Division of Labor Standards and Statistics

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Statement of Basis, Purpose, Specific Statutory Authority, and Findings

Protections for Public Workers Act (PROPWA) Rules, 7 CCR 1103-17 (2024), as proposed August 30, 2024, to be followed and replaced by a final Statement at the conclusion of the rulemaking process.

I. Basis:

The Director ("Director") of the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics ("Division") has the authority to adopt rules and regulations under the authority listed in Part II, which is incorporated into Part I as well. These proposed amendments update the Protections for Public Workers Act (PROPWA) Rules, 7 CCR 1103-17, which implement the "Protections for Public Workers Act" (PROPWA), as amended, including <u>Colorado Senate</u> Bill 23-111 and <u>Colorado Senate</u> Bill 24-232.

II. Specific Statutory Authority:

These rules are issued under the authority and as implementation and enforcement of Colorado Revised Statutes ("C.R.S.") Title 29, Article 33 (2024), the "Protections for Public Workers Act," as well as the general labor law implementation and enforcement authority of C.R.S. Title 8, Articles 1 and 3 (2024), and are intended to be consistent with the rulemaking requirements of the State Administrative Procedure Act, § 24-4-103. These Rules are promulgated pursuant to express authority including, but not limited to, C.R.S. §§ 8-1-118 and 29-33-105.

III. Findings, Justifications, and Reasons for Adoption:

Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-4-103(4)(b), the Director finds as follows: **(A)** demonstrated need exists for these rules, as detailed in the findings in Part IV, which are incorporated into this finding as well; **(B)** proper statutory authority exists for the rules, as detailed in the list of statutory authority in Part II, which is incorporated into this finding as well; **(C)** to the extent practicable, the rules are clearly stated so that their meaning will be understood by any party required to comply; **(D)** the rules do not conflict with other provisions of law; and **(E)** any duplicating or overlapping has been minimized and is explained by the Division.

IV. Specific Findings for Adoption:

Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-4-103(6) the Director finds as follows.

The Protections for Public Workers Act ("PROPWA," or "the Act"), S.B. 23-111 (Ch. 393, Sec. 2349, § 29-33-101 et seq., 2023 Colo. Sess. Laws 2349-2354), was enacted June 6, 2023, and fully effective July 1, 2024. The Protections for Public Workers Act Rules ("PROPWA Rules"), 7 CCR 1103-17, were adopted on February 2, 2024, and effective July 1, 2024. On June 7, 2024, amendments to PROPWA were enacted in S.B. 24-232 (the "2024 PROPWA Amendments"), effective August 7, 2024.

The key provisions of the 2024 PROPWA Amendments added or changed several limitations in PROPWA for certain confidential, managerial, and non-partisan employees, and for disruptive activity. The 2024 PROPWA Amendments included provisions defining the scope of, and the terms relevant to, those limitations. The 2024 PROPWA Amendments also added or modified certain other definitions, including of concerted activity and of employee organizations, in ways that mainly clarify rather than change the substance. The passage of these 2024 PROPWA Amendments required amending the PROPWA Rules to conform to those enacted statutory additions and changes.

V. Effective Date:

If adopted, these rules take effect December 1, 2024, or as soon after as rulemaking completes.

Scott Moss

Director, Division of Labor Standards and Statistics Colorado Department of Labor and Employment