## Second Regular Session Sixty-ninth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R14-0321.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

SCR14-004

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## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14-004**

101	SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF
102	COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION
103	CONCERNING STATEWIDE UNIFORM SALES AND USE TAX
104	DEFINITIONS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A
105	COMMISSION ON UNIFORM SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS
106	THAT WILL CERTIFY THE STATEWIDE SALES AND USE TAX
107	DEFINITIONS AND WILL PROVIDE OFFICIAL GUIDANCE
108	REGARDING THE DEFINITIONS, AND SPECIFYING THAT THE STATE
109	AND ANY LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTIONS SHALL USE THE
110	CERTIFIED SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS AND OFFICIAL
111	GUIDANCE FOR PURPOSES OF ADMINISTERING AND LEVYING ITS
112	SALES AND USE TAX.

 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.

## **Resolution Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this resolution as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this resolution passes third reading in the house of introduction, a resolution summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this resolution will be available at <u>http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.</u>)

The resolution creates the Colorado commission on uniform sales and use tax definitions (commission) in the department of revenue. The commission consists of 7 members who must have professional experience in sales and use tax and who are appointed by the governor through specified nominations with the consent of the senate. The commission's duties are to:

- ! Certify all definitions necessary to establish a comprehensive body of statewide uniform sales and use tax definitions that the state and local taxing jurisdictions must use; and
- Provide official guidance regarding the certified sales and use tax definitions.

The certified definitions must be promulgated as rules by the commission pursuant to the state administrative procedure act.

The resolution specifies the state and any local taxing jurisdiction shall use the certified sales and use tax definitions and any official guidance relating thereto for purposes of administering and levying its sales and use tax.

The resolution allows the state and any applicable local taxing jurisdiction to adopt a tax rate increase without advance voter approval in order to ensure revenue neutrality based on revenue projections as a result of the application of the definitions certified by the commission.

WHEREAS, The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

1 2

(1) The complexity of the existing sales and use tax structure in

- 3 Colorado is burdensome for businesses in the state;
- 4

(2) Colorado has nearly three hundred taxing authorities with

5 differing sales and use tax bases, and when overlapping boundaries are

6 taken into account there are over seven hundred areas with different rates,

7 taxable and nontaxable items, and definitions;

(3) Through their constitutional authority, home rule jurisdictions
 have exercised their right to establish their own sales and use tax systems,
 including their own rates, taxable and nontaxable items, and definitions;

4 (4) The resulting lack of uniformity can be especially cumbersome
5 for businesses operating in multiple jurisdictions in Colorado;

6 (5) Because many of the local and special taxing jurisdictions rely
7 heavily on the revenues produced by sales and use taxes, adopting
8 uniform taxable and nontaxable items is difficult to achieve;

9 (6) Adopting uniform definitions is a major step toward reducing 10 the complexity in the state's sales and use tax structure, but equally 11 important is ensuring that there be a uniform interpretation of the 12 definitions because it is not uncommon for two jurisdictions with the 13 same definition to differ in their interpretation of the definition; and

14 (7) The creation of a commission on uniform sales and use tax 15 definitions where that commission both certifies statewide sales and use 16 tax definitions and provides official guidance regarding those certified 17 definitions will serve the public interest by effectively ensuring statewide 18 uniformity in the interpretation of the sales and use tax definitions and 19 will help the state's sales and use tax structure become more 20 business-friendly; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly
of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

SECTION 1. At the next election at which such question may be
submitted, there shall be submitted to the registered electors of the state
of Colorado, for their approval or rejection, the following amendment to
the constitution of the state of Colorado, to wit:

27 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **add** article XXX as

1 follows:

2 **ARTICLE XXX** 3 **Statewide Uniform Sales and Use Tax Definitions** 4 Section 1. Definitions. As used in this article, unless the 5 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES: 6 (1) "COLORADO COMMISSION ON UNIFORM SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS" OR "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON 7 8 UNIFORM SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS CREATED IN SECTION 2 OF THIS 9 ARTICLE. "LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION" MEANS A CITY, TOWN, 10 (2)11 MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, SPECIAL DISTRICT, OR 12 AUTHORITY AUTHORIZED TO LEVY A SALES AND USE TAX PURSUANT TO 13 LAW, INCLUDING ANY MUNICIPALITY GOVERNED BY A HOME RULE 14 CHARTER PURSUANT TO THIS CONSTITUTION. (3) "REVENUE NEUTRALITY" MEANS WHEN CERTIFIED SALES AND 15 16 USE TAX DEFINITIONS ARE ALIGNED WITH THE STATE'S OR LOCAL TAXING 17 JURISDICTION'S SALES AND USE TAX BASE, THE RESULT IS NO MORE THAN 18 A DE MINIMIS CHANGE IN TAX REVENUE FOR THE RESPECTIVE STATE OR 19 LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION. 20 (4) "SALES AND USE TAX BASE" MEANS THE GOODS OR SERVICES 21 SUBJECT TO SALES OR USE TAX AND THE GOODS OR SERVICES EXEMPTED 22 FROM SALES OR USE TAX AS SET FORTH IN THE COLORADO REVISED 23 STATUTES AND ANY LAW, RULE, ORDINANCE, OR RESOLUTION OF A LOCAL 24 TAXING JURISDICTION. 25 (5) "SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS" MEANS ONLY THOSE 26 DEFINITIONS NECESSARY FOR DEFINING THE SALES AND USE TAX BASE OF 27 THE STATE OR ANY LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION AND DOES NOT INCLUDE

