

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT  
2/17/26

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LLS NO. 26-0834.01 Caroline Martin x5902

COMMITTEE BILL

Capital Development Committee

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**BILL TOPIC:** History Colorado to Dispose of Mineral Rights

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF HISTORY COLORADO TO DISPOSE OF**  
102 **RIGHTS RELATED TO MINERALS, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103 **THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF WELD COUNTY**  
104 **RIGHTS AND WEST VIRGINIA RIGHTS.**

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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://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Capital Development Committee.** The bill authorizes the state historical society, also known as history Colorado, to sell mineral rights and nonparticipating royalty interests that are referred to as its Weld

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

County rights and West Virginia rights. History Colorado is required to credit the proceeds of the sale to the state museum cash fund to be used for a strategic investment in capital improvements, including the retrofitting of the collections care facility and controlled maintenance.

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

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) In 1980, the state historical society, also known as history  
5 Colorado, was deeded mineral rights and a nonparticipating royalty  
6 interest on various parcels in Weld County, referred to as the Weld  
7 County rights. The Weld County rights were donated to history Colorado  
8 through the estate of Eleanor Bein.

9           (b) In 2012, history Colorado was deeded mineral rights on  
10 various parcels in West Virginia, referred to as the West Virginia rights,  
11 which were mistakenly recorded as belonging to St. Elizabeth's Retreat  
12 Chapel. In 2024, an oil and natural gas company contacted history  
13 Colorado to relay the mistaken recording of mineral rights.

14           (c) History Colorado has determined that the intent of the donors  
15 of the Weld County rights and the West Virginia rights are best served by  
16 selling the rights. Given the current market interest in the rights, history  
17 Colorado has determined that a sale would be most financially beneficial  
18 for history Colorado in the near term. A sale would also alleviate history  
19 Colorado from administrative obligations associated with the rights.

20           **SECTION 2. History Colorado authority to dispose of real**  
21 **property.** (1) The state of Colorado, acting by and through the state  
22 historical society, also known as history Colorado, is authorized to  
23 dispose of mineral rights and nonparticipating royalty interests associated

1 with the following properties:

2 (a) Section 28, Township 4 north, range 68 west, 6th Principal  
3 Meridian, Weld County, Colorado; and

4 (b) West Virginia property formerly associated with St. Elizabeth's  
5 Retreat Chapel.

6 (2) The state controller must approve all agreements relating to  
7 the disposition described in subsection (1) of this section prior to closing.  
8 History Colorado shall provide an update on the disposition of mineral  
9 rights and nonparticipating royalty interests to the capital development  
10 committee.

11 (3) History Colorado shall credit the proceeds of the disposition  
12 described in subsection (1) of this section to the state museum cash fund  
13 created in section 24-80-214 to be used for a strategic investment in  
14 capital improvements, including the retrofitting of the collections care  
15 facility and controlled maintenance.

16 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
19 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
20 institutions.