

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0903.01 Bob Lackner x4350

HOUSE BILL 20-1308

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Arndt,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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House Committees

Transportation & Local Government

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A CLARIFICATION UNDER THE COLORADO OPEN  
102 MEETINGS LAW OF THE REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING  
103 COMMUNICATION BY ELECTRONIC MAIL THAT DO NOT RELATE  
104 TO THE SUBSTANCE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

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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 provisions of the Open Meetings Law (OML), if elected officials use electronic mail to discuss pending legislation or other public business among themselves, the electronic mail constitutes a

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

meeting that is subject to the OML's requirements. The bill substitutes the word "exchange" for the word "use" in describing the type of electronic mail communication that triggers the application of the OML.

The bill clarifies existing statutory provisions to specify that electronic mail communication between elected officials that does not relate to the merits or substance of pending legislation or other public business is not a meeting for OML purposes. Under the bill, the type of electronic communication that also does not constitute a meeting for OML purposes includes electronic communication regarding scheduling and availability as well as electronic communication that is sent by an elected official for the purpose of forwarding information, responding to an inquiry from an individual who is not a member of the state or local public body, or posing a question for later discussion by the public body.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-402, **amend**  
3 (2)(d)(III) as follows:

4 **24-6-402. Meetings - open to public - legislative declaration -**  
5 **definitions.** (2) (d) (III) If elected officials ~~use~~ EXCHANGE electronic  
6 mail to discuss pending legislation or other public business among  
7 themselves, the electronic mail ~~shall be~~ IS subject to the requirements of  
8 this section. Electronic mail communication ~~among~~ BETWEEN elected  
9 officials that does not relate to THE MERITS OR SUBSTANCE OF pending  
10 legislation or other public business, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC MAIL  
11 COMMUNICATION REGARDING SCHEDULING AND AVAILABILITY OR  
12 ELECTRONIC MAIL COMMUNICATION THAT IS SENT BY AN ELECTED  
13 OFFICIAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORWARDING INFORMATION, RESPONDING  
14 TO AN INQUIRY FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE STATE  
15 OR LOCAL PUBLIC BODY, OR POSING A QUESTION FOR LATER DISCUSSION BY  
16 THE PUBLIC BODY, shall not be considered a "meeting" within the meaning  
17 of this section.

18 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date -**

1     **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect September 1, 2020; except that,  
2     if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of  
3     the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
4     within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general  
5     assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless  
6     approved by the people at the general election to be held in November  
7     2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official  
8     declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

9             (2) This act applies to electronic mail communication sent on or  
10    after the applicable effective date of this act.