

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 14-0857.01 Nicole Myers x4326

HOUSE BILL 14-1350

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ferrandino,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kerr,

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House Committees  
Finance

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL  
102 TOURISM PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE COLORADO ECONOMIC  
103 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION THROUGH THE "COLORADO  
104 REGIONAL TOURISM ACT".

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

The "Colorado Regional Tourism Act" (act) includes a mechanism for one or more local governments to undertake a regional tourism project

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.

(project), create a regional tourism zone in which the project will be built, and create a regional tourism authority to use tax increment financing based on state sales tax revenue to finance eligible improvements related to the regional tourism project. The bill makes the following modifications to the act:

- ! Changes the definition of "state sales tax increment revenue" to include the revenue that is attributable to the baseline growth rate in the proposed regional tourism zone;
- ! Specifies that the baseline growth rate of a proposed regional tourism zone is the growth that would have occurred in the zone even if the regional tourism project did not occur, as determined by the office of state planning and budgeting and the Colorado office of economic development;
- ! Requires that the local government and third-party analyst retained in connection with a project application use the baseline growth rate in their assumptions and economic analyses for the purpose of calculating the total cumulative dollar amount and the percentage of the state sales tax increment revenue that can be dedicated to the proposed project;
- ! Changes the party directly responsible for paying the third-party analyst that makes assessments in connection with a proposed project from the project applicant to the office of state planning and budgeting;
- ! Specifies additional duties of the third-party analyst in connection with a proposed project;
- ! Changes the requirement that a significant portion of the sales tax revenue to be generated by a proposed project be attributable to transactions with nonresidents of the regional tourism zone to a requirement that a significant portion of the revenue be attributable to transactions with nonresidents of the state;
- ! Clarifies that the Colorado economic development commission (commission) may award a maximum of 2 additional projects and must award such projects within one year of the effective date of the bill;
- ! Specifies that the total cumulative dollar amount and percentage of sales tax increment revenue that can be dedicated to a project as determined by the commission shall not exceed the third-party analyst's calculation of the total cumulative dollar amount and percentage of sales tax increment revenue that can be dedicated to such project by more than 25%; except that the commission may determine a total cumulative dollar amount and percentage that

exceeds those calculated by the third-party analyst by more than 25% by a unanimous vote of all of the members of the commission;

- ! Specifies that the total amount of state sales tax increment revenue dedicated to a project for the duration of the project is capped at the total cumulative dollar amount initially approved by the commission;
- ! Requires the department of revenue to track the annual and cumulative state sales tax increment revenue remitted to the financing entity for the project and to notify the commission when cumulative payments approach the limits set by the commission; and
- ! Requires the department of revenue to notify the commission when it is no longer remitting sales tax increment revenue to the financing entity because the financing entity has reached its total cumulative dollar amount of sales tax increment revenue.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-303, **amend**  
3 **as it will be effective July 1, 2014,** (12); and **add** (1.5) as follows:

4 **24-46-303. Definitions.** As used in this part 3, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (1.5) "BASELINE GROWTH RATE" MEANS THE FORECASTED GROWTH  
7 IN STATE SALES TAX REVENUE ABOVE THE BASE YEAR REVENUE THAT  
8 WOULD BE COLLECTED IN A PROPOSED REGIONAL TOURISM ZONE IF THE  
9 PROPOSED REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECT DID NOT OCCUR, AS DETERMINED  
10 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-46-304 (1.5).

11 (12) "State sales tax increment revenue" means the portion of the  
12 revenue derived from state sales taxes, INCLUDING ANY REVENUE  
13 ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE BASELINE GROWTH RATE AND not including any  
14 sales taxes for remote sales as specified in section 39-26-104 (2), C.R.S.,  
15 collected within a designated regional tourism zone in excess of the  
16 amount of base year revenue.

1           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-303, **amend**  
2 **as it exists until July 1, 2014**, (12) as follows:

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

5           (12) "State sales tax increment revenue" means the portion of the  
6 revenue derived from state sales taxes, INCLUDING ANY REVENUE  
7 ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE BASELINE GROWTH RATE, collected within a  
8 designated regional tourism zone in excess of the amount of base year  
9 revenue.

10           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-304, **amend**  
11 (2) (h), (2) (i), and (3) (c); and **add** (1.5) as follows:

12           **24-46-304. Regional tourism project - application -**  
13 **requirements.** (1.5) (a) BEFORE A LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBMITS AN  
14 APPLICATION FOR A REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECT TO THE COLORADO  
15 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF  
16 THIS SECTION, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL SUBMIT A MAP SHOWING  
17 THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL TOURISM ZONE  
18 TO THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING. THE OFFICE OF STATE  
19 PLANNING AND BUDGETING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COLORADO OFFICE  
20 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SHALL DETERMINE THE BASELINE GROWTH  
21 RATE FOR THE AREA INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED REGIONAL TOURISM  
22 ZONE. IN DETERMINING THE BASELINE GROWTH RATE, THE OFFICE OF  
23 STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND THE COLORADO OFFICE OF  
24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE GROWTH RATE IN THE  
25 AREA INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED REGIONAL TOURISM ZONE DURING THE  
26 PREVIOUS FIVE CALENDAR YEARS AT A MINIMUM.

