

First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 23-0777.01 Jessica Herrera x4218

SENATE BILL 23-163

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Will,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Jodeh and Lynch,

Senate Committees

Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE**
102 **DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE WHO ARE CERTIFIED BY THE**
103 **PEACE OFFICERS STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD AS STATE**
104 **TROOPERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING PUBLIC**
105 **EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION SERVICE RETIREMENT**
106 **ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
107 **MAKING 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>.)

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.

Beginning July 1, 2023, the bill classifies a wildlife officer and a parks and recreation officer (officer) employed by the division of parks and wildlife in the department of natural resources as a state trooper for the purpose of determining the officer's public employees' retirement association service retirement eligibility and benefit.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-51-101, **amend**
3 (46) as follows:

4 **24-51-101. Definitions.** As used in this article 51, unless the
5 context otherwise requires and except as otherwise defined in part 17 of
6 this article 51:

7 (46) "State trooper" means an employee of the Colorado state
8 patrol, Colorado bureau of investigation, or successors to these agencies,
9 who is vested with the powers of peace officers as provided for in section
10 24-33.5-409. In addition, for members who were not members, inactive
11 members, or retirees on December 31, 2019, "state trooper" includes a
12 county sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff, noncertified deputy sheriff,
13 or detention officer hired by a local government division employer on or
14 after January 1, 2020, and a corrections officer classified as I through IV
15 hired by a state division employer on or after January 1, 2020. Beginning
16 July 1, 2020, "state trooper" also includes an employee of the division of
17 fire prevention and control in the department of public safety who is
18 classified in the firefighter I through firefighter VII class titles.
19 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, "STATE TROOPER" ALSO INCLUDES A WILDLIFE
20 OFFICER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 16-2.5-116 (1), AND A PARKS AND
21 RECREATION OFFICER AS DEFINED IN SECTION 16-2.5-117 (1), WHO IS
22 EMPLOYED BY THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE IN THE DEPARTMENT

1 OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WAS HIRED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2011.

2 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal
3 year, \$404,434 is appropriated to the department of natural resources for
4 use by the division of parks and wildlife. This appropriation consists of
5 \$236,364 from the wildlife cash fund created in section 33-1-112 (1)(a),
6 C.R.S., and \$168,070 from the parks and outdoor recreation cash fund
7 created in section 33-10-111 (1), C.R.S. To implement this act, the
8 division may use this appropriation as follows:

9 (a) \$236,364 from the wildlife cash fund for wildlife operations;

10 and

11 (b) \$168,070 from the parks and outdoor recreation cash fund for
12 state park operations.

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