

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

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 17-0613.01 Jennifer Berman x3286

**HOUSE BILL 17-1225**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hansen,** Becker J., Esgar, Ginal, Kennedy, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Willett, Winter

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**  
Transportation & Energy

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING A TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
102                    **HEARING ON THE EFFECTS THAT A RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE**  
103                    **PROVIDER'S PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION**  
104                    **ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE IN COLORADO.**

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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>.)*

A regional transmission organization is an independent electric transmission operator that provides wholesale transmission services to more than one provider of retail electric service within a defined

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 11, 2017

geographic region by pooling together a number of transmission assets into a single electricity transmission market from which participating retail electric service providers may purchase wholesale transmission services.

The bill directs the transportation legislation review committee to conduct a hearing during the 2017 interim on the effects that participation by retail electric service providers in a regional transmission organization would have on the providers, their ratepayers, and Colorado's market for renewable energy. The hearing must take place on or before December 1, 2017.

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 43-2-145.7 as follows:

**43-2-145.7. Transportation legislation review committee - review of participation in regional transmission organizations - legislative declaration - definitions - hearing - repeal.** (1) (a) THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT:

(I) RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THEIR RATEPAYERS MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THE RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS' PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION BECAUSE THE REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION COULD:

(A) PROVIDE TRANSMISSION ACCESS TO A NUMBER OF RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS, THUS POTENTIALLY LOWERING COSTS FOR RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS;

(B) ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF TRANSMISSION SERVICE BY POOLING TOGETHER A NUMBER OF TRANSMISSION ASSETS THROUGHOUT THE REGION SERVED BY THE REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION;

(C) FACILITATE REGION-WIDE PLANNING OF TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT; AND

(D) DEVELOPELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION MARKETS THAT, WITHIN

1 THE REGION SERVED, ARE BETTER ABLE TO SERVICE ENERGY DEMAND AND  
2 MATCH ENERGY SUPPLY TO THAT DEMAND; AND

3 (II) WHILE POTENTIALLY PROVIDING MANY BENEFITS,  
4 PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION MIGHT  
5 DISADVANTAGE RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS, THEIR CUSTOMERS,  
6 AND THE STATE OF COLORADO BECAUSE SUCH PARTICIPATION COULD:


7 (A) INVOLVE ADDED COSTS FOR PARTICIPATING RETAIL ELECTRIC  
8 SERVICE PROVIDERS, WHICH COSTS WOULD THEN BE PASSED ON TO THE  
9 PROVIDERS' RATEPAYERS; AND

10 (B) TIE COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS TO AN  
11 ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION MARKET THAT COULD HINDER COLORADO'S  
12 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GENERATION SOURCES.

13 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINES AND  
14 DECLARES THAT IT SHOULD CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL COSTS AND  
15 BENEFITS OF, AND BARRIERS TO, A COLORADO RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE  
16 PROVIDER'S PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.

17 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
18 REQUIRES:

19 (a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
20 CREATED IN SECTION 40-2-101.

21   
22 (b) "REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN  
23 INDEPENDENT ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OPERATOR THAT PROVIDES  
24 WHOLESALE TRANSMISSION SERVICES TO MORE THAN ONE PROVIDER OF  
25 RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE WITHIN A DEFINED GEOGRAPHIC  
26 REGION BY POOLING TOGETHER A NUMBER OF TRANSMISSION ASSETS INTO  
27 A SINGLE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION MARKET FROM WHICH

1 PARTICIPATING RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS MAY  
2 PURCHASE WHOLESALE TRANSMISSION SERVICES.

3 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2017, THE TRANSPORTATION  
4 LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD A HEARING ON THE  
5 POTENTIAL COSTS AND BENEFITS THAT WOULD ARISE FROM COLORADO  
6 RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS' PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL  
7 TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION. THE HEARING SHOULD INCLUDE  
8 CONSIDERATION OF THE POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES  
9 THAT RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS' PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL  
10 TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION COULD HAVE ON:

11 (I) THE RETAIL OR WHOLESALE ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS  
12 THAT PARTICIPATE IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION;

13 (II) ANY RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT DO NOT  
14 PARTICIPATE IN A REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION; AND

15 (III) RETAIL OR WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS.

16 (b) (I) FOR THE HEARING, THE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION  
17 REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL INVITE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OR THE  
18 COMMISSION'S DESIGNEE, REPRESENTATIVES OF COLORADO ELECTRIC  
19 SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL TRANSMISSION  
20 ORGANIZATIONS TO ENGAGE IN A PANEL DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES SET  
21 FORTH IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

22 (II) IN ADDITION TO ALLOWING PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THE  
23 HEARING, THE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SHALL  
24 ACCEPT WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO  
25 BE ASKED OF THE PANEL MEMBERS BY THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OR  
26 THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE AT THE HEARING. THE CHAIR MAY DETERMINE:

27 (A) THE NUMBER OF SUBMITTED WRITTEN QUESTIONS ASKED OF

1 THE PANEL; AND

2 (B) THE ORDER IN WHICH THE APPROVED SUBMITTED QUESTIONS  
3 WILL BE ASKED OF THE PANEL.

4 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2018.

5 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
8 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a  
9 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
10 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
11 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
12 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
13 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
14 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.