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2019-2020 #67 - Final

Colorado Secretary of State

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-65.5-102, **amend** (2.5) as follows:

24-65.5-102. Definitions – legislative declaration.

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

(2.5) “Commission” means the ~~Colorado~~ INDEPENDENT oil and gas ~~conservation~~ REGULATORY commission created in section ~~34-60-104~~ 34-60-104.1, C.R.S.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-101, **amend** section as follows:

34-60-101. Short title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Oil and Gas ~~Conservation~~ INDEPENDENT REGULATION Act".

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-102, **amend** (1)(a)(I) and (2); and **add** (3) and (4) as follows:

34-60-102. Legislative declaration.

(1)(a) It is declared to be in the public interest to:

(I) Foster AND REGULATE the responsible, balanced development, production, and utilization of the natural resources of oil and gas in the state of Colorado in a manner consistent with protection of public health, safety, and welfare, including protection of the environment and wildlife resources;

(2) It is further declared to be in the public interest to assure that producers and consumers of natural gas are afforded the protection and benefits of those laws and regulations of the United States which affect the price and allocation of natural gas and crude oil, including the federal “Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978”, 15 U.S.C. 3301, and particularly that the INDEPENDENT oil and gas ~~conservation~~ REGULATORY commission, established by section ~~34-60-104~~ 34-60-104.1, be empowered to exercise such powers and authorities as may be delegated to it by the laws or regulations of the United States, including said “Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978”, and, in the exercise of such powers and authorities, to make such rules and regulations and to execute such agreements and waivers as are reasonably required to implement such power and authority.

(3) IT IS FURTHER DECLARED TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO:

(a) CREATE A MODERN, ROBUST, AND INDEPENDENT REGULATORY STRUCTURE TO FOSTER AND REGULATE RESPONSIBLE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN COLORADO IN A WAY THAT REASONABLY AND IN A FACT-BASED MANNER BALANCES:

(I) THE PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS, BOTH SURFACE AND MINERAL;

(II) LOCAL INPUT AND PRIORITIES, INCLUDING MITIGATION OF IMPACTS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING TRAFFIC, NOISE AND ODOR; AND

(III) THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, INCLUDING PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, AND MINIMIZING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS;

(b) END THE FLAWED PARTISAN REGULATORY SYSTEM AND REPLACE IT WITH A STRUCTURE THAT PROTECTS CRITICAL DECISIONS ABOUT THE REGULATION OF OIL AND GAS FROM UNDUE POLITICAL INFLUENCE BY ANY ONE OR MORE POLITICAL PARTIES, ANY ONE OR MORE SPECIAL INTERESTS, OR ANY ONE OR MORE ELECTED OFFICIALS OR COLLECTION OF POLITICAL APPOINTEES;

(c) END THE POLITICAL APPOINTMENT OF OIL AND GAS REGULATORS, INFLUENCED BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, AND REPLACE IT WITH AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS WITH A DEMONSTRATED BALANCE OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF OIL AND GAS REGULATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY, A DEMONSTRATED PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF INFORMED, IMPARTIAL AND CONSENSUS-MINDED DECISION MAKING, AND A PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND DEMONSTRATING AN ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSION'S BODY OF EXPERTISE THAT WILL AID THE COMMISSION IN MAKING SOUND DECISIONS BASED ON FACTS AND SCIENCE;

(d) ENSURE THAT OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT THAT SUPPORTS THE STATE ECONOMY AND CREATES JOBS ACROSS THE STATE CAN CONTINUE IN A WAY THAT BALANCES THESE INTERESTS WITH PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT;

(e) CREATE A COMMISSION THAT WILL INDEPENDENTLY MONITOR, FOSTER, AND REGULATE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN THIS STATE THROUGH IMPARTIAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS MANAGED AND OVERSEEN BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION;

(f) ENSURE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE DIRECT INPUT IN THE COMMISSION'S OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES; AND

(g) GIVE THE COMMISSION INDEPENDENT CONTROL OVER USE OF FUNDS AND EXEMPT COMMISSION FUNDING FROM STATE REVENUE AND THE SPENDING LIMITS UNDER SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

(4) IT IS THE INTENT OF THIS ARTICLE TO ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE AND IMPARTIAL REGULATION OF OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-103, **amend** the introductory portion and (2); and **add** (5.3) as follows:

34-60-103. Definitions.

