Second Regular Session Sixty-ninth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 14-0464.02 Jason Gelender x4330

HOUSE BILL 14-1161

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A BILL FOR AN ACT 101 CONCERNING INTERSTATE RAIL SERVICE IN SOUTHERN COLORADO, 102 AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A COMMISSION 103 AND A FUND FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENCOURAGING AMTRAK TO 104 CONTINUE ITS SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE SERVICE AT ALL 105 CURRENT COLORADO STOPS, EXPANDING SUCH SERVICE TO 106 INCLUDE A STOP IN PUEBLO, AND STUDYING THE POTENTIAL 107 BENEFITS OF EXPANDING SUCH SERVICE TO INCLUDE A STOP IN 108 WALSENBURG.

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:

- ! Creates a 9-member southwest chief rail line economic development, rural tourism, and infrastructure repair and maintenance commission (commission) consisting of:
 - 7 voting members, including one member of each house of the general assembly, 2 residents of southeastern Colorado counties, and representatives of the freight rail, passenger rail, and tourist industries; and
 - ! 2 nonvoting members, including an employee of Amtrak and an employee of the Colorado department of transportation;
- ! Specifies that the mission of the commission is to coordinate and oversee efforts by the state and local governments and cooperate with the states of Kansas and New Mexico, Amtrak, and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railway (BNSF) to ensure continuation of existing Amtrak southwest chief rail line service in the state, expansion of such service to include a stop in Pueblo, and exploration of the benefits of adding an additional stop in Walsenburg;
- ! Grants the commission the powers and duties necessary to further the accomplishment of its mission;
- ! Creates a southwest chief rail line economic development, rural tourism, and infrastructure repair and maintenance fund (fund);
- ! Specifies that moneys received by the state from the federal government, local governments, public-private partnerships, or any other person, or as a result of any voter-approved ballot measure, that are dedicated for the purposes of ensuring that the Amtrak southwest chief rail line continues to pass through Colorado and that an additional stop in Pueblo is added to the southwest chief rail line, and any other moneys that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer, are credited to the fund; and
- ! Specifies that, subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly and specified conditions regarding funding commitments from the states of Kansas and New Mexico, Amtrak and BNSF, and southwest chief rail service commitments from Amtrak, the commission may expend moneys from the fund for rail replacement on or other improvements to the portion of the BNSF railway line

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used to provide existing Amtrak southwest chief rail line service in Colorado and to pay costs associated with the expansion of southwest chief rail line service to include a stop in Pueblo.

1	Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
2	SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 10 to article
3	4 of title 43 as follows:
4	PART 10
5	INTERSTATE RAIL
6	43-4-1001. Preservation and expansion of southwest chief rail
7	line service in Colorado - commission - membership and powers -
8	legislative declaration - definitions. (1) The General assembly
9	HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
10	(a) THE AMTRAK SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE, WHICH PROVIDES
11	INTERSTATE RAIL SERVICE FROM CHICAGO TO LOS ANGELES WITH STOPS
12	$\hbox{in the Colorado cities of L amar, L a Junta, and T rinidad, provides}$
13	NEEDED RAIL TRANSPORTATION TO RESIDENTS OF SOUTHEASTERN
14	COLORADO, PROVIDES A GATEWAY TO TOURISTS FROM THE WEST COAST
15	AND MIDWEST TO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN COLORADO, IS ITSELF A
16	SIGNIFICANT TOURIST ATTRACTION FOR OUT OF STATE AND FOREIGN
17	TOURISTS, AND IS AN IMPORTANT ECONOMIC DRIVER FOR RURAL AREAS OF
18	COLORADO, KANSAS, AND NEW MEXICO.
19	(b) AMTRAK OPERATES THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE IN
20	KANSAS, COLORADO, AND NEW MEXICO ON OLDER TRACKS OWNED BY
21	THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY THAT REQUIRE
22	EXPENSIVE UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE, WHICH THE RAILWAY AND
23	AMTRAK ARE UNABLE TO PAY FOR IN FULL, AND IS CONSIDERING

