

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0502.01 Clare Haffner x6137

HOUSE BILL 26-1008

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Taggart,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Rich,

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House Committees

Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO ENHANCE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
102 OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATE, AND, IN CONNECTION  
103 THEREWITH, EXPANDING THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND  
104 WILDLIFE'S CAPACITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION  
105 COORDINATION, PLANNING, AND MANAGEMENT.

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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 division of parks and wildlife (division) in the department of natural resources to expand the division's capacity for

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

outdoor recreation coordination, planning, and management and take a leading role in state-level coordination, strategic planning, and implementation of Colorado's outdoors strategy. The division is directed to, among other things, engage with relevant partners, stakeholders, and agencies to coordinate and incorporate wildlife, conservation, recreation, and climate-resilience considerations across agency planning and decision-making processes.

In addition, the division is required to support, in consultation with relevant entities, the planning, development, and maintenance of outdoor recreation infrastructure to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting private property rights, wildlife, and natural resources.

The bill also requires the division to create, and update at least annually, integrated regional outdoor recreation and conservation planning reports to inform division awareness and operational decision-making.

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

2           **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the  
3 "Colorado Outdoor Opportunities Act".

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

6           (a) It is the policy of the state of Colorado that the state's  
7 unparalleled landscapes, wildlife, public lands, and outdoor experiences  
8 be protected, conserved, and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of  
9 current and future generations, while protecting the state's agricultural  
10 heritage and private property rights;

11           (b) Outdoor recreation, access to quality outdoor experiences, and  
12 the conservation of lands and wildlife habitats, all within the context of  
13 a changing climate and growing population, are vital components in  
14 ensuring a thriving future for Colorado's outdoors;

15           (c) Outdoor recreation is fundamental to Colorado's economy,  
16 culture, and identity, contributing to public health, community well-being,  
17 and the development of lifelong connections to the outdoors. Outdoor

1 recreation annually contributes \$65.8 billion to Colorado's economy and  
2 supports 404,000 jobs, over 12% of the entire labor force in Colorado.  
3 Ensuring safe, high-quality outdoor experiences is essential to sustaining  
4 the state's outdoor heritage.

5 (d) Connecting youth to outdoor experiences is vital for ensuring  
6 the long-term well-being of the state's residents, since research  
7 demonstrates that outdoor engagement supports improved cognitive  
8 abilities, fosters creativity and resilience, and is essential for promoting  
9 public health and reducing stress;

10 (e) Colorado's outdoors face significant and urgent pressures from  
11 growing populations, human disturbance, and development, alongside  
12 severe climate-driven impacts such as wildfires, drought, and rising  
13 temperatures;

14 (f) Thoughtful planning and management of outdoor recreation  
15 can support conservation goals by reducing resource impacts, improving  
16 stewardship, and sustaining the long-term health of the state's public  
17 lands;

18 (g) As more visitors and Coloradans participate in all forms of  
19 outdoor recreation, it is important to advance exceptional recreation  
20 experiences that are accessible, inclusive, and sustainable so that future  
21 generations may continue to enjoy the state's world-class outdoor  
22 opportunities;

23 (h) To effectively manage these challenges, the state must  
24 strengthen collaboration across conservation, wildlife, agriculture, and  
25 recreation partners, local governments, tribal nations, and federal land  
26 managers; develop shared tools and data; and align funding to support  
27 voluntary, strategic actions that sustain high-quality recreation

1 opportunities while maintaining resilient landscapes, wildlife habitat,  
2 working lands, and community values for all Coloradans;

3 (i) Colorado's outdoors strategy, developed by the department of  
4 natural resources, the division of parks and wildlife, great outdoors  
5 Colorado, the office of climate preparedness in the governor's office, and  
6 the outdoor recreation industry office in the office of economic  
7 development, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, provides  
8 the necessary statewide vision and coordination to advance conservation,  
9 climate resilience, and outdoor recreation opportunities;

10 (j) The general assembly recognizes the role that the Colorado  
11 outdoor regional partnerships initiative, created by the governor's  
12 executive order B 2020 008, plays in convening vital perspectives,  
13 partners, and expertise in land conservation, land use, and recreation  
14 planning. The initiative is a locally driven and powerful platform for early  
15 and proactive coordination among stakeholders, helping to identify shared  
16 priorities, reduce conflict, and advance tangible outcomes for outdoor  
17 recreation and conservation statewide.

