A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS AROUND THE STATE BY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.)

The bill vests the executive committee of the legislative council with the power and duty to consider, recommend, and establish policies regarding legislative committees taking public testimony from remote locations around the state.

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.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-303, amend (2) introductory portion; and add (2) (g) as follows:

2-3-303. Functions - definitions. (2) In addition to any other powers and duties set forth in law, the executive committee shall have THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS the following powers and duties:

(g) (I) (A) TO CONSIDER, RECOMMEND, AND ESTABLISH POLICIES ALLOWING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES TO TAKE REMOTE TESTIMONY FROM ONE OR MORE CENTRALIZED REMOTE SITES LOCATED AROUND THE STATE.

(B) IF REMOTE TESTIMONY IS APPROVED, AT LEAST ONE REMOTE SITE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (I) MUST BE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN SLOPE AREA OF THE STATE.

(C) THE VIDEO TELECONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY NEED NOT TELEVISE, NOR OTHERWISE ALLOW TESTIFYING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SEE, THE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, SO LONG AS THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ABLE TO HEAR SUCH PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE COMMITTEE.

(II) IN IMPLEMENTING THIS PARAGRAPH (g), THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO USE THOSE INSTITUTIONS AS THE CENTRALIZED REMOTE SITES AND TO USE THE RESOURCES, INCLUDING FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND STAFF, OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS.

(III) THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, IMPLEMENT THE USE OF VIDEO TELECONFERENCING IN PHASES.

(IV) NOTHING IN THIS PARAGRAPH (g) SUPERSEDES THE POWER OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR THE SENATE TO ADOPT RULES OR
JOINT RULES, OR BOTH, FOR THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF THEIR AFFAIRS.

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 6, 2014, if adjournment sine die is on May 7, 2014); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.