# First Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

# **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 23-0790.01 Jason Gelender x4330

**HOUSE BILL 23-1173** 

### **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

Bockenfeld,

## SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

### **House Committees**

### **Senate Committees**

Transportation, Housing & Local Government

	A BILL FOR AN ACT
101	CONCERNING THE GOVERNANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
102	TRANSPORTATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,
103	MODIFYING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF AND MANNER IN
104	WHICH MEMBERS ARE SELECTED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION
105	COMMISSION AND REQUIRING THE TRANSPORTATION
106	COMMISSION TO SELECT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
107	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

# **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 <a href="http://leg.colorado.gov">http://leg.colorado.gov</a>.)

The transportation commission (commission) currently consists of 11 members appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate from statutorily designated districts. If the bill is approved by the voters of the state at the November 2024 general election, on February 1, 2027, section 2 of the bill will replace the current membership of the commission with 9 members elected at the November 2026 general election, one from each congressional district of the state and one from the state at large. Thereafter, whenever the number of congressional districts in the state is odd, the membership of the commission will consist of one member elected from each congressional districts in the state is even, the membership of the commission will consist of one member elected from each congressional district of the state and one member elected from the state at large. Commission members' terms are 4 years; except that:

- The initial terms of the members elected at the 2026 general election from the first, third, fifth, and seventh congressional districts and the initial term of the member elected from the state at large are 2 years; and
- Whenever congressional redistricting changes the number of congressional districts from even to odd, the term of the member of the commission elected from the state at large who is serving on the effective date of the redistricting ends upon the commencement of the terms of the members of the commission elected at the first general election held after the redistricting occurs.

The governor is required to fill any vacancy that may occur in the commission. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy remains a member of the commission until the next general election and until the individual's successor is elected and duly qualified. On and after February 1, 2027, each member of the commission elected from a congressional district must actually reside in the congressional district that the member represents and any member elected from the state at large must actually reside in the state. If a member elected from a congressional district ceases to reside in the district or a member elected from the state at large ceases to live in the state, the member shall be deemed to have resigned as a member of the commission.

On and after February 1, 2027, **section 1** requires the commission to select the executive director of the department of transportation and specifies that the executive director serves at the pleasure of the commission; except that the executive director appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate who is serving as of February 1, 2027, remains the executive director until the commission appoints a successor, which the commission is required to do no later than July 1, 2027.

Sections 3 through 11 make conforming amendments to the

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"Uniform Election Code of 1992" to ensure that candidates for the commission and members of the commission are treated similarly to candidates for and members of the state board of education and the regents of the university of Colorado with respect to membership on party committees, nomination as candidates, resolution of tie vote situations, election contests, and campaign finance disclosure requirements.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 43-1-103, amend (1) 3 as follows: 4 **43-1-103.** Department created - executive director. (1) There 5 is hereby created the department of transportation, the head of which shall 6 be IS the executive director of the department of transportation, which 7 office is hereby created. UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2027, the executive director 8 shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate and 9 shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. ON AND AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 10 2027, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE 11 COMMISSION AND SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COMMISSION; 12 EXCEPT THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO IS SERVING AS OF FEBRUARY 13 1,2027, SHALL REMAIN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNTIL THE COMMISSION 14 APPOINTS A SUCCESSOR, WHICH THE COMMISSION SHALL DO NO LATER 15 THAN JULY 1, 2027. 16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 43-1-106, amend (1), 17 (3), (4)(a), (4)(c), and (7); and **add** (2.3) and (2.5) as follows: 18 43-1-106. Transportation commission - powers and duties -19 rules - definitions - efficiency and accountability committee - repeal. 20 (1) There is created the transportation commission. which BEFORE 21 FEBRUARY 1, 2027, THE COMMISSION consists of eleven members 22 APPOINTED AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. ON AND

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1	AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF MEMBERS
2	ELECTED AS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2.5) OF THIS SECTION. The
3	transportation commission is a type 1 entity, as defined in section
4	24-1-105.
5	(2.3) Subsection $(2)$ of this section and this subsection $(2.3)$
6	ARE REPEALED, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2027.
7	(2.5) (a) Beginning February 1, 2027, the commission
8	CONSISTS OF NINE MEMBERS, INITIALLY ELECTED AT THE NOVEMBER 2026
9	GENERAL ELECTION AND ELECTED AT SUBSEQUENT GENERAL ELECTIONS
10	AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION $(2.5)(c)$ OF THIS SECTION, AS FOLLOWS:
11	(I) ONE MEMBER FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE
12	STATE, WHO MUST BE A RESIDENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND
13	MUST BE ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL
14	DISTRICT; AND
15	(II) ONE MEMBER FROM THE STATE AT LARGE, WHO MUST BE A
16	RESIDENT OF THE STATE AND ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF
17	THE STATE.
18	(b) IF, AT ANY TIME AFTER CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING
19	OCCURS, THE NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE
20	CHANGES, THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF MEMBERS ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:
21	(I) When the number of congressional districts in the
22	STATE IS ODD, THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF ONE MEMBER FROM EACH
23	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE, WHO MUST BE A RESIDENT OF
24	THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND MUST BE ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED
25	ELECTORS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT; AND
26	(II) When the number of congressional districts in the
27	STATE IS EVEN, THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF:

