

Initiative 2025-2026 #319: Statutory Ballot Measure Protection From Legislative Interference - Original

*Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1. Declaration of the People of Colorado**

- (1) The people of the state of Colorado find, determine, and declare that:
  - (a) Initiated statutory measures passed by the people shall be protected from legislative repeal and amendment that would undermine the voters' intent; and
  - (b) Protection from legislative repeal and amendment for four years, with exceptions to allow for flexibility, is necessary to foster good faith implementation of such measures.

**SECTION 2.** In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 1 of article V, **amend** (4)(a) as follows:

**Section 1. General assembly – initiative and referendum.**

**(4)(a)** The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures initiated by or referred to the people. All elections on measures initiated by or referred to the people of the state shall be held at the biennial regular general election, and all such measures shall become the law or a part of the constitution, when approved by a majority of the votes cast thereon or, if applicable the number of votes required pursuant to SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS SECTION, and not otherwise, and shall take effect from and after the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor, but not later than thirty days after the vote has been canvassed.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT INTERFERE WITH A STATUTORY MEASURE INITIATED BY THE PEOPLE FOR FOUR YEARS AFTER ITS EFFECTIVE DATE AS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (4)(a). THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL NOT AMEND, ANNUL, REPEAL, SET ASIDE, SUSPEND, DEFUND, OR IN ANY WAY FRUSTRATE THE OPERATION, IMPLEMENTATION, OR ADMINISTRATION OF ANY INITIATED STATUTORY MEASURE FOR FOUR YEARS AFTER THE MEASURE'S EFFECTIVE DATE; EXCEPT THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY REPEAL IN WHOLE THE MEASURE WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF ITS EFFECTIVE DATE BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS OF EACH HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN A BILL THAT HAS THE SOLE OPERATIVE EFFECT OF REPEALING THE MEASURE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY AMEND THE MEASURE WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF ITS EFFECTIVE DATE IF THE AMENDMENT FURTHERS THE MEASURE'S PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION. FOR FOUR YEARS AFTER AN INITIATED STATUTORY MEASURE'S EFFECTIVE DATE, THE MEASURE'S PROVISIONS SHALL PREVAIL OVER ANY PROVISION IN A BILL PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEFORE THE INITIATIVE'S EFFECTIVE DATE, REGARDLESS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE BILL'S PROVISION, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE BILL'S PROVISION CONFLICTS WITH OR FRUSTRATES THE MEASURE'S PURPOSE OR IMPLEMENTATION. This section shall not OTHERWISE be construed to deprive the general assembly of the power to enact any measure.

**SECTION 3. Severability.**

If any provision of this initiative, or the application of any provision of this initiative to any person, office, or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this initiative and the application of its provision to any person, office, or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

**SECTION 4. Effective date.**

This initiative takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2027.