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DEFINITIONS FOR TERMS THAT ADDRESS ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS
 RESERVED TO THE STATE OR LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTIONS.

3 (6) "STATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT" MEANS THE "STATE
4 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT" LOCATED IN ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 24,
5 COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, OR SUCH SUCCESSOR ACT.

6 (7) "STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT" MEANS THE 7 WRITTEN AGREEMENT PRODUCED AND ADMINISTERED BY THE 8 STREAMLINED SALES TAX GOVERNING BOARD TO SIMPLIFY AND 9 MODERNIZE SALES AND USE TAX ADMINISTRATION IN PARTICIPATING 10 STATES.

11 (8) "STREAMLINED SALES TAX GOVERNING BOARD" MEANS THE
12 NONPROFIT CORPORATION STREAMLINED SALES TAX GOVERNING BOARD,
13 INC., CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING AND OPERATING THE
14 STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT, AS AMENDED, TO
15 SIMPLIFY SALES AND USE TAX COLLECTION AND ADMINISTRATION BY
16 RETAILERS AND PARTICIPATING STATES.

Section 2. Colorado commission on uniform sales and use tax
definitions - creation - appointment - term. (1) THE COLORADO
COMMISSION ON UNIFORM SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS IS HEREBY
CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AND CONSISTS OF SEVEN
MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

(a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;

(b) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS STATE GOVERNMENT
APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE CONSENT OF THE SENATE;

26 (c) TWO MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT COLORADO'S MUNICIPALITIES
 27 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM NOMINATIONS PROVIDED BY A

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STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THE
 CONSENT OF THE SENATE;

3 (d) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS COLORADO'S COUNTIES
4 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM NOMINATIONS PROVIDED BY A
5 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WITH THE CONSENT
6 OF THE SENATE; AND

7 (e) Two MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT COLORADO'S BUSINESS
8 INTERESTS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM NOMINATIONS PROVIDED
9 BY STATEWIDE ASSOCIATIONS THAT REPRESENT COLORADO BUSINESSES
10 WITH THE CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

(2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAKE THE APPOINTMENTS SPECIFIED IN
 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 16, 2015.
 THE GOVERNOR SHALL INITIALLY APPOINT THREE MEMBERS FOR
 TWO-YEAR TERMS AND FOUR MEMBERS FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS.
 THEREAFTER, EACH MEMBER MUST BE APPOINTED FOR FOUR-YEAR TERMS.

16 (3) MEMBERS MUST HAVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN SALES17 AND USE TAX.

18 (4) MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR WHO
19 MAY APPOINT A REPLACEMENT OR FILL ANY VACANCY TO SERVE FOR THE
20 UNEXPIRED TERM OF ANY MEMBER SUBJECT TO, WHERE APPLICABLE, THE
21 NOMINATION PROCESS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION AND
22 SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

(5) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AS NECESSARY AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE
COMMISSION.

26 (6) THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE ITS DECISIONS BY MAJORITY
27 VOTE EXCEPT WHERE SPECIFICALLY INDICATED OTHERWISE.

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Section 3. Duties of the commission. (1) THE COMMISSION
 SHALL:

3 (a) CERTIFY AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3) OF THIS
4 SECTION ALL DEFINITIONS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE
5 BODY OF STATEWIDE UNIFORM SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS THAT THE
6 STATE AND LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTIONS SHALL USE; AND

7 (b) SERVE AS THE SOLE NONJUDICIAL SOURCE OF OFFICIAL
8 GUIDANCE REGARDING THE CERTIFIED SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS AS
9 SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

