

**First Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R01-1050.01 Kristen Forrestal

SJR01-032

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate Committees

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 01-032

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY**
102 **THE EXPANSION OF COLORADO AGRICULTURAL MARKETS.**

1 WHEREAS, There are 29,000 farms and ranches on 31.8 million
2 acres in Colorado, composing nearly half of the state; and

3 WHEREAS, The sustenance and growth of agriculture in the State
4 of Colorado is important to all of the people of this state; and

5 WHEREAS, For the past 40 years, the historic economic
6 performance of agriculture across the United States has been bleak, and
7 farm profitability, as measured by return on assets, exceeded 6% for only
8 2 of those years; and

9 WHEREAS, Farmers in the United States typically earn only 3.5
10 cents annually on every dollar invested; and

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.

1 WHEREAS, Agriculture in Colorado is currently in the throes of
2 a depression, and farmers are receiving some of the lowest prices for their
3 agricultural products in the past 20 years; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture is
5 predicting that farmers and ranchers will continue to see little to no
6 profits for the next 2 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Promoting development of new domestic agricultural
8 products would aid in the increase in profits for Colorado agricultural
9 producers, would diversify the agricultural markets in Colorado, would
10 aid consumers in selecting and purchasing locally grown foods, and
11 would benefit all Coloradans by helping existing farms to thrive and
12 therefore preserving the natural beauty and habitats of this state; and

13 WHEREAS, It is in the interests of agricultural producers and all
14 the people of Colorado to expand agricultural markets within this country
15 and throughout the world; now, therefore,

16 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly*
17 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

18 (1) That there shall be a committee to meet in the interim after the
19 First Regular Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly to study the
20 expansion of domestic and international agricultural markets for Colorado
21 food products.

22 (2) That such study shall include, but not be limited to,
23 consideration of the following:

24 (a) The current state of markets for Colorado produce, livestock,
25 and other agricultural products in the United States;

26 (b) The Colorado Proud marketing program within the Division
27 of Markets at the Department of Agriculture, and the possibility of
28 expanding the program to reach more people within our domestic and
29 international markets;

30 (c) Ways to promote Colorado products to meet the needs of a
31 variety of domestic and international trends and developments in
32 agricultural markets;

33 (d) Ways to encourage development of new Colorado products to

1 meet the emerging needs of a changing national and international
2 marketplace; and

3 (e) Opportunities in Colorado to meet new agricultural energy
4 production challenges.

5 (3) That such interim committee shall consist of 6 members of the
6 General Assembly. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
7 appoint 3 members of the House of Representatives, no more than 2 of
8 whom shall be from the same political party. The President of the Senate
9 shall appoint 3 members of the Senate, no more than 2 of whom shall be
10 from the same political party.

11 (4) That such interim committee shall hold meetings, take public
12 testimony, and sponsor discussions with any interested party in order to
13 determine any issues within corporate practice that need to be resolved.

14 (5) That appointments to the interim committee shall be made by
15 July 1, 2001, and such interim committee shall meet before July 15, 2001.

16 (6) That the staff of the Legislative Council and the Office of
17 Legislative Legal Services shall be available to assist the interim
18 committee in carrying out its duties.

19 (7) That the interim committee shall make recommendations
20 regarding the issues reviewed and, if necessary, shall recommend
21 legislation. Legislation recommended by the committee shall be treated
22 as legislation recommended by any other interim committee for purposes
23 of any introduction deadlines or bill limitations imposed by the joint rules
24 of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

25 (8) That the legislative members of the interim committee shall be
26 compensated as provided in section 2-2-307, Colorado Revised Statutes,
27 for attendance at meetings of the interim committee.

28 (9) That the actual and necessary expenses, including per diem,
29 incurred in the conduct of the interim committee shall be approved by the
30 chairperson of the Legislative Council and paid by vouchers and warrants
31 drawn as provided by law from funds allocated to the Legislative Council
32 from appropriations made by the General Assembly.