

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REREVISED**

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

LLS NO. 25-0552.01 Caroline Martin x5902

**HOUSE BILL 25-1155**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY AT A GENERAL OR CONGRESSIONAL**  
102              **VACANCY ELECTION OF THE CANDIDATE NOMINATED TO BE ON**  
103              **THE BALLOT BY A PARTICIPATING POLITICAL PARTY TO CHOOSE**  
104              **THE WATCHERS IN COUNT FACILITIES.**

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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>.)*

**Section 2** of the bill modifies current law to authorize, but not require, a candidate nominated to be on the ballot by a participating political party (candidate-nominee) in a general or congressional vacancy

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  
March 12, 2025

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
March 11, 2025

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 13, 2025

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 11, 2025

election to choose the watchers permitted in each central count facility. These watchers must be selected by the candidate-nominee in accordance with existing processes and limitations for such watchers.

If a candidate-nominee exercises their authority to choose the watchers in each central count facility, then the participating political party represented by the candidate-nominee must abide by the candidate-nominee's choices and is not entitled to different or additional watchers at the count facilities. The participating political party remains entitled to watchers of its choice during signature verification and at each voter service and polling center in accordance with current law.

**Section 3** requires that the same provisions for watchers at general and congressional vacancy elections, as modified by **section 2**, be applied to any recount for a United States senator, representative in congress, and any state office or district office of state concern.

**Section 1** makes a conforming amendment to the definition of "watcher".

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-1-104, **amend** (51)  
3 as follows:

4 **1-1-104. Definitions.** As used in this code, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (51) "Watcher" means an eligible elector other than a candidate  
7 on the ballot who has been selected by a political party chairperson on  
8 behalf of the political party; by a party candidate at a primary election,  
9 by an unaffiliated candidate at a general, congressional vacancy, or  
10 nonpartisan election; or by a person designated by either the opponents  
11 or the proponents in the case of a ballot issue or ballot question.

12 "WATCHER" ALSO MEANS AN ELIGIBLE ELECTOR SELECTED BY A  
13 CANDIDATE ON THE BALLOT FOR THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR,  
14 REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS, ANY STATE OFFICE OR DISTRICT OFFICE OF  
15 STATE CONCERN, OR ANY COUNTY OFFICE WHO IS SUBJECT TO A RECOUNT.

16 If selected by a political party chairperson or a party candidate, the

1 watcher must be affiliated with that political party or unaffiliated as  
2 shown in the statewide voter registration system. If selected by an  
3 unaffiliated candidate, the watcher must be unaffiliated as shown in the  
4 statewide voter registration system.

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6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-10.5-102, **amend**  
7 (2) as follows:

8 **1-10.5-102. Recounts for congressional, state, and district**  
9 **offices, state ballot questions, and state ballot issues.** (2) The secretary  
10 of state shall notify the county clerk and recorder of each county involved  
11 of a public recount to be conducted in the county. The recount must be  
12 completed no later than the thirty-first day after any election. The  
13 secretary of state shall promulgate and provide each county clerk and  
14 recorder with the necessary rules to conduct the recount in a fair,  
15 impartial, and uniform manner, including provisions for watchers during  
16 the recount. THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL  
17 REQUIRE THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER TO ALLOW ANY CANDIDATE  
18 WHO IS SUBJECT TO A RECOUNT TO SELECT ONE WATCHER FOR THE  
19 RECOUNT IN ADDITION TO ANY WATCHERS OTHERWISE SELECTED FOR THE  
20 RECOUNT. Any rule concerning the conduct of a recount must take into  
21 account the type of voting system and equipment used by the county in  
22 which the recount is to be conducted.

23 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend 1-10.5-103**  
24 as follows:

25 **1-10.5-103. Recount for other offices, ballot issues, and ballot**  
26 **questions in an election coordinated by county clerk and recorder.** In  
27 any election coordinated by the county clerk and recorder, if it appears,

1 as evidenced by the official abstract of votes cast, that a recount is  
2 required for any office, ballot question, or ballot issue not included in  
3 section 1-10.5-102, the county clerk and recorder shall order a recount of  
4 the votes cast for the office, ballot question, or ballot issue to be  
5 conducted in accordance with section 1-10.5-102. Any recount of the  
6 votes must be completed no later than the thirty-first day after the  
7 election. THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER SHALL ENSURE THAT ANY  
8 CANDIDATE SUBJECT TO A RECOUNT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY  
9 SELECT ONE WATCHER FOR THE RECOUNT IN ADDITION TO ANY WATCHERS  
10 OTHERWISE SELECTED FOR THE RECOUNT. A political subdivision that  
11 referred a ballot issue or ballot question to the electors may waive the  
12 automatic recount provisions of this section if the ballot issue or ballot  
13 question fails by giving written notice to the county clerk and recorder  
14 within twenty-three days after any election.

15           **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
16 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following  
17 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the  
18 general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant  
19 to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an  
20 item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item,  
21 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
22 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take  
23 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the  
24 governor.

25           (2) This act applies to recounts held on or after the applicable  
26 effective date of this act.