27           (b) THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING MAY CHARGE

1 A LOCAL GOVERNMENT A SUBMISSION FEE OF UP TO THREE THOUSAND  
2 DOLLARS PER SUBMISSION FOR THE COSTS INCURRED IN DETERMINING THE  
3 BASELINE GROWTH RATE.

4 (c) THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE THIRD-PARTY ANALYST  
5 RETAINED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (i) OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS  
6 SECTION SHALL USE THE BASELINE GROWTH RATE IN THEIR ASSUMPTIONS  
7 ANDECONOMIC ANALYSES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING THE TOTAL  
8 CUMULATIVE DOLLAR AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE OF THE STATE SALES  
9 TAX INCREMENT REVENUE THAT CAN BE DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSED  
10 REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECT AS REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPHS (h) AND (i) OF  
11 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

12 (2) A local government shall submit an application for a regional  
13 tourism project to the Colorado office of economic development in a form  
14 and manner to be determined by the commission. The office shall provide  
15 the commission with each application received after the director's review  
16 pursuant to section 24-46-305. The application shall include, but need not  
17 be limited to, the following:

18 (h) The proposed financing term, THE TOTAL CUMULATIVE  
19 DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT CAN BE ALLOCATED TO THE  
20 FINANCING ENTITY, the percentage of state sales tax increment revenue to  
21 be allocated to the financing entity, and the portion of the financing term  
22 during which such percentage is to be allocated to the financing entity.  
23 No single debt issuance of the financing entity shall have a maturity date  
24 in excess of thirty years; except that the financing term may exceed thirty  
25 years to the extent that the financing entity anticipates issuing a series of  
26 bonds or other forms of debt and provided that the financing entity shall  
27 have the ability to consolidate or refinance previously issued debt or

1 bonds with a maturity date for such consolidated or refinanced debt or  
2 bonds not to exceed thirty years.

3 (i) Along with the economic analysis submitted with the  
4 application, a report by a third-party analyst who is an expert in the field  
5 of economic or public financial analysis calculating the TOTAL  
6 CUMULATIVE DOLLAR AMOUNT AND percentage of the state sales tax  
7 increment revenue that ~~will~~ CAN be dedicated to the regional tourism  
8 project to be set by the commission pursuant to section 24-46-305 (3) (d).  
9 The applicant shall share its data and reasoning with the third-party  
10 analyst, and the analyst shall rely on such data and reasoning as it deems  
11 appropriate in the exercise of its independent judgment. An applicant  
12 dissatisfied with such report may revise its application and request report  
13 revisions. The reviewing third-party analyst shall be chosen through a  
14 request for proposals issued by the office of state planning and budgeting  
15 to ensure an independent and thorough analysis, and the third-party  
16 analyst shall report to that office. ~~The costs of such report shall be paid~~  
17 ~~by the applicant directly to the third-party analyst.~~ THE OFFICE OF STATE  
18 PLANNING AND BUDGETING SHALL CHARGE AN APPLICATION FEE TO THE  
19 APPLICANT TO PAY THE COSTS FOR THE THIRD-PARTY ANALYST TO:

20 (I) ASSESS THE ASSUMPTIONS USED IN THE APPLICATION TO  
21 ESTIMATE NET NEW TOURISM REVENUES TO COLORADO;

22 (II) CALCULATE THE TOTAL ANTICIPATED SALES TAX INCREMENT  
23 REVENUE IN THE PROPOSED REGIONAL TOURISM ZONE;

24 (III) CALCULATE THE AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL  
25 REGIONAL TOURISM ZONE SALES TAX INCREMENT REVENUE THAT EACH  
26 COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITY THAT IS A PARTY TO A MULTI-PARTY  
27 APPLICATION IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE; AND

1 (IV) ASSESS THE PROBABILITY OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT MOVING  
2 FORWARD WITHOUT FUNDING FROM TAX INCREMENT FINANCING.