10 (2) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL, NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2016, 11 REVIEW AND CERTIFY THE RECOMMENDED SALES AND USE TAX 12 DEFINITIONS IN THE STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT 13 AMENDED THROUGH OCTOBER 30, 2013, AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3) 14 OF THIS SECTION. IF A SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION IN THE 15 STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT AMENDED THROUGH 16 OCTOBER 30, 2013, INCLUDES OPTIONS THAT A LEGISLATIVE BODY MAY 17 SELECT, THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE SUCH SELECTIONS AS ARE 18 NECESSARY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS 19 SECTION. IF THE COMMISSION FINDS SUFFICIENT UNIFORMITY AMONG THE 20 STATE AND LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTIONS FOR AN EXISTING DEFINITION, 21 THEN THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW, MAKE ANY NECESSARY CHANGES 22 SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, AND CERTIFY THE EXISTING 23 SUFFICIENTLY UNIFORM SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION INSTEAD OF THE 24 STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT DEFINITION. SUCH 25 CERTIFIED SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS SHALL BE PROMULGATED AS 26 RULES PURSUANT TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT, EXCEPT THAT SUCH RULES SHALL BE PERMANENT UNLESS MODIFIED 27

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PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE RULE
 REVIEW PROCESS SET FORTH IN LAW.

3 (b) IF A SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION IS MISSING FROM THE 4 STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT AMENDED THROUGH 5 OCTOBER 30, 2013, THAT THE STATE OR ANY LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION 6 NEEDS FOR ITS SALES AND USE TAX BASE, THE COMMISSION MAY REVIEW, 7 MAKE ANY NECESSARY CHANGES SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS 8 SECTION, AND CERTIFY THE SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION USED BY THE 9 STATE OR THE LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)10 OF THIS SECTION.

11 (c) IF THE STREAMLINED SALES TAX GOVERNING BOARD ADOPTS A 12 NEW SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION OR ADOPTS CHANGES TO EXISTING 13 SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS CERTIFIED AS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 14 (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW THE NEW 15 SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION OR THE CHANGED SALES AND USE TAX 16 DEFINITION AND SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT TO CERTIFY SUCH 17 NEW OR CHANGED DEFINITION. IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO CERTIFY 18 SUCH NEW OR CHANGED DEFINITION, THE CERTIFICATION MUST BE 19 ACCOMPLISHED AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (6) OF THIS 20 SECTION.

(d) THE STATE OR ANY LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION MAY MAKE
REQUESTS TO THE COMMISSION FOR ADDITIONAL CERTIFIED SALES AND
USE TAX DEFINITIONS OR MAY SEEK PREAPPROVAL OF A NEW SALES AND
USE TAX DEFINITION FROM THE COMMISSION. ANY MEMBER OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE MAY MAKE REQUESTS PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (d) ON
BEHALF OF THE STATE. A LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION MAY MAKE

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REQUESTS PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (d) BY RESOLUTION. REQUESTS
 MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION. IF
 THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT SUCH DEFINITION IS NECESSARY,
 THEN SUCH DEFINITION MUST BE CERTIFIED AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION
 (3) OF THIS SECTION AND PROMULGATED AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6)
 OF THIS SECTION.

7 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL CERTIFY A SALES AND USE TAX
8 DEFINITION WITH SUFFICIENT CLARITY, PRECISION, AND ADAPTABILITY
9 NECESSARY TO PERMIT THE USE OF SUCH DEFINITION BY THE STATE OR
10 LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTIONS.

(4) IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT A PREVIOUSLY
CERTIFIED SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION NEEDS MODIFICATION, SUCH
CERTIFIED SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION MAY BE MODIFIED AND
RECERTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (6)
OF THIS SECTION, BUT ONLY UPON AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST SIX
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

17 (5) THE COMMISSION MAY ISSUE OFFICIAL GUIDANCE REGARDING 18 THE CERTIFIED SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS IN THE FORM OF EITHER 19 AN INTERPRETIVE OPINION OR AN INTERPRETIVE RULE. AN INTERPRETIVE 20 OPINION IS ISSUED WHEN A REQUESTOR SUBMITS SPECIFIC FACTS AND ASKS 21 HOW CERTAIN CERTIFIED DEFINITIONS WOULD APPLY TO THOSE FACTS. 22 SIMILAR TO A PRIVATE LETTER RULING ISSUED BY THE COLORADO 23 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF A TAXPAYER, 24 EXCEPT THAT SUCH INTERPRETIVE OPINION IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL. AN 25 INTERPRETIVE RULE IS ISSUED WHEN A REQUESTOR SEEKS CLARIFICATION 26 OF A CERTIFIED DEFINITION. AN INTERPRETIVE RULE APPLIES MORE 27 GENERALLY, SIMILAR TO RULES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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TO CLARIFY STATUTORY LANGUAGE. OFFICIAL GUIDANCE MUST BE
 PROMULGATED AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION. THE
 COMMISSION SHALL ACT ON REQUESTS FOR OFFICIAL GUIDANCE WITHIN A
 REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND UNDER GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES
 AS SET FORTH BY THE COMMISSION. THE COMMISSION MAY DETERMINE
 THAT IT WILL NOT ISSUE OFFICIAL GUIDANCE.

