

CHAPTER 60

GOVERNMENT - LOCAL

SENATE BILL 26-047

BY SENATOR(S) Danielson and Marchman, Amabile, Ball, Cutter, Daugherty, Exum, Gonzales J., Jodeh, Kipp, Kolker, Lindstedt, Mullica, Roberts, Snyder, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman, Coleman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Camacho and Phillips, Duran, Bacon, Boesenecker, Brown, Carter, Clifford, Espenoza, Froelich, Garcia, Goldstein, Hamrick, Jackson, Lieder, Lindsay, Mabrey, Nguyen, Ricks, Rutinel, Smith, Stewart K., Story, Valdez, Velasco, McCluskie.

AN ACT

CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE DEFINITION OF A GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING A QUESTION TO THE VOTERS TO ALLOW FIREFIGHTERS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN WITH THEIR PUBLIC EMPLOYERS.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-203, **amend** (11) as follows:

29-5-203. Definitions.

As used in this part 2, unless the context otherwise requires:

(11) "General election" means a ~~general~~ REGULAR municipal election, regular special district board election, statewide primary election, ~~or~~ statewide general election, OR COORDINATED ELECTION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1-1-104 (6.5).

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 29-5-206, **amend** (1) as follows:

29-5-206. Vote of the citizens to obligate a public employer to engage in collective bargaining.

(1) If a petition signed by at least five percent of the number of persons who voted in the last ~~general~~ REGULAR municipal election, general district election, or the total votes of each party's general election in the case of a fire authority, unless petition requirements are otherwise outlined by city charter or local ordinance, asks the public employer to engage in collective bargaining with a named employee

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

organization, the public employer shall place on the ballot at the next general election the following question for a yes or no vote: "Should the firefighters employed by the [name of the public employer] be covered by the 'Colorado Firefighter Safety Act'?" If a majority of the registered electors voting on this question vote "yes", the public employer is obligated to engage in collective bargaining pursuant to this part 2, and the employee organization named in the petition becomes the exclusive representative of the firefighters of that public employer. If a majority of the registered electors voting on this question vote "no", the public employer will not be obligated to engage in collective bargaining under this part 2, and the meet and confer process in section 29-5-205 will continue to apply to that public employer.

SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 20, 2026