3 (3) An application by a local government for designation as a  
4 regional tourism project shall be approved by the commission upon a  
5 finding by the majority of the commissioners participating in the review  
6 of the application that the application demonstrates that each of the  
7 following criteria are materially met:

8 (c) A significant portion of the sales tax revenue generated by the  
9 project is reasonably anticipated to be attributable to transactions with  
10 nonresidents of the ~~regional tourism zone~~ STATE; and

11 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-46-305, **amend**  
12 (2) (b) and (3) (d); and **add** (2) (c) and (4.5) as follows:

13 **24-46-305. Regional tourism project approval - director -**  
14 **commission - review.** (2) (b) ~~(f)~~ The commission shall not approve more  
15 than two initial projects pursuant to this subsection (2).

16 ~~(H) In the calendar year succeeding the commission's approval of~~  
17 ~~two initial projects pursuant to subparagraph (f) of this paragraph (b), the~~  
18 ~~commission may approve two additional projects pursuant to this~~  
19 ~~subsection (2).~~

20 ~~(HH) In the calendar year succeeding the commission's approval~~  
21 ~~of two additional projects pursuant to subparagraph (H) of this paragraph~~  
22 ~~(b), the commission may approve two additional projects pursuant to this~~  
23 ~~subsection (2).~~

24 (c) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH (c),  
25 BUT WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER SAID DATE, THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE  
26 TWO NEW REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECTS.

27 (3) The commission shall hold a public hearing, subject to the

1 provisions of the "Colorado Sunshine Act of 1972", article 6 of this title,  
2 to review and consider the application. After the hearing has been held,  
3 the commission shall review each application and give consideration to  
4 the director's recommendations. The commission shall take action on the  
5 application within a reasonable time after submission. If the commission  
6 approves the application, it shall adopt a resolution specifying the  
7 following:

8 (d) The TOTAL CUMULATIVE DOLLAR AMOUNT AND percentage of  
9 the state sales tax increment revenue that will be dedicated to the regional  
10 tourism project. Such percentage shall be set at a value that in the best  
11 estimation of the commission will result in only the net new revenue  
12 likely created by the project and related development being dedicated to  
13 the financing entity and shall exclude any sales tax revenue the state  
14 would likely have received without the project and development. THE  
15 TOTAL CUMULATIVE DOLLAR AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE OF THE SALES  
16 TAX INCREMENT REVENUE THAT CAN BE DEDICATED TO THE REGIONAL  
17 TOURISM PROJECT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE THIRD-PARTY ANALYST'S  
18 CALCULATION OF THE TOTAL CUMULATIVE DOLLAR AMOUNT AND  
19 PERCENTAGE OF SALES TAX INCREMENT REVENUE THAT CAN BE  
20 DEDICATED TO THE REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECT, AS REPORTED PURSUANT  
21 TO SECTION 24-46-304 (2) (i), BY MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT;  
22 EXCEPT THAT THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE A TOTAL CUMULATIVE  
23 DOLLAR AMOUNT AND PERCENTAGE OF THE SALES TAX INCREMENT  
24 REVENUE THAT CAN BE DEDICATED TO THE REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECT  
25 THAT EXCEEDS THE THIRD-PARTY ANALYST'S CALCULATIONS BY MORE  
26 THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS OF  
27 THE COMMISSION.



1           (4.5) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE SALES TAX INCREMENT  
2 REVENUE DEDICATED TO THE REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECT FOR THE ENTIRE  
3 DURATION OF THE PROJECT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE TOTAL CUMULATIVE  
4 DOLLAR AMOUNT SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO  
5 PARAGRAPH (d) OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT  
6 OF REVENUE SHALL TRACK THE ANNUAL AND CUMULATIVE STATE SALES  
7 TAX INCREMENT REVENUE REMITTED TO THE FINANCING ENTITY FOR THE  
8 PROJECT AND SHALL NOTIFY THE COMMISSION WHEN CUMULATIVE  
9 PAYMENTS APPROACH THE LIMITS SET BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE  
10 COMMISSION'S CONCURRENCE REGARDING THE DOLLAR LIMITS. AFTER THE  
11 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE HAS CUMULATIVELY REMITTED SUCH TOTAL  
12 CUMULATIVE DOLLAR AMOUNT TO THE FINANCING ENTITY PURSUANT TO  
13 SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL  
14 NOT REMIT ANY ADDITIONAL SALES TAX INCREMENT REVENUE FROM THE  
15 STATE TO THE FINANCING ENTITY, EVEN IF THE APPROVED FINANCING  
16 TERM IS NOT COMPLETED. THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL NOTIFY  
17 THE COMMISSION IF IT IS NO LONGER REMITTING SALES TAX INCREMENT  
18 REVENUE TO THE FINANCING ENTITY BECAUSE THE FINANCING ENTITY HAS  
19 REACHED ITS TOTAL CUMULATIVE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF SALES TAX  
20 INCREMENT REVENUE.

21           **SECTION 5. Applicability.** This act applies to projects approved  
22 on or after the effective date of this act.

23           **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.