18 (k) Meaningful engagement with tribal nations is important, and  
19 the collaborative framework developed in Colorado's outdoors strategy  
20 is crucial to support ongoing tribal participation in statewide outdoor  
21 recreation and conservation efforts;

22 (l) The outdoor recreation industry office plays a vital role in  
23 advancing outdoor recreation. The mission of the office is to champion  
24 industry, communities, and people through Colorado's great outdoors. The  
25 office is a vital partner for the division of parks and wildlife in  
26 coordinating outdoor recreation industry partnerships and supporting the  
27 division in planning and outcomes for the advancement of exceptional

1 and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.

2 (m) With approximately 60% of Colorado land in private  
3 ownership, working with private landowners is also essential to the  
4 success of Colorado's outdoors strategy, and it is important to ensure that  
5 agricultural interests, private landowners, and local governments are  
6 integrally involved in state efforts; wildlife habitats are protected; and  
7 private property rights are upheld as conservation and recreation  
8 management decisions are made;

9 (n) The division of parks and wildlife possesses a long history of  
10 outdoor recreation planning, management, and recreational asset delivery  
11 through its state parks system, which serves as a significant source of  
12 exceptional and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities. The  
13 division's responsibilities extend beyond state park boundaries and  
14 encompass outdoor recreation coordination, wildlife conservation, and  
15 support for partners managing lands across all jurisdictions. As a leader  
16 in outdoor recreation management, the division is well-positioned to play  
17 a critical coordinating role in advancing outdoor recreation planning and  
18 management statewide, beyond the boundaries of its current 43 state  
19 parks.

20 (o) The division of parks and wildlife assumes lead responsibility  
21 as the state's coordinating entity for advancing implementation of  
22 Colorado's outdoors strategy, in partnership with the department of  
23 natural resources, great outdoors Colorado, the outdoor recreation  
24 industry office, the office of climate preparedness, and other state and  
25 local partners. In this role, the division facilitates early and proactive  
26 coordination and planning among agencies and stakeholders to reduce  
27 conflict, improve efficiency, and ensure accountability in advancing its

1 goals and vision to find mutually beneficial outcomes that support and  
2 maintain Colorado's world-class outdoor recreation and natural resources.

3 (2) The general assembly further finds the need to expand and  
4 strengthen the division of parks and wildlife's capacity for the  
5 coordination, planning, development, and management of Colorado's  
6 outdoor recreation to ensure the state's recreation opportunities provide  
7 high-quality visitor experiences that are responsibly managed to align  
8 natural resources, wildlife, agricultural heritage, private property, and  
9 public safety. The general assembly further recognizes the growing need  
10 for the division to support recreation management and stewardship on  
11 federal public lands, which necessitates increased staff capacity and  
12 enhanced coordination with federal land management agencies.

13 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 33-10-102, **add** (2.5),  
14 (2.7), (7.5), (10.5), and (13.5) as follows:

15 **33-10-102. Definitions.**

16 As used in articles 10 to 15 of this title 33, unless the context  
17 otherwise requires:

18 (2.5) "COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY" MEANS THE STRATEGY  
19 DEVELOPED COLLABORATIVELY BY THE DIVISION AND COORDINATING  
20 PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO ADVANCE COORDINATION, TOOLS, AND  
21 FUNDING TO ALIGN, PRIORITIZE, AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO  
22 SUPPORT CONSERVATION, OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND CLIMATE  
23 RESILIENCE IN THE STATE.

