

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 22-1063.01 Michael Dohr x4347

HOUSE BILL 22-1413

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Esgar and McKean, Garnett

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fenberg and Holbert, Moreno

House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AUTHORITY FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE**
102 **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO ALLOW REMOTE TESTIMONY BEFORE**
103 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
104 **MAKING AND REDUCING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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 law, the legislative council committee of the general assembly is permitted to establish policies allowing legislative committees to take remote testimony from one or more centralized remote

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.

sites around the state. The bill would allow the executive committee of the legislative council to establish policies allowing legislative committees to take testimony from government officials and employees and the public.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-303, **amend**
3 (2)(g) as follows:

4 **2-3-303. Functions - report - definitions.** (2) In addition to any
5 other powers and duties set forth in law, the executive committee of the
6 legislative council has the following powers and duties:

7 (g) (I) ~~(A)~~ To consider, recommend, and establish policies
8 allowing legislative committees to take remote testimony from ~~one or~~
9 ~~more centralized remote sites located around the state~~ GOVERNMENT
10 OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

11 ~~(B) If remote testimony is approved, at least one remote site~~
12 ~~established pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (I)~~
13 ~~must be located in the western slope area of the state.~~

14 ~~(C) The video teleconferencing technology need not televise, nor~~
15 ~~otherwise allow testifying members of the public to see, the committee of~~
16 ~~reference proceedings, so long as the members of the public are able to~~
17 ~~hear such proceedings and communicate with the committee.~~

18 (II) ~~In implementing this paragraph (g), the executive committee~~
19 ~~may enter into agreements with state institutions of higher education to~~
20 ~~use those institutions as the centralized remote sites and to use the~~
21 ~~resources, including facilities, equipment, and staff, of those institutions.~~

22 (III) ~~The executive committee may, in its discretion, implement~~
23 ~~the use of video teleconferencing in phases.~~

1 (IV) Nothing in this ~~paragraph (g)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(g) supersedes
2 the power of the house of representatives or the senate to adopt rules or
3 joint rules, or both, for the orderly conduct of their affairs.

4 (V) ~~After the adjournment of the second regular session of the~~
5 ~~seventieth general assembly, but prior to August 1, 2016, the director of~~
6 ~~research of the legislative council shall submit to the members of the~~
7 ~~general assembly a report containing the following information pertaining~~
8 ~~to remote testimony taken pursuant to this paragraph (g):~~

9 (A) ~~The total number of persons who testified remotely;~~

10 (B) ~~The locations of the sites from which such persons testified;~~

11 (C) ~~The average length of hearings at which remote testimony was~~
12 ~~accepted;~~

13 (D) ~~The estimated calculation of travel miles saved by allowing~~
14 ~~persons to testify remotely;~~

15 (E) ~~The cost to implement the remote testimony process;~~

16 (F) ~~The technological or other issues, if any, that arose;~~

17 (G) ~~Identification of other suitable sites from which remote~~
18 ~~testimony can be taken, in a manner that ensures that adequate geographic~~
19 ~~distribution of sites is achieved;~~

20 (H) ~~Any recommendations that the director believes would~~
21 ~~improve the taking of remote testimony; and~~

22 (I) ~~Any other information that the director believes relevant or~~
23 ~~useful.~~

24 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2022 legislative**
25 **appropriation bill.** (1) To implement this act, the general fund
26 appropriation made in the annual legislative appropriation act (House Bill
27 22-1286) for the 2022-23 state fiscal year to the legislative department for

1 use by the general assembly is decreased by \$10,000.

2 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$401,709 is appropriated to
3 the legislative department for use by the legislative council. This
4 appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that
5 the legislative council will require an additional 6.0 FTE. The legislative
6 council may use this appropriation to implement this act.

7 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.