A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS AROUND THE STATE BY LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AND REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.

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.

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 - report - definitions. (2) In addition to any other powers and duties set forth in law, the executive committee shall have of 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.

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(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.

(V) After the adjournment of the second regular session
of the seventieth general assembly, but prior to August 1, 2016,
the director of research of the legislative council shall submit
to the members of the general assembly a report containing the
following information pertaining to remote testimony taken
pursuant to this paragraph (g):

(A) The total number of persons who testified remotely;

(B) The locations of the sites from which such persons
tested;

(C) The average length of hearings at which remote
testimony was accepted;

(D) The estimated calculation of travel miles saved by
allowing persons to testify remotely;

(E) The cost to implement the remote testimony process;

(F) The technological or other issues, if any, that arose;

(G) Identification of other suitable sites from which
remote testimony can be taken, in a manner that ensures that
adequate geographic distribution of sites is achieved;

(H) Any recommendations that the director believes
would improve the taking of remote testimony; and

(I) Any other information that the director believes
relevant or useful.


(1) For the implementation of this act, the general fund appropriation
made in the annual general appropriation act to the controlled
maintenance trust fund created in section 24-75-302.5 (2) (a), Colorado
Revised Statutes, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, is decreased
by $135,354.

(2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby
appropriated, out of any moneys in the general fund, not otherwise
appropriated, to the legislative department, for the fiscal year beginning
July 1, 2014, the sum of $135,354 and 1.0 FTE, or so much thereof as
may be necessary, to be allocated to legislative council staff for the
implementation of this act.

SECTION 3. 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.