

Increase Stakeholder Participation in the Legislative Process

Empowering Coloradans through transparency and opportunities for engagement

Overview: The proposed bill provides legislators with the opportunity to voluntarily publish one or more of their draft bills or bill titles before the legislative session begins. By making the drafts available on the General Assembly's website, legislators increase transparency in the bill-making process and open the door for increased public participation.

KEY FEATURES

1 Early Publishing of Drafts

- Legislators may voluntarily publish up to three versions of each bill title or draft they are considering for the next session.
- These drafts or titles are posted on a publicly accessible webpage on the Colorado General Assembly's website.

2 Publication Timeline

- Drafts can be posted or updated on the 90th, 60th, or 30th day before the legislative session starts.
- Drafts remain visible until the day before the session begins or until replaced by a subsequent version.

3 Transparency Measures

- Changes to drafts are marked with double underlines for clarity.
- Each draft includes a disclaimer emphasizing that it is a preliminary version and may not be introduced as written or at all.

4 Removal of Drafts

- The forum will be taken down the day before the legislative session starts to minimize confusion and to ensure that the focus shifts to only those bills formally introduced.

BENEFITS

Enhanced Public Engagement

Allows stakeholders, including citizens, advocacy groups, and organizations, to review and comment on proposed legislation.

Greater Accountability

Encourages lawmakers to consider diverse perspectives, fostering better-informed policy decisions.

Increased Transparency

Makes the legislative process more accessible and understandable to the public.

Improved Lawmaking

Reduces the number of clean-up bills legislators have to run in future sessions. Clean-up bills are bills that are run in subsequent years to fix unidentified or unintended problems present in the initially passed policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

The General Assembly will host the online forum on its website and manage the submission and removal of drafts. The act will take effect after the standard 90-day period following adjournment unless a referendum petition is filed, which will require voter approval in the 2026 General Election. If the sponsor-proposed amendment is adopted, legislators will be able to post draft bills and draft bill titles starting in the interim of the 2028 legislative session.