24 (2.7) "COORDINATING PARTNERS" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT,  
25 GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO, THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY  
26 OFFICE, AND THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS.

27 (7.5) "GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO" MEANS THE GREAT

1 OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY ARTICLE XXVII OF THE  
2 STATE CONSTITUTION AND IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60 OF  
3 THIS TITLE 33.

4 (10.5) "OFFICE OF CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS" MEANS THE OFFICE OF  
5 CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS CREATED IN SECTION 24-38.8-102 (1).

6 (13.5) "OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE" MEANS THE  
7 OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY OFFICE CREATED IN SECTION  
8 24-48.5-129.

9 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 33-10-119 as  
10 follows:

11 **33-10-119. Parks and outdoor recreation capacity - outdoor**  
12 **recreation coordination, planning, and management - duties of the**  
13 **division - planning reports - legislative declaration.**

14 (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

15 (a) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE DIVISION PERPETUATE THE WILDLIFE  
16 RESOURCES OF THE STATE, PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY STATE PARKS  
17 SYSTEM, AND PROVIDE ENJOYABLE AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR  
18 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT EDUCATE AND INSPIRE CURRENT AND  
19 FUTURE GENERATIONS TO SERVE AS ACTIVE STEWARDS OF THE STATE'S  
20 NATURAL RESOURCES;

21 (b) THE DIVISION, PURSUANT TO SECTION 33-9-101, PROVIDES A  
22 COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO OFFER THE GREATEST POSSIBLE  
23 VARIETY OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO STATE RESIDENTS AND  
24 VISITORS; AND

25 (c) THE DIVISION IS BEST POSITIONED TO SERVE AS THE STATE'S  
26 COORDINATING ENTITY FOR ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF  
27 COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY, IN COLLABORATION WITH

1 COORDINATING PARTNERS AND OTHER STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL  
2 PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; AND INTERESTED  
3 STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS,  
4 RECREATION STAKEHOLDERS, CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS,  
5 AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND SPORTSPERSON  
6 STAKEHOLDERS. IN THIS ROLE, THE DIVISION SHOULD FACILITATE  
7 PLANNING AND DATA COORDINATION AMONG PARTNERS AND  
8 STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN  
9 ADVANCING THE STRATEGY'S GOALS AND VISION.

10 (2) THE DIVISION SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN THE  
11 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY SUFFICIENT TO EFFECTIVELY EXECUTE THE  
12 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

13 (3) THE DIVISION SHALL:

14 (a) ENSURE THAT OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ARE PRIORITIZED  
15 AND REPRESENTED WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DIVISION; AND

16 (b) DEVELOP THE CAPACITY OF THE DIVISION TO INCREASE  
17 COORDINATION BETWEEN OUTDOOR RECREATION, WILDLIFE, AND  
18 CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS AND INTERAGENCY PLANNING AND  
19 ACTIVITIES.

20 (4) IN IMPLEMENTING SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SECTION,  
21 THE DIVISION SHALL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

22 (a) STRENGTHENING THE DIVISION'S CAPACITY FOR COORDINATED  
23 RECREATION MANAGEMENT, PARTICULARLY AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL, TO  
24 ANTICIPATE AND WORK THROUGH POTENTIAL CONFLICTS, BY  
25 COORDINATING AND INCORPORATING WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION,  
26 RECREATION, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENCE CONSIDERATIONS ACROSS  
27 DIVISION PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING AND IN ALIGNMENT WITH



1 LOCAL PERSPECTIVES;

2 (b) PROACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL  
3 PARTNERS; TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; AND INTERESTED  
4 STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS,  
5 RECREATION STAKEHOLDERS, CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS,  
6 AGRICULTURAL STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND SPORTSPERSON  
7 STAKEHOLDERS, TO ENSURE THAT ALL PERSPECTIVES AND AREAS OF  
8 EXPERTISE ARE CONSIDERED IN THE DIVISION'S PLANNING AND  
9 MANAGEMENT PROCESSES;

