

## CHAPTER 366

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**GOVERNMENT - STATE**

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## HOUSE BILL 26-1304

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lindsay and Winter T., Story, Duran, Espenoza, Rutinel, Weinberg;  
also SENATOR(S) Pelton B. and Hinrichsen, Mullica, Kipp, Coleman.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF HISTORY COLORADO TO DISPOSE OF RIGHTS RELATED TO MINERALS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF WELD COUNTY RIGHTS AND WEST VIRGINIA RIGHTS.**

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

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) In 1980, the state historical society, also known as history Colorado, was deeded mineral rights and a nonparticipating royalty interest on various parcels in Weld County, referred to as the Weld County rights. The Weld County rights were donated to history Colorado through the estate of Eleanor Bein.

(b) In 2012, history Colorado was deeded mineral rights on various parcels in West Virginia, referred to as the West Virginia rights, which were mistakenly recorded as belonging to St. Elizabeth's Retreat Chapel. In 2024, an oil and natural gas company contacted history Colorado to relay the mistaken recording of mineral rights.

(c) History Colorado has determined that the intent of the donors of the Weld County rights and the West Virginia rights are best served by selling the rights. Given the current market interest in the rights, history Colorado has determined that a sale would be most financially beneficial for history Colorado in the near term. A sale would also alleviate history Colorado from administrative obligations associated with the rights.

**SECTION 2. History Colorado authority to dispose of real property.**

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

(1) The state of Colorado, acting by and through the state historical society, also known as history Colorado, is authorized to dispose of mineral rights and nonparticipating royalty interests associated with the following properties:

(a) Section 28, Township 4 north, range 68 west, 6th Principal Meridian, Weld County, Colorado; and

(b) West Virginia property formerly associated with St. Elizabeth's Retreat Chapel.

(2) The state controller must approve all agreements relating to the disposition described in subsection (1) of this section prior to closing. History Colorado shall provide an update on the disposition of mineral rights and nonparticipating royalty interests to the capital development committee.

(3) History Colorado shall credit the proceeds of the disposition described in subsection (1) of this section to the state museum cash fund created in section 24-80-214 to be used for a strategic investment in capital improvements, including the retrofitting of the collections care facility and controlled maintenance.

**SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: June 3, 2026