First Regular Session Sixty-ninth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0308.01 Thomas Morris x4218

SENATE BILL 13-212

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jones and Schwartz, Johnston

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Tyler,

Senate Committees

House Committees

Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy

	A BILL FOR AN ACT
101	CONCERNING INCREASED OPTIONS FOR FINANCING AVAILABLE
102	THROUGH THE COLORADO NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENT
103	DISTRICT FOR THE COMPLETION OF NEW ENERGY
104	IMPROVEMENTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ALLOWING
105	COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS TO ACCESS DISTRICT FINANCING,
106	REQUIRING CONSENT FOR SUBORDINATION OF MORTGAGE LIENS,
107	AND FACILITATING PRIVATE THIRD-PARTY FINANCING.

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 The Colorado new energy improvement district (district) currently allows for financing of the completion of new energy improvements only for residential real estate. **Section 2** of the bill allows owners of commercial property to utilize such financing, repeals the maximum 95% loan-to-value requirement for qualified applicants, and repeals the percentage-of-value and dollar caps on allowable new energy improvements. Section 2 also includes fuel cells within the definition of "renewable energy improvement" and includes improvements that increase the overall illumination of a property or bring the property up to building code within the definition of "energy efficiency improvement". **Section 3** directs the governor to appoint 5 members to the district board by September 1, 2013, modifies their qualifications, removes the legislative appointees from the board, and reduces the quorum from 6 to 4 members.

Section 4 directs the district to develop:

- ! A program for the financing of new energy improvements by private third-party financing in addition to by district bonds; and
- ! The parameters for requiring consent in all cases by existing mortgage holders to subordinate the priority of their mortgages to the priority of the district's lien.

Current law includes increased market value and decreased energy bills attributable to a new energy improvement in the calculation of the amount of the special assessment; **section 5** repeals these factors from that calculation and also repeals language that allows special assessments to be prepaid.

If district special assessments are attributable to new energy improvements that were financed by a private third party:

- **Section 6** directs the board to credit the proceeds of the special assessments to the private third party; and
- ! Section 7 specifies that district bonds are not payable from the special assessments.

Section 6 also prohibits county assessors from taking into account any increase in the market value of the eligible real property resulting from the completion of a new energy improvement when assessing the value of the property. Section 7 also affirms that the state will not impair the rights or remedies of private third parties that have financed new energy improvements.

Current law conditionally repeals the district on January 1, 2016. **Section 8** repeals the repeal date.

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

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1	SECTION 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be
2	cited as the "New Energy Jobs Act of 2013".
3	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 32-20-103, amend
4	(4), (5) introductory portion, (5) (f), (7), (11), (12) introductory portion,
5	and (14); repeal (10) (a); and add (1.5) as follows:
6	32-20-103. Definitions. As used in this article, unless the context
7	otherwise requires:
8	(1.5) "COMMERCIAL BUILDING" MEANS ANY REAL PROPERTY
9	OTHER THAN A RESIDENTIAL BUILDING CONTAINING FEWER THAN FIVE
10	DWELLING UNITS AND INCLUDES ANY OTHER IMPROVEMENT OR
11	CONNECTED LAND THAT IS BILLED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT FOR PURPOSES
12	OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXATION.
13	(4) "Eligible real property" means a residential OR COMMERCIAL
14	building, located within a county in which the district has been authorized
15	to conduct the program as required by section 32-20-105 (3), on which or
16	in which a new energy improvement to be financed by the district has
17	been or will be completed.
18	(5) "Energy efficiency improvement" means one or more
19	installations or modifications to eligible real property that are designed to
20	reduce the energy consumption of the property and that are not required
21	by a building code as part of new construction or a major renovation and
22	includes, but is not limited to, the following:
23	(f) Replacement or modification of lighting fixtures to increase
24	the energy efficiency of the system; without increasing the overall
25	illumination of eligible real property unless the increase in illumination
26	is necessary to conform to the applicable building code for the proposed
27	lighting system;

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- (7) "New energy improvement" means one or more on-site energy efficiency improvements or renewable energy improvements, or both, made to eligible real property that will reduce the energy consumption of or add energy produced from renewable energy sources only WITH REGARD to any portion of the eligible real property. that is used predominantly as a place of residency.
 - (10) "Qualified applicant" means a person who:

- (a) Owns eligible real property that has a ratio of loan balance to its actual value of ninety-five percent or less at the time the person's program application is approved, as shown in the records of the county assessor, unless the holder of the deed of trust or mortgage recorded against the eligible real property that has priority over all other deeds of trust or mortgages recorded against the eligible real property has consented in writing to the levying of a special assessment against the eligible real property.
- (11) "Reimbursement or a direct payment" means the payment by the district to a district member, or on behalf of such a district member to a contractor that has completed a new energy improvement to the district member's eligible real property, of all or a portion of the cost of completing a new energy improvement. Utility rebates offered to program participants by a qualifying retail utility for the purpose of compliance with renewable energy targets established in section 40-2-124, C.R.S., shall be ARE subject to the retail rate impact cap established pursuant to section 40-2-124 (1) (g) (I), C.R.S. The maximum amount of reimbursement or a direct payment that may be made shall be the lowest of the full cost of completing a new energy improvement, twenty percent of the actual value, as specified in the records of the county assessor, of

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or twenty-five thousand dollars; except that the twenty-five thousand dollar limit shall be adjusted by the district for each calendar year commencing on or after January 1, 2012, based on the consumer price index for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley metropolitan statistical area for the state fiscal year that ends in the preceding calendar year.

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(12) "Renewable energy improvement" means one or more fixtures, products, systems, or devices, or an interacting group of fixtures, products, systems, or devices, that directly benefit eligible real property through a qualified community location, as defined in section 30-20-602 (4.3), C.R.S., enacted by Senate Bill 10-100, enacted in 2010, or that are installed behind the meter of any eligible real property and that produce energy from renewable resources, including but not limited to, photovoltaic, solar thermal, small wind, low-impact hydroelectric, biomass, FUEL CELL, or geothermal systems such as ground source heat pumps, as may be approved by the district; except that no renewable energy improvement shall be authorized that interferes with a right held by a public utility under a certificate issued by the public utilities commission under article 5 of title 40, C.R.S. Nothing in this article shall limit the right of a public utility, subject to article 3 or 3.5 of title 40, C.R.S., or section 40-9.5-106, C.R.S., to assess fees for the use of its facilities or modify or expand the net metering limitations established in sections 40-9.5-118 and 40-2-124 (7), C.R.S. Primary jurisdiction to hear any disputes as to whether a renewable energy improvement interferes with such a right shall lie:

(14) "Special assessment" or "assessment" means a charge levied by the district against eligible real property specially benefited by a new

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1	energy improvement for which the district has made or will make
2	reimbursement or a direct payment that is proportional to the benefit
3	received from the new energy improvement and does not exceed the
4	estimated amount of special benefits received OR THE FULL COST OF
5	COMPLETING THE NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENT.
6	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 32-20-104, amend
7	(2) (a) introductory portion, (2) (a) (II), and (3); and repeal (2) (a) (III),
8	(2) (a) (IV), (2) (a) (V), and (2) (a) (VI), as follows:
9	32-20-104. Colorado new energy improvement district -
10	$\textbf{creation - board - meetings - quorum - expenses - records.} \ (2) \ (a) \ \ The$
11	district shall be IS governed by a board of directors, which shall exercise
12	the powers of the district, shall, by a majority vote of a quorum of its
13	members, select from its membership a chair, and a vice-chair, AND
14	SECRETARY, and shall be IS composed of nine SEVEN members, including:
15	(II) The following five members appointed by the governor BY
16	SEPTEMBER 1, 2013:
17	(A) One member who has executive-level experience in the
18	affordable housing industry COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
19	DEVELOPMENT;
20	(B) One member who has executive-level experience in the
21	FINANCIAL OR lending industry;
22	(C) One member who is an attorney licensed to practice law in
23	Colorado and who shall serve as the secretary of the board HAS
24	EXECUTIVE-LEVEL EXPERIENCE IN THE UTILITY INDUSTRY;
25	(D) One member who represents the energy efficiency industry;
26	and
27	(E) One member who represents local governments THE