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1	(A) ONE MEMBER FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE
2	STATE, WHO MUST BE A RESIDENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND
3	MUST BE ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL
4	DISTRICT; AND
5	(B) ONE MEMBER FROM THE STATE AT LARGE, WHO MUST BE A
6	RESIDENT OF THE STATE AND ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF
7	THE STATE.
8	(c) THE TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE FOUR YEARS;
9	EXCEPT THAT:
10	(I) THE INITIAL TERMS OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED FROM THE FIRST,
11	THIRD, FIFTH, AND SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AND THE INITIAL
12	TERM OF THE MEMBER ELECTED FROM THE STATE AT LARGE ARE TWO
13	YEARS; AND
14	(II) Whenever congressional redistricting changes the
15	NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS FROM EVEN TO ODD, THE TERM OF
16	THE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ELECTED FROM THE STATE AT LARGE
17	WHO IS SERVING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE REDISTRICTING ENDS
18	UPON THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
19	COMMISSION ELECTED AT THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION HELD AFTER THE
20	REDISTRICTING OCCURS.
21	(d) THE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL
22	DISTRICT OF THE STATE IS NOMINATED AND ELECTED BY THE REGISTERED
23	ELECTORS OF SUCH DISTRICT IN THE SAME MANNER AS MEMBERS OF THE
24	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
25	ARE NOMINATED AND ELECTED. IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL
26	DISTRICTS OF THE STATE IS AN EVEN NUMBER, THE ADDITIONAL MEMBER
27	OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE NOMINATED AND ELECTED AT LARGE IN THE

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1	SAME MANNER AS STATE OFFICERS ARE NOMINATED AND ELECTED.
2	(e) THE GOVERNOR SHALL FILL ANY VACANCY THAT MAY OCCUR
3	IN THE COMMISSION. AN INDIVIDUAL APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY
4	REMAINS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL
5	ELECTION AND UNTIL THE INDIVIDUAL'S SUCCESSOR IS ELECTED AND DULY
6	QUALIFIED ACCORDING TO LAW. IF THE SEAT OF A MEMBER OF THE
7	COMMISSION FOR WHICH THE GOVERNOR FILLS A VACANCY WAS NOT,
8	BEFORE THE VACANCY OCCURRED, TO BE CONTESTED AT THE NEXT
9	GENERAL ELECTION, THE INITIAL TERM OF THE MEMBER OF THE
10	COMMISSION ELECTED TO THAT SEAT AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IS
11	TWO YEARS.
12	(3) (a) (I) BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2027, each district member shall
13	actually reside in the district he or she THAT THE MEMBER represents. If
14	a district member ceases to reside in the district he or she THAT THE
15	MEMBER represents, such district THE member shall be IS deemed to have
16	resigned as a member of the commission.
17	(II) This subsection (3)(a) is repealed, effective February
18	1, 2027.
19	(b) On and after February 1, 2027, each member of the
20	COMMISSION ELECTED FROM A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MUST ACTUALLY
21	RESIDE IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT THAT THE MEMBER REPRESENTS
22	AND ANY MEMBER ELECTED FROM THE STATE AT LARGE MUST ACTUALLY
23	RESIDE IN THE STATE. IF A MEMBER ELECTED FROM A CONGRESSIONAL
24	DISTRICT CEASES TO RESIDE IN THE DISTRICT OR A MEMBER ELECTED FROM
25	THE STATE AT LARGE CEASES TO LIVE IN THE STATE, THE MEMBER IS
26	DEEMED TO HAVE RESIGNED AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

(4) (a) (I) Each member of the commission shall be appointed by

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the governor, with the consent of the senate, for a term of four years.

