

Members of the House State, Civic, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee,

As a kinda retired journalist, I urge you support House Bill 24-1069, Increase Stakeholder Participation.

There are several reasons to allow lawmakers to publish bill drafts on the state legislative site before the session begins:

- This bill would improve transparency by informing the public of proposals in the works before the legislative session begins. This would give the public more information in advance and would also allow lawmakers to receive feedback from folks they haven't already consulted but who have an interest in the subject matter.
- The system is voluntary, so lawmakers who don't want to participate wouldn't have to.
- Legislative staff published bill drafts ahead of the start of two recent special sessions on property taxes. Interim committees typically share the draft bills they recommend. This year, 77 of the 92 House bills 48 of the 86 Senate bills introduced thus far were introduced on opening day. Many of these bills could have been published in advance to give the public more time to view them

Here is a partial list of other states that do this based on my research:

- [New Mexico](#)
- Texas had more than [2,300 bills published before session](#) began.
- [Nevada](#)
- [Florida](#)
- [Alabama](#)

Again, I urge your support for House Bill 24-1069.

Sincerely,
Sandra Fish



Amanda King <amanda.king@coleg.gov>

Written Testimony in Support of HB25-1069

1 message

Kelly Hegarty <k.hegarty@icloud.com>

Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 9:16 AM

To: amanda.king@coleg.gov

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January 27, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of House Bill 25-1069**, which aims to enhance transparency and public participation in Colorado's legislative process through the early publishing of draft bills and titles.

This bill exemplifies good governance by fostering accountability and increasing opportunities for public input. By requiring drafts or titles of proposed bills to be published on a publicly accessible online platform during the interim period, it encourages meaningful stakeholder engagement well before the legislative session begins. This aligns with core principles of liberty, particularly limited government and transparency, by ensuring that the legislative process remains open and inclusive.

Key benefits of this legislation include:

- 1. Increased Public Awareness:** Early access to bill drafts allows citizens, advocacy groups, and industry stakeholders to review potential legislation and provide constructive feedback. This reduces the likelihood of unintended consequences and ensures that legislation addresses real needs effectively.
- 2. Enhanced Collaboration:** The ability for legislators to share up to three iterations of a draft provides flexibility for refinement based on public input, promoting more thoughtful and well-informed policymaking.
- 3. Reduced Barriers to Participation:** By leveraging an online platform, the bill ensures accessibility for residents across Colorado, including those in rural or underserved areas, fostering equal opportunities for participation.
- 4. Accountability and Trust:** Publishing drafts transparently with disclaimers about their non-final nature builds trust in the legislative process and demonstrates a commitment to accountability and openness.

This proposal does not increase government size or impose undue burdens on taxpayers. It efficiently utilizes existing infrastructure to deliver greater transparency without duplicating existing processes. Moreover, the limited publication timeframe—ending the day before the legislative session—balances transparency with the need to streamline session workflows.

I urge you to support HB 25-1069. It is a commonsense measure that strengthens the democratic process, empowers citizens, and ensures that Colorado's laws are shaped by a diverse array of perspectives.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

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