE
9 PROVIDERS' RATEPAYERS; AND

10 (B) TIE COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS TO AN
11 ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION MARKET THAT COULD HINDER COLORADO'S
12 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GENERATION SOURCES.

13 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINES AND
14 DECLARES THAT IT SHOULD CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL COSTS AND
15 BENEFITS OF, AND BARRIERS TO, A COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE
16 PROVIDER'S PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.

17 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
18 REQUIRES:

19 (a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
20 CREATED IN SECTION 40-2-101.

21 [REDACTED]

22 (b) "REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN
23 INDEPENDENT ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OPERATOR THAT PROVIDES
24 WHOLESALE TRANSMISSION SERVICES TO MORE THAN ONE PROVIDER OF
25 RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE WITHIN A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC
26 REGION BY POOLING TOGETHER A NUMBER OF TRANSMISSION ASSETS INTO
27 A SINGLE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION MARKET FROM WHICH

1 PARTICIPATING RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS MAY
2 PURCHASE WHOLESALE TRANSMISSION SERVICES.

3 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2017, THE TRANSPORTATION
4 LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD A HEARING ON THE
5 POTENTIAL COSTS AND BENEFITS THAT WOULD ARISE FROM COLORADO
6 RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS' PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL
7 TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION. THE HEARING SHOULD INCLUDE
8 CONSIDERATION OF THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES
9 THAT RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS' PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL
10 TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION COULD HAVE ON:

11 (I) THE RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS
12 THAT PARTICIPATE IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION;

13 (II) ANY RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT DO NOT
14 PARTICIPATE IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION; AND

15 (III) RETAIL OR WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS.

16 (b) (I) FOR THE HEARING, THE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION
17 REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL INVITE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OR THE
18 COMMISSION'S DESIGNEE, REPRESENTATIVES OF COLORADO ■ ELECTRIC
19 SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL TRANSMISSION
20 ORGANIZATIONS TO ENGAGE IN A PANEL DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES SET
21 FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (II) IN ADDITION TO ALLOWING PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THE
23 HEARING, THE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL
24 ACCEPT WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO
25 BE ASKED OF THE PANEL MEMBERS BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR
26 THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE AT THE HEARING. THE CHAIR MAY DETERMINE:

27 (A) THE NUMBER OF SUBMITTED WRITTEN QUESTIONS ASKED OF

1 THE PANEL; AND

2 (B) THE ORDER IN WHICH THE APPROVED SUBMITTED QUESTIONS
3 WILL BE ASKED OF THE PANEL.

4 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018.

5 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
8 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
9 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
10 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
11 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
12 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
13 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
14 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.