# Second Regular Session Seventieth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

#### **PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 16-0038.01 Nicole Myers x4326

**HOUSE BILL 16-1284** 

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT CONCERNING DIVESTMENT BY THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION FROM COMPANIES THAT HAVE ECONOMIC PROHIBITIONS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

## **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 <a href="http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries">http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries</a>.)

The bill requires the public employees' retirement association (PERA) to make its best efforts to identify all companies that have economic prohibitions against Israel (restricted company), to assemble those identified companies into a list of restricted companies by January 1, 2017, and to review the list of restricted companies on a biannual basis.

For each company on the list of restricted companies, the bill requires PERA to send a written notice informing the company of its status and that it may become subject to divestment by PERA. If a company ceases activity that designates it as a restricted company, PERA will remove the company from the list.

If a company remains a restricted company 180 days following PERA's first engagement with the company, PERA is required to divest all direct holdings of the restricted company from its assets. If on the date of divestment PERA does not own direct holdings in a company on the list of restricted companies, PERA is prohibited from acquiring direct holdings in any company on the list of restricted companies during the time that it remains on the list.

Upon request, and at least annually, PERA is required to make available on its website information regarding investments sold, redeemed, divested, or withdrawn in compliance with the bill.

The bill specifies the circumstances under which PERA may cease divesting from companies, based on the value of the investments.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 2 to article 3 54.8 of title 24 as follows: 4 PART 2 5 DIVESTMENT FROM COMPANIES THAT 6 HAVE ECONOMIC PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL 7 Legislative declaration. (1) THE GENERAL 24-54.8-201. 8 ASSEMBLY HEREBY DETERMINES AND DECLARES THAT: 9 (a) THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES ARE ALLIES 10 SHARING A COMMON BOND ROOTED IN THE VALUES OF FREEDOM, 11 DEMOCRACY, AND EQUAL RIGHTS; 12 (b) ISRAEL IS AMERICA'S DEPENDABLE DEMOCRATIC ALLY IN THE 13 MIDDLE EAST, AN AREA OF HISTORIC AFFINITY AND STRATEGIC 14 IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES; 15 (c) THE COMMERCIAL AND TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE 16 UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL IS AN IMPORTANT FOUNDATION OF THIS

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1	ALLIANCE,
2	(d) The state of Colorado has benefited from
3	COLLABORATION AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL THROUGH
4	PEOPLE TO PEOPLE INTERACTIONS AND TIES ACROSS THE BUSINESS, ART,
5	CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND ACADEMIC SECTORS;
6	(e) THE STATE OF COLORADO RECOGNIZES THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S
7	SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS
8	LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING ADVANCES IN
9	BIOSCIENCE AND CYBERSECURITY;
10	(f) The members of the Colorado general assembly
11	RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AS A JEWISH STATE;
12	(g) THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AGREES THAT THE COMPLEX
13	ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH
14	BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS;
15	(h) PROMOTING ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL
16	UNDERSTANDING, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A TWO-STATE SOLUTION ARE
17	IN THE UNITED STATES' NATIONAL INTEREST;
18	(i) The boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS)
19	MOVEMENT IS A CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO ISOLATE ISRAEL BY PROMOTING
20	ECONOMIC PROHIBITIONS ON ISRAELI PRODUCTS AND BUSINESSES ON A
21	WORLDWIDE BASIS;
22	(j) The BDS movement is one of the main vehicles
23	ADVOCATING FOR POLICIES LEADING TO THE DISSOLUTION OF ISRAEL AS A
24	JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC STATE, AND HAS SOUGHT TO HIJACK SOCIAL,
25	POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, ACADEMIC, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC PLATFORMS
26	TO ISOLATE ISRAEL WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY;
2.7	(k) BDS ACTIVISTS PROMOTE A BIASED AND DIVISIVE APPROACH