- 2 (II) This subsection (4)(a) is repealed, effective February 3, 2027.
  - (c) (I) (A) As the terms of the members of the commission expire, the governor shall consider the appointment to the commission of one or more individuals with knowledge or experience in mass transportation in order to provide for a commission with expertise in different modes of transportation and shall consider the appointment to the commission of at least one individual with knowledge or experience in engineering. In making appointments to the commission, the governor is encouraged to include representation by at least one member who is a person with a disability, as defined in section 24-34-301 (2.5), a family member of a person with a disability, or a member of an advocacy group for persons with disabilities, provided that the other requirements of this subsection (4)(c) SECTION are met.
- 16 (B) This subsection (4)(c)(I) is repealed, effective February 1, 2027.
  - (II) When Making an appointment to fill any vacancy in the commission occurring on or after February 1,2027, pursuant to subsection (2.5)(e) of this section, the governor shall consider the appointment of individuals with knowledge or experience in mass transportation in order to provide for a commission with expertise in different modes of transportation, individuals with knowledge or experience in engineering, and individuals who are persons with a disability as defined in section 24-34-301 (2.5), a family member of a person with a disability, or members of an advocacy group for persons with

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2	(7) The members of the commission thus designated or appointed
3	and their successors shall constitute a body corporate to be known by the
4	name and style of AS the "transportation commission of Colorado", shall
5	have the power to adopt and use a common seal and to change and alter
6	such THE seal, at will and shall have and exercise all powers necessarily
7	incident to a body corporate or as provided by law.
8	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-3-103, amend
9	(2)(a) and (3)(a) as follows:
10	1-3-103. Party committees. (2) (a) The state central committee
11	shall consist CONSISTS of the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the
12	several party county central committees, together with the elected United
13	States senators, representatives in congress, governor, lieutenant
14	governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, members of
15	the board of regents, members of the state board of education, MEMBERS
16	OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WHOSE TERMS BEGIN ON OR AFTER
17	FEBRUARY 1, 2027, state senators, and state representatives, and any
18	additional members as provided for by the state central committee bylaws.
19	Two additional members shall be allowed the political party from each
20	county that polled at least ten thousand votes at the last preceding general
21	election for its candidate for governor or president of the United States.
22	Two additional members shall be allowed for each additional ten
23	thousand votes or major portion thereof so polled in the county. The
24	additional members shall be elected by the county central committee of
25	the political party.
26	(3) (a) The chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the several party
27	county central committees entirely or partially, who reside within each

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1	congressional district, together with the elected congressperson, the
2	elected state board of education member of the party for the congressional
3	district, the elected board of regents member of the party for the
4	congressional district, THE ELECTED TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
5	MEMBER OF THE PARTY FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, and the state
6	senators and representatives of the party who reside within the
7	congressional district, shall constitute the party congressional central
8	committee.
9	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 1-4-204 as
10	follows:
11	1-4-204. State and district officers. At the general election in
12	1982 and every fourth year thereafter, the following state officers shall be
13	elected: One governor, one lieutenant governor, one secretary of state,
14	one state treasurer, and one attorney general. The lieutenant governor
15	shall be elected jointly with the governor. At every general election, the
16	number of members of the state house of representatives to which each
17	representative district is entitled shall be elected in that district.
18	Candidates for the offices of regents of the university of Colorado, state
19	senators, members of the state board of education, MEMBERS OF THE
20	TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ELECTED FOR TERMS COMMENCING ON OR
21	AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, and district attorneys shall be voted on at the
22	general election immediately prior to the expiration of the regular terms
23	for those offices.
24	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-4-502, amend (1)
25	as follows:
26	1-4-502. Methods of nomination for partisan candidates.
27	(1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection

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1	(3) SUBSECTIONS (3)(b) AND (3)(c) of this section, nominations for United
2	States senator, representative in congress, governor, lieutenant governor,
3	secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, member of the state
4	board of education, regent of the university of Colorado, MEMBER OF THE
5	TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR ANY TERM COMMENCING ON OR AFTER
6	FEBRUARY 1, 2027, member of the general assembly, district attorney, and
7	all county officers to be elected at the general election may be made by
8	primary election under section 1-4-101 or by assembly or convention
9	under section 1-4-702 by major political parties, by petition for
10	nomination as provided in section 1-4-802, or by a minor political party
11	as provided in section 1-4-1304.
12	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-4-801, amend
13	(2)(a.5) and (2)(c.7) as follows:
14	1-4-801. Designation of party candidates by petition. (2) The
15	signature requirements for the petition are as follows:
16	(a.5) Every petition in the case of a candidate for a member of the
17	United States house of representatives, member of the state board of
18	education for a congressional district, or member of the board of regents
19	of the university of Colorado for a congressional district, OR, FOR ANY
20	TERM COMMENCING ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, MEMBER OF THE
21	TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT must be
22	signed by eligible electors resident within the district for which the officer
23	is to be elected. The petition requires the lesser of one thousand five
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in the district at the contested or uncontested primary election for the

political party's candidate for the office for which the petition is being

circulated or, if there was no primary election, at the last preceding

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general election for which there was a candidate for the office.