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1	REROUTING THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE AND DISCONTINUING
2	SERVICE TO COLORADO, WESTERN KANSAS, AND NORTHERN NEW MEXICO.
3	(c) BECAUSE THE POSSIBLE REROUTING OF THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF
4	RAIL LINE AWAY FROM COLORADO WOULD LEAVE RESIDENTS OF
5	SOUTHEAST COLORADO WITHOUT NEEDED INTERSTATE RAIL
6	TRANSPORTATION, COMPLICATE ACCESS TO COLORADO TOURIST
7	ATTRACTIONS FOR TOURISTS FROM THE WEST COAST AND MIDWEST,
8	ELIMINATE A SIGNIFICANT TOURIST ATTRACTION, AND CAUSE ECONOMIC
9	AND EMPLOYMENT LOSSES IN COLORADO, IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF
10	THE STATE TO TRY TO PREVENT THAT REPOUTING AND ENSURE THAT THE
11	SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE RAIL SERVICE IN
12	COLORADO.
13	(d) In addition to supporting the passenger rail industry,
14	THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALSO CONSIDERS THE GROWTH OF THE FREIGHT
15	RAIL INDUSTRY TO BE OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE STATE AND
16	THEREFORE INTENDS THAT ANY EXPANSION OF PASSENGER RAIL ONLY BE
17	DONE IN COORDINATION WITH THE FREIGHT RAIL INDUSTRY.
18	(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
19	(a) In addition to preserving existing southwest chief rail
20	LINE SERVICE, MODIFYING THE ROUTE OF THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE
21	TO INCLUDE A STOP IN PUEBLO WOULD BENEFIT THE STATE BY:
22	(I) PROVIDING INTERSTATE RAIL SERVICE TO RESIDENTS OF
23	PUEBLO, THE LARGEST METROPOLITAN AREA IN SOUTHERN COLORADO;
24	(II) CREATING AN ADDITIONAL INTERSTATE RAIL CONNECTION
25	THAT:
26	(A) RESIDENTS OF THE RAPIDLY GROWING FRONT RANGE AND
27	CERTAIN OTHER CITIES THROUGHOUT COLORADO CAN IMMEDIATELY

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1	ACCESS THROUGH EXISTING CONVENIENT, EFFICIENT, AND SEAMLESS
2	INTRASTATE FIXED ROUTE AND CHARTER BUS SERVICES AND POTENTIALLY
3	ACCESS IN THE FUTURE THROUGH NORTH-SOUTH RAIL SERVICE ALONG THE
4	ENTIRE FRONT RANGE; AND
5	(B) TOURISTS CAN USE TO LINK TO BUS SERVICES AND POTENTIAL
6	FUTURE NORTH-SOUTH RAIL SERVICES AND THEREBY MORE EASILY ACCESS
7	TOURIST ATTRACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND
8	(III) BRINGING ADDITIONAL TOURISTS AND ATTENDANT ECONOMIC
9	GROWTH DIRECTLY TO THE PUEBLO AREA, AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL
10	JOBS IN THE PUEBLO AREA.
11	(b) EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT
12	LIMITED TO BENEFITS OF INCREASED TOURISM AND OTHER ECONOMIC
13	BENEFITS, OF FURTHER MODIFYING THE ROUTE OF THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF
14	RAIL LINE TO INCLUDE A STOP IN WALSENBURG IS ALSO IN THE BEST
15	INTERESTS OF THE STATE;
16	(c) There have been preliminary discussions between
17	AMTRAK, THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY, AND
18	THE STATES OF COLORADO, KANSAS, AND NEW MEXICO ABOUT SHARING
19	THE COSTS OF FUNDING THE TRACK UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE NEEDED
20	TO PRESERVE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE SERVICE IN WESTERN KANSAS,
21	SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO AND NORTHERN NEW MEXICO, AND IT IS
22	NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUATION OF
23	SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND CONVEY TO ALL OTHER INVOLVED PARTIES THAT:
24	(I) THE STATE OF COLORADO STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EFFORT TO
25	PRESERVE THAT SERVICE; AND
26	(II) CONTINUING TO PURSUE A COOPERATIVE APPROACH OFFERS
27	THE REST DROSDECTS EOD BOTH DREVENTING THE REDOUTING OF THE

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1	SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE AWAY FROM WESTERN KANSAS, COLORADO,
2	AND NORTHERN NEW MEXICO AND EXPANDING SUCH SERVICE TO INCLUDE
3	A STOP IN PUEBLO; AND
4	(d) It is therefore necessary and appropriate to:
5	(I) Create the southwest chief rail line economic
6	DEVELOPMENT, RURAL TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND
7	MAINTENANCE COMMISSION AND THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE
8	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RURAL TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR
9	AND MAINTENANCE FUND;
10	(II) DEPOSIT INTO THE FUND ANY MONEY THAT MAY BECOME
11	AVAILABLE TO THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENSURING THAT THE
12	AMTRAK SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE CONTINUES TO PASS THROUGH
13	COLORADO AND THAT AN ADDITIONAL STOP IN PUEBLO IS ADDED TO THE
14	LINE; AND
15	(III) SPECIFY THAT THE COMMISSION MAY EXPEND MONEYS FROM
16	THE FUND ONLY IN FURTHERANCE OF SUCH PURPOSES, ONLY TO THE
17	EXTENT APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND ONLY FOR:
18	(A) THE COMMISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFFING EXPENSES;
19	(B) THE COSTS OF ANY NECESSARY STUDIES; AND
20	(C) ONLY IF A FORMAL AGREEMENT IS REACHED UNDER WHICH
21	AMTRAK, THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY, AND
22	THE STATES OF KANSAS, COLORADO, AND NEW MEXICO ALL AGREE TO
23	MAKE NECESSARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND TAKE OTHER SPECIFIED
24	ACTIONS NEEDED TO ENSURE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCH PURPOSES,
25	TRACK UPGRADES, MAINTENANCE, AND OTHER REQUIRED ACTIONS TO BE
26	FUNDED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.
27	(3) As used in this part 10, unless the context otherwise