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1	TO THE COMPLEX ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND PRESENT THIS
2	DISPUTE AS THE FAULT OF ISRAEL ONLY, AND ADVOCATE
3	UNCONSTRUCTIVE AND DIVISIVE ACTIONS DIRECTED AT BLAMING AND
4	PRESSURING ISRAEL;
5	
6	(1) COLORADO'S ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AFFIRM THAT BOTH
7	ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN THEIR OWN SAFE
8	AND SECURE STATES GOVERNED BY THE RULE OF LAW, FREE FROM FEAR
9	AND VIOLENCE, WITH MUTUAL RECOGNITION, TRADE, AND
10	NORMALIZATION; AND
11	(m) COLORADO CONDEMNS THE INTERNATIONAL BDS MOVEMENT
12	AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN COLORADO FOR SEEKING TO UNDERMINE EFFORTS
13	TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED TWO-STATE SOLUTION AND THE RIGHT OF
14	ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
15	(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT
16	THE DESIRED RESULT OF THIS PART 2 IS THAT THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
17	RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION SELL, REDEEM, DIVEST, OR WITHDRAW
18	INVESTMENTS IN RESTRICTED COMPANIES THAT HAVE ECONOMIC
19	PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL AND THAT THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
20	RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION ABSTAIN FROM MAKING NEW INVESTMENTS IN
21	SUCH RESTRICTED COMPANIES.
22	<b>24-54.8-202. Definitions.</b> AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE
23	CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
24	(1) "COMPANY" MEANS ANY ENTITY THAT HAS PUBLICLY TRADED
25	SECURITIES AND IS AN ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION, CORPORATION,
26	PARTNERSHIP, JOINT VENTURE, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY
27	PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OR OTHER ENTITY OR

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1	BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING ALL WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARIES,
2	MAJORITY-OWNED SUBSIDIARIES, OR PARENT COMPANIES OF SUCH
3	ENTITIES OR BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS, THAT EXISTS FOR PROFIT-MAKING
4	PURPOSES.
5	(2) "DIRECT HOLDINGS" MEANS ALL PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES
6	OF A COMPANY HELD DIRECTLY BY THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
7	ASSOCIATION OR IN AN ACCOUNT OR FUND IN WHICH THE PUBLIC
8	EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION OWNS ALL SHARES OR INTERESTS.
9	(3) "ECONOMIC PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL" MEANS ENGAGING
10	IN ACTIONS THAT ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND ARE INTENDED TO
11	PENALIZE, INFLICT ECONOMIC HARM ON, OR OTHERWISE LIMIT
12	COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL.
13	(4) "PUBLICLY TRADED SECURITIES" MEANS OWNERSHIP INTEREST
14	OR DEBT INSTRUMENTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY TRADED ON A SECURITIES
15	EXCHANGE THAT IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED, SANCTIONED, OR
16	SUPERVISED BY A GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH
17	THE MARKET IS LOCATED OR CURRENTLY TRADED THROUGH AN
18	OVER-THE-COUNTER MARKET THAT IS REFLECTED BY THE EXISTENCE OF
19	AN INTERDEALER QUOTATION SYSTEM.
20	(5) "RESTRICTED COMPANIES" MEANS COMPANIES THAT HAVE
21	ECONOMIC PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL.
22	24-54.8-203. Transactions prohibited by the public employees'
23	retirement association - companies that have economic prohibitions
24	against Israel - restricted companies list. (1) By January 1, 2017, the
25	PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION CREATED IN ARTICLE 51 OF
26	THIS TITLE SHALL MAKE ITS BEST EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ALL RESTRICTED
2.7	COMPANIES IN WHICH THE ASSOCIATION HAS DIRECT HOLDINGS OR COULD

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1	POSSIBLY HAVE SUCH HOLDINGS IN THE FUTURE AND ASSEMBLE THOSE
2	COMPANIES INTO A LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES. THESE EFFORTS
3	SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING, AS APPROPRIATE IN THE JUDGMENT OF
4	THE ASSOCIATION:
5	(a) REVIEWING AND RELYING ON PUBLICLY AVAILABLE
6	INFORMATION REGARDING COMPANIES THAT HAVE ECONOMIC
7	PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL, INCLUDING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
8	NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, RESEARCH FIRMS, AND GOVERNMENT
9	ENTITIES;
10	(b) Contacting asset managers contracted by the
11	ASSOCIATION THAT INVEST IN COMPANIES THAT HAVE ECONOMIC
12	PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL;
13	(c) CONTACTING OTHER INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS THAT HAVE
14	DIVESTED FROM OR ENGAGED WITH COMPANIES THAT HAVE ECONOMIC
15	PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL; AND
16	(d) RETAINING AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FIRM OR
17	ORGANIZATION TO IDENTIFY COMPANIES THAT HAVE ECONOMIC
18	PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. IT SHALL BE REASONABLE AND SUFFICIENT
19	FOR THE ASSOCIATION TO RELY ON INFORMATION AND WORK PRODUCT
20	OBTAINED FROM SUCH RESEARCH FIRM OR ORGANIZATION; EXCEPT THAT
21	THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
22	ASSOCIATION SHALL REVIEW AND APPROVE ANY COMPANIES IDENTIFIED
23	BY AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FIRM BEFORE INCLUDING SUCH COMPANIES
24	ON THE LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION
25	(1).
26	(2) THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION SHALL
27	REVIEW THE LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES ON A BIANNUAL BASIS BASED

