

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0409.01 Megan McCall x4215

HOUSE BILL 24-1281

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Martinez and Catlin,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Business Affairs & Labor

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COLORADO ECONOMIC**
102 **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO APPROVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF**
103 **NEW REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECTS LOCATED IN FRONTIER**
104 **COMMUNITIES PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO REGIONAL**
105 **TOURISM ACT".**

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>.)

The "Colorado Regional Tourism Act" establishes a process for approving and a mechanism for financing, through state sales tax

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.

increment revenue, regional tourism projects that are submitted by local governments and approved by the Colorado economic development commission (commission). The commission currently does not have authority to approve any more regional tourism projects. On or after September 1, 2024, the bill allows the commission to approve up to 2 new regional tourism projects, both of which must be located in a frontier community. The bill also specifies that the term "regional tourism project" includes an agritourism facility together with ancillary uses, structures, and improvements.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-302, **amend** (1)(a) and (1)(d) as follows:

24-46-302. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state of Colorado are enhanced by a diverse revenue stream, and the people of the state would benefit from an expansion of opportunities for investment in large-scale regional tourism projects AS WELL AS REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECTS LOCATED IN FRONTIER COMMUNITIES that will attract significant investment and revenue from outside the state;

(d) It is in the best interests of the people of the state to provide a financing mechanism for attracting, constructing, and operating large-scale regional tourism projects AND REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECTS LOCATED IN FRONTIER COMMUNITIES that will attract significant investment and revenue from outside the state; and

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-303, **amend** (10); and **add** (7.1) and (7.3) as follows:

24-46-303. Definitions. As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

1 (7.1) "FRONTIER COMMUNITY" MEANS:

2 (a) A MUNICIPALITY WITH A POPULATION OF LESS THAN ONE
3 THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE THAT IS LOCATED IN A FRONTIER
4 COUNTY; OR

5 (b) THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF ANY FRONTIER COUNTY.

6 (7.3) "FRONTIER COUNTY" MEANS A COUNTY IN COLORADO
7 DESIGNATED BY THE STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH, KNOWN AS THE
8 COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CENTER, AS A FRONTIER COUNTY.

9 (10) "Regional tourism project" or "project" means a development
10 project that is planned to include a tourism, AGRITOURISM, or
11 entertainment facility together with ancillary uses, structures, and
12 improvements, and that has been approved by the commission pursuant
13 to this part 3.

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-304, **amend**
15 (1) as follows:

16 **24-46-304. Regional tourism project - application -**
17 **requirements.** (1) Any local government may apply for approval of a
18 regional tourism project, including designation of a regional tourism
19 zone, the creation of a regional tourism authority, and designation of a
20 financing entity to receive, utilize, and disburse state sales tax increment
21 revenue for eligible costs; EXCEPT THAT FOR APPROVAL OF A REGIONAL
22 TOURISMPROJECT PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46-305 (2)(d), ONLY A LOCAL
23 GOVERNMENT IN A FRONTIER COMMUNITY MAY APPLY.

24 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-305, **add**
25 (2)(d) as follows:

26 **24-46-305. Regional tourism project approval - director -**
27 **commission - review.** (2) (d) ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, THE

1 COMMISSION MAY APPROVE UP TO TWO NEW REGIONAL TOURISM
2 PROJECTS, BOTH TO BE LOCATED IN A FRONTIER COMMUNITY.

3 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
6 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
7 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
8 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
9 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
10 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
11 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.