

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 26-0543.01 Conrad Imel x2313

**SENATE BILL 26-034**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kolker and Marchman,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hamrick and Bacon,**

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**Senate Committees**

Education

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING EXPANDING PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS OF THE**  
102     **AURARIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

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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>.)*

Under current law, the members of the Auraria board of directors who are the representatives of the student advisory committee and faculty advisory committee are nonvoting members. The bill makes those members voting members of the board. Concerning the representative of the student advisory committee, the bill repeals the requirement that the student be a full-time student and reduces the Colorado residency

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.*

requirement from 3 years prior to the member's election to one year prior to the member's election.

The bill expands the faculty advisory committee from 6 to 9 members. One of the additional members is elected from each constituent institution of the Auraria higher education center.

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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 "Auraria  
3           Student and Faculty Board Voting Rights Act of 2026".

4           **SECTION 2. Legislative declaration - legislative intent.**

5           (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

6           (a) Student and faculty representation in postsecondary  
7           institutions' institutional governance promotes accountability,  
8           transparency, and responsiveness to the educational needs of the student  
9           body;

10           (b) The Auraria higher education center has 3 separately governed  
11           institutions whose students and faculty are materially affected by  
12           decisions of the Auraria board of directors, known as the Auraria board;

13           (c) Granting the elected student and faculty members of the  
14           Auraria board full voting rights strengthens shared governance by  
15           ensuring that directly elected student and faculty representatives  
16           participate substantively in decisions that affect students; and

17           (d) It is in the public interest to provide the elected student and  
18           faculty members of the Auraria board with voting rights equal to that of  
19           other board members.

20           (2) The general assembly further declares that this act does not  
21           alter any statutory eligibility requirement for the elected faculty member  
22           of the Auraria board, including residency requirements, except as  
23           expressly provided in the act.

(3) It is the intent of the general assembly that:

10                   **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-70-102, **amend**  
11                   (1) introductory portion, (1)(c)(I), (1)(c)(III), and (1)(d)(I), and (2) as  
12                   follows:

13                   **23-70-102. Auraria board - membership - terms - oath or**  
14                   **affirmation - voting.**

20 (c) (I) An advisory committee of six members who are ~~full-time~~  
21 students ~~shall be~~ IS elected, two from each of the student bodies of each  
22 of the three institutions governed by the Auraria board. ~~and it~~ THE  
23 ADVISORY COMMITTEE shall elect one of its members to fill one office on  
24 the Auraria board to serve for ~~one term~~ A ONE-YEAR TERM beginning  
25 EACH July 1. ~~The elected student office is advisory, without the right to~~  
26 ~~vote.~~ The elected student member of the board must have resided in the  
27 state of Colorado ~~not~~ NO less than ~~three years~~ ONE YEAR prior to the

1 member's election. A vacancy in the office of the elected student member  
2 ~~shall~~ MUST be filled by reelection for the unexpired term.

3 (III) In the event of death, resignation, or inability or refusal to act  
4 of any such AN elected member of the student advisory committee, the  
5 student governing body of the institution with the vacancy shall appoint  
6 a full-time student from that institution to fill the vacancy for the  
7 remainder of the term.

8 (d) (I) An advisory committee of ~~six~~ NINE members who are  
9 full-time faculty members ~~shall be~~ IS elected, ~~two~~ THREE from each of the  
10 faculties of each of the three institutions governed by the Auraria board.  
11 ~~and it~~ THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE shall elect one of its members to fill the  
12 remaining office on the Auraria board to serve for A one-year ~~terms~~ TERM  
13 beginning each July 1. The committee shall select ~~such~~ a member from  
14 the same institution only once in the same three-year period. ~~The elected~~  
15 ~~faculty office is advisory, without the right to vote.~~ The elected faculty  
16 member of the board must have resided in the state of Colorado ~~not~~ NO  
17 less than three years prior to the member's election. A vacancy in the  
18 office of the elected faculty member ~~shall~~ MUST be filled by reelection for  
19 the unexpired term.

20 (2) (a) Each member of the Auraria board shall take an oath or  
21 affirmation in accordance with section 24-12-101.

22 (b) MEMBERS OF THE AURARIA BOARD ARE FIDUCIARIES OF THE  
23 CENTER, AND A MEMBER SHALL RECUSE THEMSELF FROM A VOTE OR  
24 EXECUTIVE SESSION WHEN THEY HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. THE  
25 AURARIA BOARD MAY ADOPT, THROUGH ITS BYLAWS AND POLICIES, A  
26 COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK DEFINING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST  
27 APPLICABLE TO BOARD MEMBERS. THE BYLAWS AND POLICIES MAY

1       ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL CONFLICTS, REQUIRE  
2       DISCLOSURE OF RELEVANT INTERESTS, AND DESIGNATE A FINAL  
3       DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE WHEN RECUSAL IS  
4       REQUIRED. THE AURARIA BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT THE BYLAWS AND  
5       POLICIES PROVIDE CONSISTENT, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT STANDARDS FOR  
6       RECUSAL DETERMINATIONS.

7           **SECTION 4. Effective date.** This act takes effect October 1,  
8       2026.

9           **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
10       determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
11       preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
12       the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
13       institutions.