As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 60, unless the context otherwise requires:

(2) "Commission" means the ~~oil and gas conservation commission~~ INDEPENDENT OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION.

(5.3) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A CITY, COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, SPECIAL DISTRICT, SCHOOL DISTRICT, OR OTHER UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 34-60-104 as follows:

34-60-104. Oil and gas conservation commission – report – publication.

~~(1) There is hereby created, in the department of natural resources, the oil and gas conservation commission of the state of Colorado.~~

~~(2)(a)(I) Effective July 1, 2007, the commission shall consist of nine members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate and two of whom, the executive director of the department of natural resources and the executive director of the department of public health and environment, shall be ex officio voting members. At least two members shall be appointed from west of the continental divide, and, to the extent possible, consistent with this paragraph (a), the other members shall be appointed taking into account the need for geographical representation of other areas of the state with high levels of oil and gas activity or employment. Three members shall be individuals with substantial experience in the oil and gas industry, and at least two of said three members shall have a college degree in petroleum geology or petroleum engineering; one member shall be a local government official; one member shall have formal training or substantial experience in environmental or wildlife protection; one member shall have formal training or substantial experience in soil conservation or reclamation; and one member shall be actively engaged in agricultural production and also be a royalty owner. Excluding the executive directors from consideration, no more than four members of the commission shall be members of the same political party.~~

~~(II) Subject to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2), nothing in this paragraph (a) shall be construed to require a holdover member of the commission holding office on July 1, 2007, to comply with the provisions of this paragraph (a), as amended, unless such person is reappointed to the commission for another term of office. Nothing in this subparagraph (II) shall alter, impair, or negate the authority of the governor to remove or appoint members of the commission pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection (2).~~

~~(III) Repealed.~~

~~(b) Members of the commission shall be appointed for terms of four years each. The governor may at any time remove any member of the commission, and by appointment the governor shall fill any vacancy on the commission. In case one or more vacancies occur on the same day, the governor shall designate the order of filling vacancies. The members of the commission shall receive a per diem allowance of fifty dollars for each day spent in attendance at commission meetings or hearings and shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses.~~

~~(3) The commission shall report to the executive director of the department of natural resources at such times and on such matters as the executive director may require.~~

~~(4) Publications of the commission circulated in quantity outside the executive branch are subject to the approval and control of the executive director of the department of natural resources.~~

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 34-60-104.1 as follows:

34-60-104.1. Independent oil and gas regulatory commission

(1) (a) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THE INDEPENDENT OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION.

(b) THE COMMISSION'S MISSION IS TO FOSTER AND REGULATE RESPONSIBLE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN COLORADO IN A WAY THAT REASONABLY AND IN A FACT-BASED MANNER BALANCES:

(I) THE PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS, BOTH SURFACE AND MINERAL;

(II) INPUT AND PRIORITIES OF AFFECTED LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING MITIGATION OF IMPACTS ON AFFECTED LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING TRAFFIC, NOISE AND ODOR; AND

(III) THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE, INCLUDING PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES, AND MINIMIZING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

(2) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THREE MEMBERS WHO HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

(a) A DEMONSTRATED TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF OIL AND GAS REGULATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY;

(b) A DEMONSTRATED PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF INFORMED, IMPARTIAL AND CONSENSUS-MINDED DECISION MAKING; AND

(c) A PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND DEMONSTRATING AN ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSION'S BODY OF EXPERTISE THAT WILL AID THE COMMISSION IN MAKING SOUND, FACT AND SCIENCE-BASED, DECISIONS RELATED TO RESPONSIBLE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT.