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1	RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY.
2	(III) One member appointed by the president of the senate who
3	has executive-level experience in the renewable energy industry;
4	(IV) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of
5	representatives who has executive-level experience in the financial
6	industry;
7	(V) One member appointed by the minority leader of the senate
8	who has executive-level experience in the utility industry; and
9	(VI) One member appointed by the minority leader of the house
10	of representatives who has executive-level experience in the housing
11	industry.
12	(3) Six FOUR members of the board shall constitute a quorum for
13	the purpose of conducting business and exercising the powers of the
14	board. Action may be taken by the board upon the affirmative vote of at
15	least six FOUR of its members. No vacancy in the membership of the
16	board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and
17	perform all the duties of the board.
18	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 32-20-105, amend
19	(3) introductory portion, (3) (d), (3) (e), (3) (g), and (4); and add (3) (h)
20	and (3) (i) as follows:
21	32-20-105. District - purpose - general powers and duties -
22	new energy improvement program. (3) The district shall establish,
23	develop, finance, and administer a new energy improvement program.
24	However, the district may conduct the program within any given county
25	only if the board of county commissioners of the county has adopted a
26	resolution authorizing the district to conduct the program within the
27	county. The DISTRICT SHALL DESIGN THE program shall be designed to

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allow an owner of eligible real property to apply to join the district, receive reimbursement or a direct payment from the district, and consent to the levying of a special assessment on the eligible real property specially benefited by a new energy improvement for which the district makes reimbursement or a direct payment. The district shall establish an application process for the program which may allow THAT ALLOWS an owner of eligible real property to become a qualified applicant by submitting an application to the district and which THAT may include one or more deadlines for the filing of an application. The district may charge program application fees. In order to administer the program, the district, acting directly or through a program administrator or such other agents, employees, or professionals as the district may appoint, hire, retain, or contract with, MAY AGGREGATE QUALIFIED APPLICANTS INTO ONE OR MORE BOND ISSUES AND shall:

- (d) Encourage OR REQUIRE, AS DETERMINED BY THE DISTRICT, any qualified applicant to obtain an online or on-site home energy audit in order to ensure the efficient use of new energy improvement funding pursuant to this article;
- (e) Inform prospective program applicants and qualified applicants of private financing options not provided by the district, including, but not limited to AS APPROPRIATE, home equity loans, and home equity lines of credit, COMMERCIAL LOANS, AND COMMERCIAL LINES OF CREDIT that may, with respect to a particular applicant, represent viable alternatives for financing new energy improvements;
- (g) Take appropriate steps to monitor the quality of new energy improvements for which the district has made reimbursement or a direct payment if deemed necessary by the board, measure the total energy

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savings achieved by the program, monitor the total number of program participants, the total amount paid to contractors, the number of jobs created by the program, the number of defaults by program participants, and the total losses from the defaults, and calculate the total amount of bonds issued by the district. On or before March 1, 2011 2014, and on or before each subsequent March 1, the district shall report to the state, veterans, and military affairs committees of the general assembly, or any successor committees, regarding the information obtained as required by this paragraph (g);

- (h) DEVELOP PROGRAM GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PRIVATE THIRD-PARTY FINANCING, OTHER THAN THAT OBTAINED THROUGH ISSUANCE OF A DISTRICT BOND, IS AVAILABLE TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS THROUGH THE PROGRAM AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAY SERVE AS AN AGGREGATING ENTITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING PRIVATE THIRD-PARTY FINANCING FOR NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE; AND
- (i) IN CONNECTION WITH THE FINANCING OF NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS EITHER BY THIRD PARTIES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (h) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3) OR DISTRICT BONDS AND IN CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BANKING INDUSTRY, COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND PROPERTY OWNERS, DEVELOP THE PROCESSES TO ENSURE THAT MORTGAGE HOLDER CONSENT IS OBTAINED IN ALL CASES FOR ALL ELIGIBLE REAL PROPERTY PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM TO SUBORDINATE THE PRIORITY OF SUCH MORTGAGES TO THE PRIORITY OF THE LIEN ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 32-20-107.
- (4) The district shall establish underwriting guidelines that consider program applicants' qualifications, credit-worthiness, home OR

