

Title: Public Real Property Index

Sponsors: Reps. Coleman & Larson, Sens. Bridges & Gardner

Purpose:

This bill assists nonprofits and other entities providing a community benefit by expanding accessibility and information already listed by the Office of the State Architect. This bill enlarges the current list of state-owned facilities to assist entities helping the public in securing adequate and affordable real estate spaces.

Background:

For many nonprofit service organizations such as early childhood centers and community health providers, one of the key barriers to providing their services is finding adequate and affordable spaces from which to offer them. Facilities access and affordability have been difficult for these entities: a 2014 survey found 80% of nonprofits lacked the space for future programs and the budget to lease commercial space; but the problem has become even more acute in recent years as the real estate market in Colorado has strengthened, cannabis and other industries have expanded, and property values have escalated. Right now, there is very little insight into what publicly owned buildings and land are potentially available. To address this problem, we propose creating a statewide inventory of all underutilized or vacant publicly owned buildings, and requiring that the inventory be accessible free of charge on the website of the Office of the State Architect. Such an inventory would create more transparency around spaces that are not currently being used to capacity and would create more opportunities for these spaces to be put to good use in the benefit of Colorado's communities. The Office of the State Architect does currently maintain a list of state-owned facilities, but it is not easily accessible to all, it does not include contact information for the various assets listed, and it is not inclusive of appropriate properties.

Bill Action:

This bill builds upon the list the Office of the State Architect already maintains, allowing interested parties to understand plans for the real estate and have all relevant information to pursue a potential occupancy.