(3) NO PERSON MAY BE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION OR HOLD THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER IF SUCH PERSON:

(a) HAS A PERSONAL OR PECUNIARY INTEREST IN OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD CREATE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, SUCH AS A PERSON WHO:

(I) IN THE THREE YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT, WAS EMPLOYED BY OR HELD ANY OFFICIAL RELATION TO ANY CORPORATION, BUSINESS ENTITY, OR PERSON SUBJECT IN WHOLE OR IN PART TO REGULATION BY THE COMMISSION, OR OWNED STOCKS OR BONDS OF ANY SUCH CORPORATION, BUSINESS ENTITY OR PERSON, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINIMAL STOCK OR BOND OWNERSHIP OF 5% OR LESS OF THE PERSON'S TOTAL INVESTMENTS, OR IS IN ANY OTHER MANNER PECUNIARILY INTERESTED THEREIN; EXCEPT THAT, IF ANY COMMISSIONER BECOMES THE OWNER OF SUCH STOCKS OR BONDS OR BECOMES PECUNIARILY INTERESTED IN SUCH CORPORATION OTHERWISE THAN VOLUNTARILY, THAT COMMISSIONER SHALL DIVEST SUCH OWNERSHIP OR INTEREST WITHIN SIX MONTHS, AND IF THE COMMISSIONER FAILS TO DO SO, THAT COMMISSIONER'S SEAT BECOMES VACANT; OR

(II) CURRENTLY SERVES OR IN THE PAST THREE YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT SERVED IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY, WHETHER COMPENSATED OR NOT, WITH A NONPROFIT, FOR-PROFIT OR NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITY WHICH PUBLICLY EDUCATES REGARDING OR ADVOCATES FOR OR AGAINST OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT.

(III) IS OR HAS BEEN A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST REGISTERED TO LOBBY WITH THE STATE OF COLORADO, WITH ANY MUNICIPALITY IN COLORADO, OR AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT.

(IV) IS OR HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, A CITY COUNCIL, A COUNTY COMMISSION, OR CONGRESS WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT.

(b) THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISIONS IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED REASONABLY, WITH THE OBJECTIVE BEING TO DISQUALIFY FROM THE COMMISSION ANY PERSON WHO MIGHT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE CONFLICT OF INTEREST, OR WHOSE PERSONAL TRACK RECORD SUGGESTS HE OR SHE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IMPARTIAL DECISIONS ABOUT OIL AND GAS REGULATION IN COLORADO. INDIVIDUALS WHO, IN THE PAST, HAVE WORKED WITH OR FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION OR IN THE ENERGY SECTOR NEED NOT BE DISQUALIFIED, IF THE TOTALITY OF THE PERSON'S LIFE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE SHOWS BOTH A DEPTH OF SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE AND AN ABILITY TO RENDER INFORMED, THOROUGH, AND IMPARTIAL DECISION-MAKING.

(4) THE COMMISSIONERS SHALL RECEIVE A PER DIEM ALLOWANCE OF FIFTY DOLLARS FOR EACH DAY SPENT IN ATTENDANCE AT COMMISSION MEETINGS OR HEARINGS AND SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR THEIR ACTUAL EXPENSES.

(5) EACH COMMISSIONER, BEFORE ENTERING UPON THE DUTIES OF OFFICE, SHALL TAKE THE CONSTITUTIONAL OATH OF OFFICE.

(6) A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF ITS BUSINESS.

(7) AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT AS ITS INITIAL RULES AND POLICIES THE COLORADO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION RULES AND POLICIES AS THEY EXISTED ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

(8) THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE FORMER OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION SHALL BECOME THE DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE COMMISSION ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

(9) THE COMMISSION SHALL BE ENTITLED TO USE ANY FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE COLORADO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 FOR COMMISSION OPERATIONS, PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, OR ANY OTHER PERMISSIBLE PURPOSE.

(10) THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IS AUTHORIZED TO CHANGE ALL REFERENCES TO THE COLORADO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND SECTION 34-60-104, C.R.S., IN THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES TO REFER TO THE COLORADO INDEPENDENT OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION AND SECTION 34- 60-104.1, C.R.S.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 34-60-104.3 as follows:

34-60-104.3. Commissioner appointment.