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1	ON EVOLVING INFORMATION FROM, AMONG OTHER SOURCES, THOSE LISTED
2	IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.
3	(3) THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION SHALL
4	ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES FOR COMPANIES ON THE LIST OF
5	RESTRICTED COMPANIES:
6	(a) FOR EACH COMPANY NEWLY IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF
7	THIS SECTION, THE ASSOCIATION SHALL SEND A WRITTEN NOTICE
8	INFORMING THE COMPANY OF ITS STATUS AND THAT IT MAY BECOME
9	SUBJECT TO DIVESTMENT BY THE ASSOCIATION.
10	(b) IF, FOLLOWING THE ASSOCIATION'S ENGAGEMENT PURSUANT TO
11	THIS SUBSECTION (3) WITH A RESTRICTED COMPANY, THAT COMPANY
12	CEASES ACTIVITY THAT DESIGNATES IT AS A COMPANY THAT HAS
13	ECONOMIC PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ISRAEL, THE COMPANY SHALL BE
14	REMOVED FROM THE LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES AND THE PROVISIONS
15	OF THIS SECTION SHALL CEASE TO APPLY TO IT UNLESS IT RESUMES SUCH
16	ACTIVITIES.
17	(c) IF, AFTER ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE
18	ASSOCIATION'S FIRST ENGAGEMENT WITH A COMPANY PURSUANT TO
19	PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), THE COMPANY REMAINS A
20	RESTRICTED COMPANY, THE ASSOCIATION SHALL INSTRUCT ITS
21	INVESTMENT ADVISORS TO SELL, REDEEM, DIVEST, OR WITHDRAW ALL
22	DIRECT HOLDINGS OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S
23	ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT IN AN ORDERLY AND FIDUCIARILY
24	RESPONSIBLE MANNER WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER THE COMPANY'S
25	MOST RECENT APPEARANCE ON THE LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES.
26	(d) If, upon the commencement of the date of divestment,
27	THE ASSOCIATION DOES NOT OWN DIRECT HOLDINGS IN A COMPANY ON THE

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LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES, THE ASSOCIATION IS PROHIBITED FROM ACQUIRING DIRECT HOLDINGS IN ANY COMPANY ON THE LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES DURING THE TIME THAT IT REMAINS ON THE LIST.

- (4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS PART 2, THE HOLDINGS IN THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION'S DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THIS PART 2.
- (5) UPON REQUEST, AND AT LEAST ANNUALLY, THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE INFORMATION REGARDING INVESTMENTS SOLD, REDEEMED, DIVESTED, OR WITHDRAWN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.
- (6) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY, THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION MAY CEASE DIVESTING FROM COMPANIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION IF CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT THE VALUE FOR ALL ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT BY THE ASSOCIATION BECOMES EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN NINETY-NINE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT, OR FIFTY BASIS POINTS, OF THE HYPOTHETICAL VALUE OF ALL ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT BY THE ASSOCIATION ASSUMING NO DIVESTMENT FOR ANY COMPANY HAD OCCURRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.
- (7) WITH RESPECT TO ACTIONS TAKEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PART 2, INCLUDING ALL GOOD-FAITH DETERMINATIONS REGARDING COMPANIES AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION IS EXEMPT FROM ANY CONFLICTING STATUTORY OR COMMON LAW OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING ANY FIDUCIARY DUTIES AND ANY OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CHOICE OF ASSET MANAGERS, INVESTMENT FUNDS, OR INVESTMENTS FOR THE ASSOCIATION'S SECURITIES PORTFOLIOS.

