

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 06-1058.02 Bob Lackner

HOUSE BILL 06-1411

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

White and Weissmann, Paccione

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tochtrop,

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House Committees  
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101      **CONCERNING THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH PRIVATE PROPERTY**  
102           **MAY BE ACQUIRED BY PUBLIC ENTITIES THROUGH EXERCISE OF**  
103           **THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN IN FURTHERANCE OF A PUBLIC**  
104           **USE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PROHIBITING PRIVATE**  
105           **PROPERTY FROM BEING TAKEN BY THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL**  
106           **SUBDIVISION UNLESS THE CONDEMNING ENTITY ESTABLISHES**  
107           **THAT THE TAKING IS FOR A PUBLIC USE, EXCLUDING TAKINGS**  
108           **FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR TAX REVENUE ENHANCEMENT**  
109           **FROM THE MEANING OF PUBLIC USE, AND REQUIRING THAT A**  
110           **CONDEMNATION ACTION SATISFY A HIGHER DEGREE OF PROOF**  
111           **WHEN THE TAKING IS FOR THE ERADICATION OF BLIGHT.**

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Bill Summary

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.*

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Clarifies that, without the consent of the owner of the property, private property shall not be taken or damaged by the state or any political subdivision for a public or private use without just compensation.

Excludes from the meaning of "public use" the taking of private property for transfer to a private entity for the purpose of economic development or enhancement of tax revenue. Specifies that private property may otherwise be taken solely for the purpose of furthering a public use as that term is understood as of the effective date of the act.

Specifies that, in any condemnation action, the burden of proof is on the condemning entity to demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the taking of private property is for a public use, unless the condemnation action involves a taking for the eradication of blight, in which case the act requires the condemning entity to demonstrate, by clear and convincing evidence, that the taking of the property is for a public use.

In the case of a conflict between the provisions of the urban renewal law and the provisions of the act, specifies that the provisions of the act shall control.

Makes a conforming amendment. Defines terms.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** 38-1-101 (1), (2), and (3), Colorado Revised  
3 Statutes, are amended, and the said 38-1-101 is further amended BY THE  
4 ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

5           **38-1-101. Compensation - public use - commission - jury -**  
6 **court - prohibition on elimination of nonconforming uses or**  
7 **nonconforming property design by amortization - limitation on**  
8 **extraterritorial condemnation by municipalities - definitions.**

9 (1) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, IN ORDER TO  
10 PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER OF  
11 THE PROPERTY, private property shall not be taken or damaged BY THE

1 STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION for A public or private use without  
2 just compensation.

3 (b) FOR PURPOSES OF SATISFYING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
4 SECTION, "PUBLIC USE" SHALL NOT INCLUDE THE TAKING OF PRIVATE  
5 PROPERTY FOR TRANSFER TO A PRIVATE ENTITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OR ENHANCEMENT OF TAX REVENUE. PRIVATE  
7 PROPERTY MAY OTHERWISE BE TAKEN SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
8 FURTHERING A PUBLIC USE AS THAT TERM IS UNDERSTOOD AS OF THE  
9 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), AS AMENDED.

10 (2) (a) In all cases in which compensation is not made by the state  
11 in its corporate capacity, such compensation shall be ascertained by a  
12 board of commissioners of not less than three disinterested and impartial  
13 freeholders pursuant to section 38-1-105 (1) or by a jury when required  
14 by the owner of the property as prescribed in section 38-1-106. All  
15 questions and issues, except the amount of compensation, shall be  
16 determined by the court unless all parties interested in the action stipulate  
17 and agree that the compensation may be so ascertained by the court. In  
18 the event of such stipulation and agreement, the court shall proceed as  
19 provided in this article for the trial of such causes by a board of  
20 commissioners or jury.

21 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, IN ANY  
22 CONDEMNATION ACTION, THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS ON THE CONDEMNING  
23 ENTITY TO DEMONSTRATE, BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE, THAT  
24 THE TAKING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY IS FOR A PUBLIC USE, UNLESS THE  
25 CONDEMNATION ACTION INVOLVES A TAKING FOR THE ERADICATION OF  
26 BLIGHT, IN WHICH CASE THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS ON THE CONDEMNING  
27 ENTITY TO DEMONSTRATE, BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE, THAT

1 THE TAKING OF THE PROPERTY IS FOR A PUBLIC USE.

2 (3) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,  
3 a local government shall not enact or enforce an ordinance, resolution, or  
4 regulation that requires a nonconforming property use that was lawful at  
5 the time of its inception to be terminated or eliminated by amortization.

6 (b) ~~For purposes of this subsection (3), "local government" means~~  
7 ~~a county, city and county, town, or home rule or statutory city.~~

8 (5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
9 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

10 (a) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY,  
11 TOWN, OR HOME RULE OR STATUTORY CITY.

12 (b) "POLITICAL SUBDIVISION" MEANS A COUNTY; CITY AND  
13 COUNTY; CITY; TOWN; SERVICE AUTHORITY; SCHOOL DISTRICT; LOCAL  
14 IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT; LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY; URBAN  
15 RENEWAL AUTHORITY; CITY OR COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY; WATER,  
16 SANITATION, FIRE PROTECTION, METROPOLITAN, IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE,  
17 OR OTHER SPECIAL DISTRICT; OR ANY OTHER KIND OF MUNICIPAL,  
18 QUASI-MUNICIPAL, OR PUBLIC CORPORATION ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO  
19 LAW.

20 **SECTION 2.** Part 1 of article 25 of title 31, Colorado Revised  
21 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
22 read:

23 **31-25-105.7. Condemnation actions by authorities - effect of**  
24 **other provisions.** NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW,  
25 ANY CONDEMNATION ACTION COMMENCED BY AN AUTHORITY ON OR  
26 AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION SHALL SATISFY THE  
27 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 38-1-101, C.R.S. TO THE EXTENT

1     THERE IS ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PART 1 AND  
2     THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 38-1-101, C.R.S., THE PROVISIONS OF  
3     SECTION 38-1-101, C.R.S., SHALL CONTROL.

4             **SECTION 3. Applicability.** This act shall apply to any  
5     condemnation action commenced on or after the effective date of this act.

6             **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
7     determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
8     preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.