7 (6) CERTIFIED DEFINITIONS, EXCEPT THE INITIAL BODY OF
8 CERTIFIED DEFINITIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF SUBSECTION (2)
9 OF THIS SECTION, AND OFFICIAL GUIDANCE MUST BE PROMULGATED AS
10 RULES BY THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE
11 PROCEDURE ACT.

12 (7) NO EX PARTE MATERIAL OR REPRESENTATION OF ANY KIND13 MAY BE RECEIVED OR CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION.

14 Section 4. Application of uniform definitions to state and local 15 tax levies. (1) (a) THE STATE AND ANY LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION 16 SHALL USE THE CERTIFIED SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS AND ANY 17 OFFICIAL GUIDANCE RELATING THERETO THAT THE COMMISSION 18 PROMULGATES PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 (3) OF THIS ARTICLE FOR 19 PURPOSES OF ADMINISTERING AND LEVYING ITS SALES AND USE TAX. 20 SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS CERTIFIED AND PROMULGATED 21 PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 OF THIS ARTICLE MUST BE ADOPTED AS SPECIFIED 22 IN THIS SUBSECTION (1) BY THE STATE AND LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTIONS 23 WITHOUT MODIFICATION.

(b) WHILE ENDEAVORING IN GOOD FAITH TO MAINTAIN OVERALL
REVENUE NEUTRALITY, THE STATE AND LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTIONS
SHALL ALIGN THEIR SALES AND USE TAX BASE TO THE CERTIFIED SALES
AND USE TAX DEFINITIONS AS FOLLOWS:

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(I) FOR THE DEFINITIONS CERTIFIED AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 3 (2)
 (a) AND (2) (b) OF THIS ARTICLE, WITHIN A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED
 THIRTY-SIX MONTHS FROM CERTIFICATION OF SUCH DEFINITIONS; AND
 (II) FOR THE DEFINITIONS CERTIFIED AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 3
 (2) (c) OR (2) (d) OF THIS ARTICLE, WITHIN A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED

6 EIGHTEEN MONTHS FROM CERTIFICATION OF SUCH DEFINITIONS.

(c) Should the state or any local taxing jurisdiction fail
TO ALIGN THEIR SALES AND USE TAX BASE TO THE CERTIFIED SALES AND
USE TAX DEFINITIONS AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS
SUBSECTION (1), ANY PERSON MAY BRING AN ACTION ONLY IN THE
DENVER DISTRICT COURT TO COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PROVISION
AND SHALL, IF SUCCESSFUL, BE ENTITLED TO AN AWARD OF REASONABLE
ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS BY THE COURT.

14 (2) IF THE STATE OR ANY LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION ADJUSTS ITS
15 SALES AND USE TAX BASE SO THAT A NEW SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION
16 IS REQUIRED, THE STATE OR LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION MAY EITHER:

17 (a) ENACT A SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION, WHICH SHALL TAKE
18 EFFECT ON WHATEVER DATE IS SPECIFIED IN THE LAW AND WHICH THE
19 COMMISSION SHALL SUBSEQUENTLY REVIEW AND DETERMINE IF
20 CERTIFICATION IS NECESSARY AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 3 (2) (d) OF THIS
21 ARTICLE; OR

(b) SEEK PREAPPROVAL AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 3 (2) (d) OF THIS
ARTICLE OF A NEW SALES AND USE TAX DEFINITION FROM THE COMMISSION
PRIOR TO ADJUSTING ITS SALES AND USE TAX BASE.

25 (3) EXCEPT AS EXPLICITLY PROVIDED, THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT
26 LIMIT, ALTER, OR DIMINISH THE PLENARY POWER OF THE STATE OR A
27 LOCAL TAXING JURISDICTION'S CONSTITUTIONAL POWER TO CONTROL THE

1  $\qquad$  Levying and collecting of a sales and use tax or to control its

2 SALES AND USE TAX BASE.

3 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at said election and desirous of 4 voting for or against said amendment shall cast a vote as provided by law 5 either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the proposition: "Shall there be an 6 amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning statewide uniform 7 sales and use tax definitions, and, in connection therewith, creating a 8 commission on uniform sales and use tax definitions that will certify the 9 statewide sales and use tax definitions and will provide official guidance 10 regarding the definitions, and specifying that the state and any local 11 taxing jurisdictions shall use the certified sales and use tax definitions and 12 official guidance for purposes of administering and levying its sales and 13 use tax?"

SECTION 3. The votes cast for the adoption or rejection of said amendment shall be canvassed and the result determined in the manner provided by law for the canvassing of votes for representatives in Congress, and if a majority of the electors voting on the question shall have voted "Yes/For", the said amendment shall become a part of the state constitution.