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1	REQUIRES:
2	(a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE
3	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RURAL TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR
4	AND MAINTENANCE COMMISSION CREATED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
5	SECTION.
6	(b) "FUND" MEANS THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE ECONOMIC
7	DEVELOPMENT, RURAL TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND
8	MAINTENANCE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-1002.
9	(4) (a) The southwest chief rail line economic
10	DEVELOPMENT, RURAL TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND
11	MAINTENANCE COMMISSION IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
12	TRANSPORTATION. THE COMMISSION SHALL EXERCISE ITS POWERS AND
13	PERFORM ITS DUTIES AS IF THE SAME WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE
14	DEPARTMENT BY A TYPE 1 TRANSFER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-1-105,
15	C.R.S. THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING NINE MEMBERS:
16	(I) Two state senators, one who is a member of the
17	MAJORITY PARTY AND ONE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE MINORITY PARTY,
18	RESPECTIVELY APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND MINORITY LEADER OF
19	THE SENATE;
20	(II) TWO STATE REPRESENTATIVES, ONE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE
21	MAJORITY PARTY AND ONE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE MINORITY PARTY,
22	RESPECTIVELY APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER AND MINORITY LEADER OF THE
23	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
24	(III) FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS FOLLOWS:
25	(A) One representative of the tourist industry in
26	Colorado;
27	(B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A PUBLIC RAIL TRANSPORTATION

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1	ADVOCATE;
2	(C) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FREIGHT RAIL INDUSTRY;
3	$(D)\ \ One\ resident\ of\ Las\ Animas, Otero, or\ Prowers\ county$
4	WHO HAS PUBLICLY ADVOCATED FOR PUBLIC RAIL; AND
5	(E) ONE RESIDENT OF PUEBLO OR HUERFANO COUNTY WHO HAS
6	PUBLICLY ADVOCATED FOR PUBLIC RAIL.
7	(b) IN ADDITION TO THE NINE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, THE BOARD
8	INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING TWO APPOINTED ADVISORS, WHO SHALL
9	ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS AND ADVISE THE BOARD BUT ARE NOT VOTING
10	MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:
11	(I) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
12	APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT; AND
13	(II) AN EMPLOYEE OF AMTRAK, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF
14	AMTRAK.
15	(c) Appointing authorities shall appoint the initial
16	MEMBERS AND APPOINTED ADVISORS OF THE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN
17	SEPTEMBER 1, 2014. MEMBERS SHALL SERVE FOR TERMS OF FOUR YEARS;
18	EXCEPT THAT THE INITIAL TERMS OF THE MEMBER WHO IS A STATE
19	REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE MAJORITY PARTY, THE STATE
20	SENATOR WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE MINORITY PARTY, AND THREE OF THE
21	MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, AS DESIGNATED BY THE
22	GOVERNOR, ARE TWO YEARS. THE COMMISSION SHALL ELECT A CHAIR
23	FROM ITS MEMBERS AT ITS FIRST MEETING. MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT
24	COMPENSATION BUT RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.
25	(5) (a) THE MISSION OF THE COMMISSION IS TO COORDINATE AND
26	OVERSEE EFFORTS BY THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND
27	COOPERATE WITH THE STATES OF KANSAS AND NEW MEXICO, AMTRAK,