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1	COMMERCIAL BUILDING equity, and other appropriate factors, including
2	but not limited to credit reports, credit scores, and loan-to-value ratios,
3	consistent with good and customary lending practices, and as required in
4	order for the district OR THIRD PARTIES to obtain a bond rating necessary
5	for a successful bond sale. The district shall also arrange for an
6	appropriate loss reserve in order to obtain the necessary bond rating.
7	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 32-20-106, amend
8	(2) (b) and (7); and repeal (2) (a) and (2) (c) as follows:
9	32-20-106. Special assessments - determination of special
10	benefits - notice and hearing requirements - certification of
11	assessment roll - manner of collection. (2) For the purpose of
12	determining the amount of the special assessment to be levied on a
13	particular unit of eligible real property within the district, "special
14	benefit" includes, but is not limited to:
15	(a) Any increase in the market value of the eligible real property
16	resulting from the completion of a new energy improvement;
17	(b) Any cost of completing a new energy improvement that is
18	defrayed by reimbursement or a direct payment; AND
19	(c) Any reduction in energy-related utility bills for the eligible real
20	property caused by a quantifiable reduction in the energy consumption of
21	the eligible real property resulting from the completion of a new energy
22	improvement; and
23	(7) Failure to pay any installment on special assessments, whether
24	of principal or interest, when due shall give the district the right to declare
25	the delinquent installments due and collectible immediately, and upon
26	such a declaration the whole amount of the unpaid principal and accrued
27	interest shall thereafter draw interest at the rate established nursuant to

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section 5-12-106 (2) and (3), C.R.S., until the day of sale. At any time
prior to the day of sale, the district member may pay the amount of all
unpaid installments, with interest at the penalty rate set by the assessing
resolution, and all costs of collection accrued and shall thereupon be
restored to the right thereafter to pay in installments in the same manner
as if default had not been suffered. A district member not in default as to
any installment or payment may, at any time, pay the whole of the unpaid
principal with the interest accruing to the maturity of the next installment
of interest or principal.
SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 32-20-107, amend
(1), (2), (4) (b), and (4) (f) as follows:
32-20-107. Special assessment constitutes lien - filing - sale of
property for nonpayment. (1) (a) A special assessment, together with
all interest thereon and penalties for default in payment thereof, and
associated collection costs shall constitute CONSTITUTES, from the date of
the recording of the assessing resolution and assessment roll pursuant to
subsection (2) of this section, a perpetual lien in the amount assessed
against the assessed eligible real property and shall have HAS priority over
all other liens; except that:
(I) General tax liens shall have priority over district special
assessment liens;
(II) A DISTRICT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT LIEN HAS PRIORITY OVER A
PREEXISTING LIEN ONLY IF THE MORTGAGE HOLDER CONSENTS AS
SPECIFIED IN SECTION 32-20-105 (3) (i); and

(b) Neither the sale of eligible real property in the district to

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enforce the payment of general ad valorem taxes nor the issuance of a treasurer's deed in connection with such a THE sale shall extinguish EXTINGUISHES the lien of a special assessment. If ASSESSED eligible real property assessed is subdivided, the BOARD MAY APPORTION THE assessment lien may be apportioned by the board in such THE manner as may be provided in the assessing resolution.

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(2) The district shall transmit to a county clerk and recorder of a county that includes eligible real property included in the district copies of the district's assessing resolution after its final adoption by the board and the assessment roll for recording on the land records of each unit of eligible real property assessed within the county as provided in article 30, 35, or 36 of title 38, C.R.S. The assessing resolution and assessment roll shall be indexed in the grantor index under the name of the district member and in the grantee index under the Colorado new energy improvement district. In addition, the county clerk and recorder shall file copies of the assessing resolution, after its final adoption by the board, and the assessment roll with the county assessor and the county treasurer. The county assessor is authorized to create separate schedules for each unit of eligible real property assessed within the county pursuant to the resolution. IN ASSESSING THE VALUE OF ELIGIBLE REAL PROPERTY, THE COUNTY ASSESSOR SHALL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY INCREASE IN THE MARKET VALUE OF THE ELIGIBLE REAL PROPERTY RESULTING FROM THE COMPLETION OF A NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENT.