(1)(a) FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE COMMISSION EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2020, ALL THREE COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE CHOSEN FROM A LIST OF TEN NOMINEES, AND THE LIST OF

NOMINEES SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY MARCH 1, 2020. AFTER APRIL 1, 2020, FOR ANY VACANCY ON THE COMMISSION OCCURRING AT THE END OF A TERM OR OTHERWISE, THE COMMISSIONER FILLING THE VACANCY SHALL BE CHOSEN FROM A LIST OF THREE NOMINEES, AND THE LIST OF NOMINEES SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS PRIOR TO THE END OF A COMMISSIONER'S TERM, OR WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER ANY OTHER VACANCY. THE LISTS OF NOMINEES MUST CONSIST OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS AND SHALL BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH A JOINT NOMINATION PROCESS AND THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF EITHER:

(I) THE GOVERNOR AND, IF THE GOVERNOR IS AFFILIATED WITH A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1-1-104, C.R.S., THE HIGHEST-RANKING SENATE OFFICER FROM A DIFFERENT MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY; OR

(II) THE GOVERNOR AND, IF THE GOVERNOR IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1-1-104, C.R.S., THE TWO HIGHEST-RANKING SENATE OFFICERS FROM DIFFERENT MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES.

(b)(I) THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT SHALL DESIGNATE A SELECTION PANEL TO APPOINT FROM THE LIST OF NOMINEES THREE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2020, AND SUBSEQUENTLY SHALL DESIGNATE A SEPARATE SELECTION PANEL ANY TIME A VACANCY WILL OCCUR AT THE END OF A TERM OR A VACANCY OTHERWISE OCCURS TO APPOINT FROM THE LIST OF NOMINEES A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE VACANCY. THE COMMISSION DIRECTOR SHALL NOTIFY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF A VACANCY AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE END OF A COMMISSIONER'S TERM OR WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER A VACANCY OTHERWISE OCCURS. (II) A SELECTION PANEL MUST CONSIST OF THE THREE JUSTICES OR JUDGES WHO MOST RECENTLY RETIRED FROM THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT OR THE COLORADO COURT OF APPEALS, APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE SEQUENTIALLY STARTING WITH THE MOST RECENT JUSTICE OR JUDGE TO RETIRE WHO HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY OR UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY FOR THE TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT; EXCEPT THAT NO APPOINTEE, WITHIN TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT, SHALL HAVE BEEN AFFILIATED WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS A JUSTICE OR JUDGE ALREADY APPOINTED TO THE PANEL. IF ANY OF THE THREE JUSTICES OR JUDGES WHO MOST RECENTLY RETIRED FROM THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT OR THE COLORADO COURT OF APPEALS IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO SERVE ON THE PANEL OR HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITHIN TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT WITH A POLITICAL PARTY ALREADY REPRESENTED ON THE PANEL, THEN THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHALL APPOINT THE NEXT JUSTICE OR JUDGE WHO MOST RECENTLY RETIRED FROM THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT OR THE COLORADO COURT OF APPEALS AND WHO HAS NOT BEEN AFFILIATED WITHIN TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS ANY JUSTICE OR JUDGE ALREADY APPOINTED TO THE PANEL. IF, AFTER CONSIDERING ALL JUSTICES AND JUDGES WHO HAVE RETIRED FROM THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT AND THE COLORADO COURT OF APPEALS, FEWER THAN THREE ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE PANEL HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WHO ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO SERVE, THE CHIEF JUSTICE SHALL APPOINT THE MOST RECENTLY RETIRED DISTRICT COURT JUDGE WHO HAS NOT BEEN AFFILIATED WITHIN TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS ANY PREVIOUS APPOINTEE TO THE PANEL AND WHO ACCEPTS SUCH APPOINTMENT.

(II) ALL DECISIONS OF THE PANEL REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION REQUIRE THE AFFIRMATIVE APPROVAL OF ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL. IF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL CANNOT REACH A UNANIMOUS DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSIONER, THE PANEL MAY REQUEST A NEW LIST OF NOMINEES.

(III) THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL SHALL RECEIVE A PER DIEM ALLOWANCE AS SET BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR EACH DAY SPENT IN ATTENDANCE AT PANEL MEETINGS AND SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR THEIR ACTUAL EXPENSES.

(IV) NONPARTISAN STAFF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR OFFICES, SHALL PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE PANEL IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES.

(V) THE PANEL IS SUBJECT TO OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN PART 4 OF ARTICLE 6 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S. AND TO OPEN RECORDS REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S.

