

JARED POLIS  
GOVERNOR



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The Honorable Colorado General Assembly  
74th General Assembly  
Second Regular Session  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly,

Today, I signed into law Senate Bill 24-157, "Concerning Clarifying the Application of the Colorado Open Meetings Law to the Colorado General Assembly."

I am signing this bill today to provide clarity to the Legislature as it seeks to resolve ambiguities around their own conduct under the Colorado Open Meetings Law.

The notion of the separation of powers dates back to the 18th Century and is a core tenet of our democracy. As laid out in Federalist No. 48, branches of government must be "separate and distinct" yet also have "constitutional control" over one another. As a coequal branch of government, the Executive should rarely intrude on the inner workings of the Legislature, and the Executive Branch warrants the same deference from the Legislature on its internal operations.

The final version of Senate Bill 24-157 represents the approved path forward under Colorado Open Meetings Law for the Legislature itself, not the Executive nor Judicial Branches. As the Governor of Colorado, I respect this path passed by both chambers of the Legislature, and recognize the separate and distinct authority of the Legislature to determine, within reason, their own procedures to maintain transparency while modernizing and adapting the Legislative Branch to an ever-evolving society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor  
State of Colorado