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1	AND THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY TO ENSURE
2	CONTINUATION OF EXISTING AMTRAK SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE
3	SERVICE IN THE STATE, EXPANSION OF SUCH SERVICE TO INCLUDE A STOP
4	IN PUEBLO, AND EXPLORATION OF THE BENEFITS OF ADDING AN
5	ADDITIONAL STOP IN WALSENBURG.
6	(b) IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS MISSION, AND IN ADDITION TO ANY
7	OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES AS SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 10, THE
8	COMMISSION HAS THE FOLLOWING POWERS:
9	(I) TO ADOPT BYLAWS FOR THE REGULATION OF ITS AFFAIRS AND
10	THE CONDUCT OF ITS BUSINESS;
11	(II) TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND EXPEND MONEYS FROM
12	THE FUND AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 43-4-1002;
13	(III) TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING AND
14	INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH AGENCIES AND POLITICAL
15	SUBDIVISIONS OF THIS STATE;
16	(IV) TO CONTRACT FOR NECESSARY SERVICES;
17	
18	(V) TO ENTER INTO MULTISTATE AGREEMENTS; AND
19	(VI) TO HAVE AND EXERCISE ALL POWERS NECESSARY OR
20	INCIDENTAL TO OR IMPLIED FROM THE SPECIFIC POWERS AND DUTIES
21	GRANTED IN THIS PART 10.
22	43-4-1002. Southwest chief rail line economic development,
23	rural tourism, and infrastructure repair and maintenance fund -
24	$\boldsymbol{creation \text{-} use \ of \ fund.} \ (1) \ \ \boldsymbol{The \ SOUTHWEST \ CHIEF \ RAIL \ LINE \ ECONOMIC}$
25	DEVELOPMENT, RURAL TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND
26	MAINTENANCE FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE FUND
27	CONSISTS OF ANY MONEYS RECEIVED BY THE STATE FROM THE FEDERAL

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1	GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, OR
2	ANY OTHER PERSON, OR AS A RESULT OF ANY VOTER-APPROVED BALLOT
3	MEASURE, THAT ARE DEDICATED FOR THE PURPOSES OF ENSURING THAT
4	THE AMTRAK SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE CONTINUES TO PASS THROUGH
5	COLORADO AND THAT AN ADDITIONAL STOP IN PUEBLO IS ADDED TO THE
6	LINE, AND ANY OTHER MONEYS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY
7	APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND. INTEREST AND INCOME EARNED
8	ON THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND AND ALL
9	UNENCUMBERED AND UNEXPENDED MONEYS IN THE FUND AT THE END OF
10	ANY FISCAL YEAR REMAIN IN THE FUND. SUBJECT TO ANNUAL
11	APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE COMMISSION MAY
12	EXPEND MONEYS FROM THE FUND FOR ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFFING
13	EXPENSES AND FOR THE COSTS OF ANY NECESSARY STUDIES. SUBJECT TO
14	ANNUAL APPROPRIATION AND THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION
15	(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION MAY ALSO EXPEND MONEYS FROM
16	THE FUND FOR RAIL REPLACEMENT OR OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
17	PORTION OF THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY LINE
18	USED TO PROVIDE EXISTING AMTRAK SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE
19	SERVICE IN COLORADO AND TO PAY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE
20	EXPANSION OF SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE SERVICE TO INCLUDE A STOP
21	IN PUEBLO.
22	(2) THE COMMISSION MAY ONLY EXPEND MONEYS FROM THE FUND
23	FOR THE PURPOSES OF RAIL REPLACEMENT OR OTHER IMPROVEMENTS OR
24	FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXPANSION OF SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL
25	LINE SERVICE TO INCLUDE A STOP IN PUEBLO IF:
26	(a) AMTRAK CONFIRMS IN WRITING THAT THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF

RAIL LINE WILL CONTINUE TO STOP IN LAMAR, LA JUNTA, AND TRINIDAD,

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1	THAT THE SOUTHWEST CHIEF RAIL LINE WILL ADD A REGULAR STOP IN
2	PUEBLO WITHIN FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE THE COMMISSION FIRST
3	EXPENDS MONEYS FOR THOSE PURPOSES FROM THE FUND, AND THAT
4	AMTRAK WILL EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT
5	LIMITED TO BENEFITS OF INCREASED TOURISM AND OTHER ECONOMIC
6	BENEFITS, OF ALSO ADDING A REGULAR STOP IN WALSENBURG; AND
7	(b) The states of Kansas and New Mexico, Amtrak, and the
8	BurlingtonNorthernandSantaFerailwaycommitinwritingto
9	EXPEND AN AVERAGE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF AT LEAST FIFTEEN MILLION
10	TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR EACH OF THE TEN
11	YEARS BEGINNING WITH THE YEAR IN WHICH THE COMMISSION FIRST
12	EXPENDS MONEYS FOR THOSE PURPOSES FROM THE FUND.
13	43-4-1003. Repeal of article. This article is repealed,
14	EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.
15	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-128.7, add (7)
16	as follows:
17	24-1-128.7. Department of transportation - creation - repeal.
18	(7) (a) The southwest chief rail line economic development,
19	RURAL TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE
20	COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION 43-4-1001 (4), C.R.S., SHALL EXERCISE
21	ITS POWERS AND PERFORM ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS IF THE SAME
22	WERE TRANSFERRED BY A TYPE 1 TRANSFER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
23	24-1-105, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.
24	(b) This subsection (7) is repealed, effective July 1, 2017.
25	SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act
26	takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
27	ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August

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- 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 7 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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