(c.7) Every petition in the case of a candidate for the office of an at-large seat on either the state board of education, or the board of regents of the university of Colorado, OR, FOR ANY TERM COMMENCING ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION must be signed by at least five hundred eligible electors in each congressional district.

**SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-4-802, **amend** (1)(c)(II)(B) and (1)(c)(III) as follows:

- 1-4-802. Petitions for nominating minor political party and unaffiliated candidates for a partisan office. (1) Candidates for partisan public offices to be filled at a general or congressional vacancy election who do not wish to affiliate with a major political party may be nominated, other than by a primary election or a convention, in the following manner:
- (c) Every petition for the office of president and vice president, for statewide office, for congressional district office, for the office of member of the general assembly, for district attorney, and for county office must be signed by eligible electors residing within the district or political subdivision in which the officer is to be elected. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, the number of signatures of eligible electors on a petition is as follows:
- (II) (B) At least five hundred in each congressional district for the office of an at-large seat on either the state board of education, or the board of regents of the university of Colorado, OR, FOR ANY TERM COMMENCING ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION;

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(III) The lesser of one thousand five hundred or two and one-half
percent of the votes cast in the congressional district in the most recent
general election for the office of member of the United States house of
representatives, member of the state board of education for a
congressional district, or member of the board of regents of the university
of Colorado for a congressional district, OR, FOR ANY TERM COMMENCING
ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION FOR A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT;
SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-11-101, amend (2)
as follows:
1-11-101. Tie votes at partisan elections. (2) If at any general
or congressional vacancy election, after all recounts have been completed,
any two or more persons tie for the highest number of votes for
presidential electors, for United States senator, for representative in
congress, for regent of the university of Colorado, for member of the state
board of education, FOR MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FOR ANY TERM COMMENCING ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, for state
senator or state representative, or for district attorney, the secretary of
state shall proceed to determine by lot which of the candidates shall be
declared elected. Reasonable notice shall be given to the candidates of the
time when the election will be determined.
<b>SECTION 9.</b> In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-11-205, amend (1)
as follows:
1-11-205. Contests for state officers. (1) Proceedings to contest
the election of any person declared elected governor, lieutenant governor,
secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, member of the state
board of education, or regent of the university of Colorado, OR, FOR ANY

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1	TERM COMMENCING ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, MEMBER OF THE
2	TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION may be commenced by filing with the
3	secretary of the senate, between the sixth and tenth legislative days of the
4	first session of the general assembly after the day of the election, a notice
5	of intention to contest the election, specifying the particular grounds on
6	which the contestor means to rely. The contestor shall file with the
7	secretary of the senate a bond, with sureties, running to the contestee and
8	conditioned to pay all costs in case of failure to maintain the contest. The
9	secretary of the senate shall determine the sufficiency of the bond, and,
10	if it is sufficient, approve it.
11	SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-45-110, amend
12	(2)(a) as follows:
13	1-45-110. Candidate affidavit - disclosure statement.
14	(2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection,
15	SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION, each candidate for the general
16	assembly, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, state treasurer,
17	secretary of state, state board of education, regent of the university of
18	Colorado, TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON
19	OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, and district attorney shall file a statement
20	disclosing the information required by section 24-6-202 (2) with the
21	appropriate officer, on a form approved by the secretary of state, within
22	ten days of filing the affidavit required by subsection (1) of this section.
23	SECTION 11. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-202, amend
24	(1) introductory portion and (1)(g); and add (1)(i) as follows:
25	24-6-202. Disclosure - contents - filing - false or incomplete
26	<b>filing - penalty.</b> (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1.7) of
27	this section, not later than the January 10 following his or her THEIR

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election, reelection, appointment, or retention in office, written disclosure, in such form as the secretary of state shall prescribe, stating the interests named in subsection (2) of this section shall be made to and filed with the secretary of state of Colorado by:

- (g) Each member of the public utilities commission; AND
- (i) FOR TERMS OF OFFICE COMMENCING ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2027, EACH MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION.

SECTION 12. Refer to people under referendum. At the election held on November 5, 2024, the secretary of state shall submit this act by its ballot title to the registered electors of the state for their approval or rejection. Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning the governance of the department of transportation, and, in connection therewith, modifying the number of members of and manner in which members are selected for the transportation commission and requiring the transportation commission to select the executive director of the department of transportation?" Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123, Colorado Revised Statutes, if a majority of the electors voting on the ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the act will become part of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

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