10 (c) ADVANCING AND FORMALIZING INTERNAL PROCESSES TO  
11 BETTER INTEGRATE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCE  
12 MANAGEMENT INTO THE DIVISION'S CORE OPERATIONS, ENSURING  
13 COORDINATION BETWEEN RECREATION ACCESS AND WILDLIFE AND  
14 HABITAT STEWARDSHIP;

15 (d) COORDINATING AND BALANCING THE DIVISION'S  
16 PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING PUBLIC PLANNING,  
17 FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT, AND LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT, TO  
18 ENSURE THAT RECREATION, WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION, AND COMMUNITY  
19 PRIORITIES ARE CONSISTENTLY REPRESENTED;

20 (e) COLLABORATING CLOSELY WITH COORDINATING PARTNERS TO  
21 LEAD ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO ADVANCE A  
22 COORDINATED AND UNIFIED APPROACH TO ENHANCING OUTDOOR  
23 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, MANAGEMENT, AND PLANNING AT THE  
24 STATE LEVEL;

25 (f) PROACTIVELY ENGAGING WITH TRIBAL NATIONS THROUGH THE  
26 FRAMEWORK COLLABORATIVELY DEVELOPED IN COLORADO'S OUTDOORS  
27 STRATEGY, ENSURING THAT TRIBAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES ARE

1 MEANINGFULLY INCORPORATED INTO STATEWIDE PLANNING AND  
2 COORDINATION PROCESSES; AND

3 (g) SERVING AS A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON BEST  
4 PRACTICES, TOOLS, AND STRATEGIES, INCLUDING THROUGH  
5 ADVANCEMENT OF THE COLORADO OUTDOORS STRATEGY TOOLKIT, TO  
6 SUPPORT INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING PROCESSES AT ALL  
7 LEVELS.

8 (5) CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION AND DIRECTIVES OF THE  
9 DIVISION OUTLINED IN THIS ARTICLE 10, AND AS THE STATE AGENCY WITH  
10 PRIMARY COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION  
11 PLANNING, SUSTAINABLE VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT, AND REGIONAL  
12 PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION, THE DIVISION SHALL:

13 (a) PROVIDE PROACTIVE APPROACHES TO VISITOR USE  
14 MANAGEMENT TO FOSTER OUTCOMES THAT SUPPORT IMPROVED OUTDOOR  
15 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES, NATURAL RESOURCE  
16 CONSERVATION, AND PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS AND WORKING  
17 LANDS; AND

18 (b) IN ALIGNMENT WITH COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY,  
19 SUPPORT THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF OUTDOOR  
20 RECREATION FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS  
21 STATEWIDE, WITH THE GOAL OF ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE AND  
22 EXCEPTIONAL OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITIES WHILE PROTECTING PRIVATE  
23 PROPERTY RIGHTS, WILDLIFE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

24 (6) CONSISTENT WITH THE DIVISION'S MISSION AND THE  
25 OBJECTIVES OF COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY, THE DIVISION SHALL  
26 WORK TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION, WILDLIFE  
27 CONSERVATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE OUTCOMES THROUGH

1 COLLABORATION, DATA INTEGRATION, PROACTIVE PLANNING, AND  
2 REPORTING. TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES RELATED TO STATEWIDE OUTDOOR  
3 COORDINATION, THE DIVISION SHALL:

4 (a) LEAD AND COORDINATE ACROSS STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL  
5 PARTNERS AND TRIBAL NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL OUTDOOR  
6 PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATED VOLUNTARY EFFORTS ASSOCIATED WITH  
7 COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY; AND

