

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REREVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0834.01 Jacob Bennington x2371

HOUSE BILL 26-1304

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF HISTORY COLORADO TO DISPOSE OF**
102 **RIGHTS RELATED TO MINERALS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF WELD COUNTY**
104 **RIGHTS AND WEST VIRGINIA RIGHTS.**

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/>.)

Capital Development Committee. The bill authorizes the state historical society, also known as history Colorado, to sell mineral rights and nonparticipating royalty interests that are referred to as its Weld

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.

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 24, 2026

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 23, 2026

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 2, 2026

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 27, 2026

County rights and West Virginia rights. History Colorado is required to credit the proceeds of the sale to the state museum cash fund to be used for a strategic investment in capital improvements, including the retrofitting of the collections care facility and controlled maintenance.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) In 1980, the state historical society, also known as history
5 Colorado, was deeded mineral rights and a nonparticipating royalty
6 interest on various parcels in Weld County, referred to as the Weld
7 County rights. The Weld County rights were donated to history Colorado
8 through the estate of Eleanor Bein.

9 (b) In 2012, history Colorado was deeded mineral rights on
10 various parcels in West Virginia, referred to as the West Virginia rights,
11 which were mistakenly recorded as belonging to St. Elizabeth's Retreat
12 Chapel. In 2024, an oil and natural gas company contacted history
13 Colorado to relay the mistaken recording of mineral rights.

14 (c) History Colorado has determined that the intent of the donors
15 of the Weld County rights and the West Virginia rights are best served by
16 selling the rights. Given the current market interest in the rights, history
17 Colorado has determined that a sale would be most financially beneficial
18 for history Colorado in the near term. A sale would also alleviate history
19 Colorado from administrative obligations associated with the rights.

20 **SECTION 2. History Colorado authority to dispose of real**
21 **property.**

22 (1) The state of Colorado, acting by and through the state
23 historical society, also known as history Colorado, is authorized to

1 dispose of mineral rights and nonparticipating royalty interests associated
2 with the following properties:

3 (a) Section 28, Township 4 north, range 68 west, 6th Principal
4 Meridian, Weld County, Colorado; and

5 (b) West Virginia property formerly associated with St. Elizabeth's
6 Retreat Chapel.

7 (2) The state controller must approve all agreements relating to
8 the disposition described in subsection (1) of this section prior to closing.
9 History Colorado shall provide an update on the disposition of mineral
10 rights and nonparticipating royalty interests to the capital development
11 committee.

12 (3) History Colorado shall credit the proceeds of the disposition
13 described in subsection (1) of this section to the state museum cash fund
14 created in section 24-80-214 to be used for a strategic investment in
15 capital improvements, including the retrofitting of the collections care
16 facility and controlled maintenance.

17 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
20 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
21 institutions.