(2)(a) COMMISSIONERS SHALL SERVE TERMS OF FOUR YEARS EACH, EXCEPT THAT THE INITIAL COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR STAGGERED TERMS OF FOUR YEARS OR FEWER BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2020. THE PANEL SHALL DETERMINE THE LENGTH OF THE INITIAL TERM OF EACH COMMISSIONER APPOINTED ON APRIL 1, 2020, IF SUCH TERM IS LESS THAN FOUR YEARS. IF A COMMISSIONER IS APPOINTED TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM, THAT COMMISSIONER SHALL SERVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM. COMMISSIONERS MAY BE APPOINTED TO SERVE SUCCESSIVE TERMS.

(b) BEGINNING ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL ACT AS THE SOLE INTERIM COMMISSIONER AND OVERSEE COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AND STAFF UNTIL THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INITIAL COMMISSIONERS OR APRIL 1, 2020, WHICHEVER COMES LATER. IN THE EVENT OF TWO OR MORE VACANCIES ON THE COMMISSION AT ONE TIME, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL ACT AS AN INTERIM COMMISSIONER DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONERS IF THE REMAINING COMMISSIONERS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF THE COMMISSION. SUBSECTION (3) OF SECTION 30-60-104.1, C.R.S. SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTING AS INTERIM COMMISSIONER OR SOLE INTERIM COMMISSIONER, AND SUBSECTION (6) OF SECTION 30-60-104.1, C.R.S. SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHEN ACTING AS A SOLE INTERIM COMMISSIONER.

SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-105, **amend** (1) as follows:

34-60-105. Powers of commission.

(1) The commission has jurisdiction over all persons and property, public and private, necessary to enforce the provisions of this ~~article~~ARTICLE 60, and has the power to make and enforce rules, regulations, and orders pursuant to this ~~article~~ARTICLE 60, and to do whatever may reasonably be necessary to carry out the provisions of this ~~article~~ARTICLE 60. Any delegation of authority to any other state officer, board, or commission to administer any other laws of this state relating to the ~~conservation~~ REGULATION of oil or gas, or either of them, is hereby rescinded and withdrawn

and such authority is unqualifiedly conferred upon the commission, as provided in this section. Any person, or the attorney general on behalf of the state, may apply for any hearing before the commission, or the commission may initiate proceedings upon any question relating to the administration of this ~~article~~ARTICLE 60, and jurisdiction is conferred upon the commission to hear and determine the same and enter its rule, regulation, or order with respect thereto.

SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 34-60-106, **add** (18) as follows:

34-60-106. Additional powers of commission – rules.

(18) AFTER APRIL 1, 2020, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT A SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION OF ITS INITIAL RULES AND CONSIDER AMENDING OR ADOPTING RULES CONSISTENT WITH THE MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE 60.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes 34-60-122, **amend** (5)(a); **repeal** (5)(c); and **add** 5(d) and (e) as follows:

34-60-122. Expenses – fund created.

(5)(a) The commission shall collect all charges and penalties under this article 60 and remit them to the state treasurer for deposit in the oil and gas ~~conservation~~ REGULATION and environmental response fund, ALSO REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (5) AS THE “FUND”, which fund is hereby created in the state treasury, AND WHICH THE INDEPENDENT OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER. THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IS AUTHORIZED TO CHANGE ALL REFERENCES TO THE OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE FUND IN THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES TO THE OIL AND GAS REGULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE FUND.

~~(c) The general assembly shall annually make appropriations for the purposes authorized by section 34-60-124, and warrants shall be drawn against the appropriations as provided by law.~~

(d) THE FUND IS TO BE PERPETUAL AND MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE COMMISSION TO FUND THE COMMISSION AND ITS PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE NEEDS. ANY MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR SHALL NOT REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND.

(e) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITATIONS ON REVENUE, SPENDING, OR APPROPRIATIONS CONTAINED IN SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, ANY MONEY DEPOSITED IN THE FUND AS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS AT THE STATEWIDE ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2019, MAY BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGES AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE SUBSEQUENT VOTER APPROVAL.

SECTION 11. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 34-60-131 as follows:

34-60-131. Commission ethics.

(1) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE GUARDIANS OF THE PUBLIC TRUST AND ARE SUBJECT TO ANTIBRIBERY AND ABUSE OF PUBLIC OFFICE REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN PARTS 3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE 8 OF TITLE 18, C.R.S.