(4) (b) At any sale by a county treasurer of any eligible real property for the purpose of paying a special assessment, the board may purchase the property for the district without paying for the property in cash and shall receive certificates of purchase for the property in the name

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of the district. The certificates shall be received and credited at their face value, with all interest and penalties accrued, on account of the assessment installment in pursuance of which the sale was made. The certificates BOARD may thereafter be sold by the board SELL THE CERTIFICATES at their face value, with all interest and penalties accrued, and assigned to the purchaser in the name of the district. The BOARD SHALL CREDIT THE proceeds of the sale shall be credited to the fund created by resolution for the payment of such THE assessments, respectively; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS WERE FINANCED UNDER SECTION 32-20-105 (3) (h), THE BOARD SHALL CREDIT THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE TO THE PRIVATE THIRD PARTY THAT FINANCED THE NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS. If the district has repaid all special assessment bonds in full, the BOARD MAY SELL THE certificates may be sold by the board for the best price obtainable at public sale, at auction, or by sealed bids in the same manner and under the same conditions as provided in paragraph (d) of this subsection (4). Such assignments shall be ARE without recourse, and the sale and assignments shall operate as a lien in favor of the purchaser and assignee as is provided by law in the case of sale of real estate in default of payment of the general property tax.

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(f) The BOARD SHALL CREDIT THE proceeds of any sale of property shall be credited to the appropriate special assessment fund; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS WERE FINANCED UNDER SECTION 32-20-105 (3) (h), THE BOARD SHALL CREDIT THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE TO THE PRIVATE THIRD PARTY THAT FINANCED THE NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS. The district shall deduct therefrom FROM THE APPROPRIATE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FUND the necessary expenses in

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securing deeds and taking proceedings for the sale or foreclosure.

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2 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 32-20-108, **amend** 3 (1) and (8) as follows:

32-20-108. Special assessment bonds - legal investment **exemption from taxation.** (1) The district shall issue special assessment bonds in an aggregate principal amount of not more than eight hundred million dollars for the purpose of generating the moneys needed to make reimbursement or a direct payment to district members and to pay other costs of the district. The bonds BOARD shall be issued ISSUE THE BONDS pursuant to a resolution of the board or a trust indenture, shall MUST not be secured by an encumbrance, mortgage, or other pledge of real or personal property of the district, and shall be ARE payable from special assessments, OTHER THAN THOSE ATTRIBUTABLE TO PRIVATE THIRD-PARTY FINANCING UNDER SECTION 32-20-105 (3) (h), and any other lawfully pledged district revenues unless the bond resolution or trust indenture specifically limits the source of district revenues from which the bonds are payable. The bonds shall DO not constitute a debt or other financial obligation of the state. The board may adopt one or more resolutions creating special assessment units comprised of multiple units of eligible real property on which the board has levied a special assessment and may issue special assessment bonds payable from special assessments imposed within the entire district, OTHER THAN THOSE ATTRIBUTABLE TO PRIVATE THIRD-PARTY FINANCING UNDER SECTION 32-20-105 (3) (h), or from special assessments imposed only within one or more specified special assessment units.

(8) (a) The state hereby pledges and agrees with the holders of any bonds, PRIVATE THIRD PARTIES THAT HAVE FINANCED NEW ENERGY

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1	IMPROVEMENTS UNDER SECTION 32-20-105 (3) (h), and with those parties
2	who enter into contracts with the district pursuant to this article that the
3	state will not limit, alter, restrict, or impair the rights vested in the district
4	or the rights or obligations of any person with which the district contracts
5	to fulfill the terms of any agreements made pursuant to this article. The
6	state further agrees that it will not in any way impair the rights or
7	remedies of:
8	(I) The holders of bonds until the bonds have been paid or until
9	adequate provision for payment has been made; OR
10	(II) THE PRIVATE THIRD PARTIES THAT HAVE FINANCED NEW
11	ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS UNDER SECTION 32-20-105 (3) (h).
12	(b) The district may include this provision and undertaking for the
13	district THE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION
14	(8) in its bonds or contracts with private third parties that have
15	FINANCED NEW ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS UNDER SECTION 32-20-105 (3)
16	(h).
17	SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal 32-20-110 as
18	follows:
19	32-20-110. Repeal of article - inapplicable if the district has
20	outstanding bond obligations. (1) Except as otherwise provided in
21	subsection (2) of this section, this article is repealed, effective January 1,
22	2016.
23	(2) In accordance with section 32-20-108 (8), this article shall not
24	be repealed as provided in subsection (1) of this section if the district has
25	issued bonds that have not been repaid in full as of January 1, 2016.
26	However, the district shall not accept any new application for the program
27	or issue any additional bonds on or after January 1, 2016.

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1	SECTION 9. Applicability. This act applies to conduct occurring
2	on or after the effective date of this act.
3	SECTION 10. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
4	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
5	preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

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