

First Extraordinary Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**BILLPAPER**

LLS NO. 25B-0023.01 Renee Leone x2695

**HOUSE BILL**

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**Pelton R.,**

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**House Committees**

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING ADDITIONAL CRITERIA REGARDING WHO THE GOVERNOR**  
102 **MAY APPOINT AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD THAT OVERSEES THE**  
103 **COLORADO HEALTH INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ENTERPRISE.**

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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>.)*

The bill adds additional criteria regarding who the governor may appoint as members of the health insurance affordability board, which is the board that oversees the Colorado health insurance affordability enterprise.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

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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) Rural communities are an invaluable component of Colorado's  
5 culture, economy, and public health landscape;

6 (b) Rural communities disproportionately face financial and  
7 accessibility obstacles to health coverage;

8 (c) The 2026 rate increases for private health insurance plans for  
9 the individual market are projected to vary based on geographic area, with  
10 average rates projected to increase by:

11 (I) 25.4% in the Denver area;

12 (II) 33.4% in eastern Colorado; and

13 (III) 38.8% in western Colorado;

14 (d) These significant cost impacts for rural communities  
15 demonstrate a need for additional rural representation on the health  
16 insurance affordability board to ensure residents in rural areas are  
17 protected from health insurance coverage loss;

18 (e) The health insurance affordability board directly allocates  
19 funding to facilitate reductions in premiums and avoid health insurance  
20 coverage loss;

21 (f) Rural and republican representation on the health insurance  
22 affordability board is essential to ensure the allocation of these funds  
23 prioritizes documented Colorado citizens and our most vulnerable rural  
24 communities;

25 (g) Colorado must continue to identify avenues to increase rural  
26 participation in health care to ensure all documented communities within

1 the state have access;

2 (h) The general assembly can no longer marginalize rural voices  
3 and the communities that feed, power, and clothe the rest of the state; and

4 (i) By requiring geographic and political diversity on the health  
5 insurance affordability board, Colorado can require that the governor  
6 appoint members who adequately address all concerns regarding health  
7 insurance coverage by protecting all taxpaying Coloradans who are at risk  
8 of losing their health insurance coverage and representing the interests of  
9 rural communities throughout the state.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-1207, **amend**  
11 (1)(b); and **add** (1)(a.5) as follows:

12 **10-16-1207. Health insurance affordability board - creation -**  
13 **membership - powers and duties - subject to open meetings and**  
14 **public records laws - commissioner rules.** (1) (a.5) IN EXERCISING THE  
15 GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY TO APPOINT NINE OF THE MEMBERS TO THE  
16 BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
17 GOVERNOR SHALL SELECT THE NINE MEMBERS IN A MANNER THAT RESULTS  
18 IN THE BOARD CONSISTING OF FOUR MEMBERS WHO ARE REGISTERED  
19 DEMOCRATS, FOUR MEMBERS WHO ARE REGISTERED REPUBLICANS, AND  
20 ONE MEMBER WHO IS UNAFFILIATED.

21 (b) To the extent possible, the governor shall attempt to appoint  
22 board members who reflect the diversity of the state with regard to race,  
23 ethnicity, immigration status, income, wealth, ability, and geography. In  
24 considering geographic diversity, the governor shall ensure at least one  
25 member resides on the eastern plains IN A COUNTY WITH NO MORE THAN  
26 FIFTY THOUSAND RESIDENTS AT THE TIME OF THE APPOINTMENT and one  
27 member resides on the western slope IN A COUNTY WITH NO MORE THAN

1 FIFTY THOUSAND RESIDENTS AT THE TIME OF THE APPOINTMENT and, to the  
2 extent possible, shall attempt to appoint members from each  
3 congressional district in the state.

4 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date -**  
5 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following  
6 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the  
7 general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant  
8 to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an  
9 item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item,  
10 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
11 general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take  
12 effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the  
13 governor.

14 (2) This act applies to board appointments made on or after the  
15 applicable effective date of this act.