

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 13-0737.01 Thomas Morris x4218

**SENATE BILL 13-202**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Jones,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Singer,**

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**Senate Committees**

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS OF OIL AND GAS FACILITIES.**

**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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill requires the Colorado oil and gas conservation commission to use a risk-based strategy for inspecting oil and gas locations that targets the operational phases that are most likely to experience spills, excess emissions, and other types of violations. The number of commission inspectors must be equivalent to that needed to ensure that each oil and gas location is inspected at least once per year.

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.*

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby:

4 (a) Finds that the substantial increase in oil and gas development  
5 in Colorado, while very beneficial to Colorado's economy:

6 (I) Has led to increased risks to Colorado's natural environment  
7 and public health; and

8 (II) Has not been accompanied by a proportionate increase in the  
9 inspections staff of the Colorado oil and gas conservation commission;

10 (b) Determines that:

11 (I) Timely inspections of new and producing oil and gas wells,  
12 including those that are hydraulically fractured, are critical to protecting  
13 public health, minimizing environmental contamination, detecting spills  
14 before they worsen, and ensuring public trust; and

15 (II) Given the limitations of its current authorization for only  
16 sixteen inspectors, the inspection staff of the Colorado oil and gas  
17 conservation commission can inspect the more than fifty thousand active  
18 wells in Colorado, on average, only about once every four years, with  
19 each staff member inspecting more than three thousand wells per year;  
20 and

21 (c) Declares that this act to increase the frequency of inspections  
22 of oil and gas wells is necessary for the immediate preservation of the  
23 public peace, health, and safety.

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-106, add  
25 (15.5) == as follows:

26 **34-60-106. Additional powers of commission - rules.**

1     (15.5) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE A RISK-BASED STRATEGY FOR  
2     INSPECTING OIL AND GAS LOCATIONS THAT TARGETS THE OPERATIONAL  
3     PHASES THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE SPILLS, EXCESS EMISSIONS,  
4     AND OTHER TYPES OF VIOLATIONS. THE NUMBER OF INSPECTORS  
5     EMPLOYED BY THE COMMISSION MUST BE EQUIVALENT TO THAT NEEDED  
6     TO ENSURE THAT EACH OIL AND GAS LOCATION IS INSPECTED ONCE PER  
7     YEAR.

8             **SECTION 3. Applicability.** This act applies to conduct occurring  
9     on or after the effective date of this act.

10            **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
11     determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
12     preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.