8 (b) (I) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A RECURRING INTERNAL  
9 COORDINATION AND REPORTING PROCESS, INCLUDING BY CREATING  
10 PLANNING REPORTS, TO INTEGRATE DATA, PRIORITIES, AND OUTCOMES  
11 FROM WILDLIFE, RECREATION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND REGIONAL  
12 OUTDOOR PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS, ENSURING ALIGNMENT WITH THE GOALS  
13 OF COLORADO'S OUTDOORS STRATEGY AND OTHER DIVISION EFFORTS  
14 BOTH REGIONALLY AND ACROSS THE DIVISION. IN CREATING PLANNING  
15 REPORTS, THE DIVISION SHALL:

16 (A) INTEGRATE AND SUMMARIZE KEY METRICS, OUTCOMES,  
17 OPPORTUNITIES, NEEDS, AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FROM STATEWIDE  
18 AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES;

19 (B) COLLABORATE WITH STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL PARTNERS;  
20 TRIBAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS; AND INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS,  
21 INCLUDING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, RECREATION  
22 STAKEHOLDERS, CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS, AGRICULTURAL  
23 STAKEHOLDERS, AND WILDLIFE AND SPORTSPERSON STAKEHOLDERS;

24 (C) ESTABLISH PROCESSES WITH STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES  
25 AND ASSOCIATED PARTNERS, SUCH AS THE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
26 INDUSTRY OFFICE AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO PROGRAM, TO  
27 IMPROVE COORDINATION AND EFFICIENCY ACROSS AGENCY PARTNERS;

1 (D) APPLY PROACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE APPROACHES TO THE  
2 DEVELOPMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION  
3 OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM RESOURCE VIABILITY;

4 (E) IDENTIFY AREAS OF ALIGNMENT AND POTENTIAL CONFLICT  
5 AMONG RECREATION, WILDLIFE, CONSERVATION, AGRICULTURAL, AND  
6 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE  
7 PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCESSES WITH RELEVANT PARTNERS TO SUPPORT  
8 MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OUTCOMES;

9 (F) EMPLOY DATA-INFORMED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR  
10 PLANNING AND INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC LANDS AND REGIONAL OUTDOOR  
11 RECREATION RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SHARED UNDERSTANDING AND  
12 INFORMED DECISION-MAKING AMONG PARTNERS;

13 (G) INCORPORATE CLIMATE-RESILIENCE STRATEGIES FOR  
14 REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PLANNING TO  
15 ADVANCE THE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY OF THE STATE'S NATURAL  
16 AND COMMUNITY ASSETS; AND

17 (H) COORDINATE ACROSS THE DIVISION TO ENSURE THE BEST  
18 AVAILABLE INFORMATION, INPUT, AND COLLABORATION. IN PARTICULAR,  
19 THE DIVISION SHALL ENSURE COORDINATION BETWEEN WILDLIFE,  
20 RECREATION, AND CLIMATE-RESILIENCE EFFORTS WITHIN THE DIVISION.

21 (II) THE DIVISION SHALL:

22 (A) REFER TO THE PLANNING REPORTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION  
23 (6)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION TO INFORM DIVISION PLANNING, OUTREACH,  
24 INVESTMENT, AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES; AND

25 (B) UPDATE THE PLANNING REPORTS AT LEAST ANNUALLY TO  
26 REFLECT THE LATEST KNOWLEDGE AND ANY ASSOCIATED PLANNING  
27 UPDATES AND FACILITATE IMPROVED AWARENESS AND COORDINATION

1        WITHIN THE DIVISION AND AMONG THE DIVISION AND OTHER AGENCIES.

2            (7) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION:

3            (a) REQUIRES ACTION OR PARTICIPATION FROM A PRIVATE OR  
4 NON-STATE-GOVERNMENT ENTITY; OR

5            (b) GRANTS THE DIVISION DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY OVER  
6 MATTERS THAT ARE WITHIN ANOTHER ENTITY'S JURISDICTION.

7            **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
8 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
9 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
10 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
11 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
12 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
13 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
14 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
15 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
16 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.