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1	(8) WITH RESPECT TO ALL ACTIONS TAKEN IN GOOD FAITH
2	COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PART 2, THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT
3	ASSOCIATION, ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS,
4	AGENTS, TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, CUSTODIANS, AND FIDUCIARIES
5	SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM ANY LIABILITY.
6	<b>24-54.8-204.</b> Legislative intent. By ENACTING THIS PART 2, IT IS
7	NOT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CAUSE DIVESTITURE FROM
8	ANY COMPANY BASED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
9	RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION SHALL CONSIDER THIS INTENT WHEN
10	DEVELOPING OR REVIEWING THE LIST OF RESTRICTED COMPANIES.
11	<b>24-54.8-205. Severability.</b> IF ANY PROVISION OF THIS PART 2 OR
12	THE APPLICATION THEREOF TO ANY PERSON OR CIRCUMSTANCE IS HELD
13	INVALID, SUCH INVALIDITY DOES NOT AFFECT OTHER PROVISIONS OR
14	APPLICATIONS OF THIS PART 2 THAT CAN BE GIVEN EFFECT WITHOUT THE
15	INVALID PROVISION OR APPLICATION, AND TO THIS END THE PROVISIONS OF
16	THIS PART 2 ARE DECLARED TO BE SEVERABLE.
17	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-54.8-101, amend
18	(1) (r), (2), and (3) as follows:
19	24-54.8-101. Legislative declaration - post-enactment review.
20	(1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:
21	(r) It is the judgment of the general assembly that this article PART
22	1 should remain in effect only insofar as it continues to be consistent with,
23	and does not unduly interfere with, the foreign policy of the United States
24	as determined by the federal government.
25	(2) The general assembly further finds and declares that state and
26	local entities that are not subject to the requirements of this article PART
27	1 are encouraged to take voluntary action to divest from the companies

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specified in this article PART 1.

- (3) The general assembly further finds and declares that the desired result of this article PART 1 for the purpose of post-enactment review is that all public funds sell, redeem, divest, or withdraw investments in scrutinized companies with active business operations in Sudan and maintain communication with scrutinized companies with inactive business operations in Sudan, in accordance with the provisions of this article PART 1.
- **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-54.8-102, **amend**10 introductory portion and (16) (c) as follows:
  - **24-54.8-102. Definitions.** As used in this article PART 1, unless the context otherwise requires:
    - (16) "Scrutinized company" means a company that meets any of the following criteria:
    - (c) The company supplies military equipment within Sudan, unless it clearly shows that the military equipment cannot be used to facilitate offensive military actions in Sudan or the company implements rigorous and verifiable safeguards to prevent use of that equipment by forces actively participating in armed conflict, such as through post-sale tracking of such equipment by the company, certification from a reputable and objective third party that such equipment is not being used by a party participating in armed conflict in Sudan, or sale of such equipment solely to the regional government of southern Sudan or any internationally recognized peacekeeping force or humanitarian organization. Notwithstanding any provision of this article PART 1 to the contrary, a social development company that is not complicit in the Darfur genocide shall not be considered a scrutinized company.

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**SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-54.8-104, **amend** (1) (b), (5), and (6) as follows:

**24-54.8-104. Required actions.** (1) **Engagement.** A public fund shall adhere to the following procedures for companies on the scrutinized companies list:

- (b) For each company identified pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) with only inactive business operations, the public fund shall send a written notice informing the company of this article PART 1 and encouraging it to continue to refrain from initiating active business operations in Sudan until it is able to avoid scrutinized business operations. The public fund shall continue such correspondence on a semi-annual basis.
- (5) Excluded securities. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article PART 1, subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to indirect holdings in actively managed investment funds. A public fund shall, however, submit letters to the managers of such investment funds containing companies with scrutinized active business operations requesting that they consider removing such companies from the fund or create a similar actively managed fund with indirect holdings devoid of such companies. If the manager creates a similar fund and if the public fund determines investment in the similar fund is consistent with prudent investment standards, the public fund shall replace all applicable investments with investments in the similar fund in an expedited time. In addition, notwithstanding any other provision of this article PART 1, for passively managed indirect holdings, if the manager does not remove such companies or create a similar fund consistent with prudent investment standards by October 1, 2008, or nine months after the date

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the public fund first requests the manager to act, whichever is later, then the scrutinized companies with active business operations shall be removed from the indirect passively managed assets of the public fund.

- (6) **Defined contribution plans.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this article PART 1, public funds, when discharging their responsibility for operation of a defined contribution plan, shall engage the manager of the investment offerings in such plans requesting that they consider removing scrutinized companies from the investment offerings or create an alternative investment offering devoid of scrutinized companies. If the manager creates an alternative investment offering and the offering is deemed consistent with prudent investor standards by the public fund, the public fund shall consider including such investment offering in the plan.
- **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-54.8-106, **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1) (c) as follows:
- **24-54.8-106. Provisions for repeal.** (1) This article PART 1 is repealed upon the occurrence of any one of the following:
- (c) The congress or president of the United States, through legislation or executive order, declares that mandatory divestment of the type provided for in this article PART 1 interferes with the conduct of United States foreign policy.

**SECTION 6.** Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); 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

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- within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
- 2 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
- November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 4 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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