

Special Districts Act – The Quick Guide

CRS 32-1-101 et seq.

| 32-1-102. Legislative declaration | |
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| <p>(1) The general assembly hereby declares that the organization of special districts providing the services and having the purposes, powers, and authority provided in this article will serve a public use and will promote the health, safety, prosperity, security, and general welfare of the inhabitants of such districts and of the people of the state of Colorado.</p> <p>(2) The general assembly further declares that the procedures contained in part 2 of this article are necessary for the coordinated and orderly creation of special districts and for the logical extension of special district services throughout the state. It is the purpose of part 2 of this article to prevent unnecessary proliferation and fragmentation of local government and to avoid excessive diffusion of local tax sources.</p> <p>(3) The general assembly further declares that the purpose of part 5 of this article is to facilitate the elimination of the overlapping of services provided by local governments and the double taxation which may occur because of annexation or otherwise when all or part of the taxable property of an area lies within the boundaries of both a municipality and a special district.</p> <p>(4) The general assembly further declares that it is the policy of this state to provide for and encourage the consolidation of special districts and to provide the means therefor by simple procedures in order to prevent or reduce duplication, overlapping, and fragmentation of the functions and facilities of special districts; that such consolidation will better serve the people of this state; and that consolidated districts will result in reduced costs and increased efficiency of operation.</p> <p>(5) The general assembly further declares that the purpose of part 7 of this article is to facilitate dissolution of special districts in order to reduce the proliferation, fragmentation, and overlapping of local governments and to encourage assumption of services by other governmental entities.</p> | |
| Part 1: General Provisions | Rough, non-legal summary of statute: Special Districts Act* |
| 32-1-103 Definitions. | A special district is “any quasi-municipal corporation and political corporation and political subdivision organized or acting pursuant to the provisions of this article.” <i>Libraries are not included in the definitions.</i> |
| 32-1-104 Establishment of a special districts file. | Sets procedures for the establishment of special districts. |
| 32-1-105 Notice of organization, dissolution, or boundary change. | Sets procedures for the organization, dissolution, or change of boundaries with special districts. |
| 32-1-106 Repetitioning of elections - time limits. | Sets time frame for repetitioning proposals for the organization or dissolution of special districts. Also addresses repetitioning of bond issues. |
| 32-1-107 Service area of special districts. | A special district may consist of several municipalities or counties and can be made up of areas that are not connected. With some exceptions, a special district may not exist within another special district. |

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| 32-1-108 Correction of faulty notices. | If a notice is provided related to the Special District Provisions and the court finds that due notice was not given to the special district, the court should order due notice is given and proceed as though the notice had been given properly in the first instance. |
| 32-1-109 Early hearings. | Questions about the validity of the organization of a special district should be heard by the court at the earliest practicable moment. |
| 32-1-110 Construction of other laws. | The Special District Provisions are controlling over other laws that may be inconsistent with the provisions. |
| 32-1-111 Validation of special districts - bonds. | Bonds and obligations incurred prior to July 1, 1981, and related proceedings are validated. |
| 32-1-112 Validation of boundaries of metropolitan districts. | Validates changes and proposed changes to the boundaries of metropolitan districts that were initiated prior to March 31, 1981, as long as the changes were in accordance with terms and authorization proceedings. |
| 32-1-113 Liberal construction. | This article should be liberally construed to effect its purposes. |
| Parts 2 – 18 | |
| 32-1-201 through 32-1-1807 | Specific provisions concerning organization, territory, consolidation, dissolution, elections, special board districts, general and financial powers, taxes, and contracts. |

* Consult with your respective city, county, or district lawyers for legal advice on, and implications of, Colorado Library Law, or call the Colorado State Library for additional information.

For further Public Library Information: www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/LibDev/PubLib/publibrary.htm



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