(2) TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN THE OIL AND GAS REGULATORY PROCESS:

(a) THE COMMISSION AND COMMISSIONERS ARE SUBJECT TO OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN PART 4 OF ARTICLE 6 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S.,

(b) THE COMMISSION, EACH COMMISSIONER, AND COMMISSION STAFF ARE SUBJECT TO OPEN RECORDS REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S.

(c) THE COMMISSIONERS, COMMISSION DIRECTOR, AND COMMISSION STAFF ARE "COVERED OFFICIALS" UNDER 24-6-301(1.7)(b), C.R.S., AND PART 3 OF ARTICLE 6 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S. SHALL APPLY.

SECTION 12. In Colorado Revised Statutes 39-29-109, amend (2)(b)(I); and add (3), as follows:

39-29-109. Severance tax trust fund – OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION OPERATING FUND – created – administration – distribution of money – repeal.

(2) State severance tax receipts shall be credited to the severance tax trust fund as provided in section 39-29-108. Except as otherwise set forth in section 39-29-109.5, all income derived from the deposit and investment of the money in the fund shall be credited to the fund. At the end of any fiscal year, all unexpended and unencumbered money in the fund remains in the fund and shall not be credited or transferred to the general fund or any other fund. All money in the fund is subject to appropriation by the general assembly for the following purposes:

(b)(I) The severance tax operational fund. There is hereby created in the state treasury the severance tax operational fund, also referred to in this subsection (2)(b) as the "fund", which the department of natural resources shall administer. The state treasurer shall transfer one-half of the severance tax receipts credited to the severance tax trust fund for tax years commencing on and after July 1, 1995, to the fund, EXCEPT THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER THE PORTION OF SUCH SEVERANCE TAX RECEIPTS APPROPRIATED TO THE OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION OPERATING FUND PURSUANT TO 39-29-109.3, C.R.S. TO THE OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION OPERATING FUND. Money in the fund shall be distributed as set forth in section 39-29-109.3.

(3)(a) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION OPERATING FUND, WHICH THE INDEPENDENT OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER, ALSO REFERRED TO IN THIS SUBSECTION (4) AS THE "FUND". MONEY IN THE FUND SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 39-29-109.3.

(b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LIMITATIONS ON REVENUE, SPENDING, OR APPROPRIATIONS CONTAINED IN SECTION 20 OF ARTICLE X OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION OR ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND AS APPROVED BY THE VOTERS AT THE STATEWIDE

ELECTION IN NOVEMBER 2019, MAY BE COLLECTED AND SPENT AS VOTER-APPROVED REVENUE CHANGES AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE SUBSEQUENT VOTER APPROVAL.

SECTION 13. In Colorado Revised Statutes 39-29-109.3, **repeal** (1)(a); and **add** (1.3), as follows:

39-29-109.3. Severance tax operational fund – repeal.

(1) For fiscal years commencing on and after July 1, 1997, the executive director of the department of natural resources shall submit with the department's budget request for each fiscal year a list and description of the programs the executive director recommends to be funded from the severance tax operational fund created in section 39-29-109(2)(b), referred to in this section as the "operational fund". The general assembly may appropriate money from the total money available in the operational fund to fund recommended programs AND THE OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION OPERATING FUND as follows:

(a)(I) TO THE OIL AND GAS REGULATORY COMMISSION OPERATING FUND CREATED IN SECTION 39-29-109(4) FOR programs or projects within the Colorado oil and gas REGULATORY commission, up to thirty-five percent of the money in the operational fund for fiscal years 2020-21 AND AFTER.

~~(II) Moneys appropriated for programs or projects pursuant to subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a) shall be used by the Colorado oil and gas conservation commission for plugging and abandonment projects, for well site location reclamation projects, or for regulatory and environmental programs or projects as specifically appropriated by the general assembly for use on such programs or projects; except that, if the commission determines that an emergency exists, the commission may expend any moneys received for the emergency without any further appropriation. In determining the uses of these moneys, the commission shall give priority to uses that reduce industry fees and mill levies.~~

SECTION 14. Effective date.

This act takes effect on January 1, 2020 or upon proclamation of the Governor, whichever is later.