

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-1044.02 Jennifer Gilroy x4327

HR21-1005

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Garnett,

House Committees

HOUSE RESOLUTION 21-1005

101 **CONCERNING THE APPROVAL BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF**
102 **THE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENT OF ANNIE KAO TO FILL THE**
103 **HOUSE APPOINTEE VACANCY ON THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS**
104 **COMMISSION.**

1 WHEREAS, Section 5 (2)(a)(II) of article XXIX of the state
2 constitution requires the Colorado House of Representatives to appoint
3 one member to the Independent Ethics Commission created in section 5
4 (1) of said article, hereafter referred to as the "Commission", and section
5 24-18.5-101 (2)(a), Colorado Revised Statutes, directs the Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives to appoint that member with the approval of
7 two-thirds of the members elected to the House of Representatives; and

8 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the authority granted to the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives under section 24-18.5-101 (2)(a), Colorado
10 Revised Statutes, Speaker KC Becker appointed, and by approval of
11 House Resolution 19-1010, the members of the House of Representatives
12 approved the appointment of Debra Johnson to serve a four-year term as
13 the House appointee to the Commission, commencing July 1, 2019; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 23, 2021, Commissioner Johnson gave

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 written notice to the Commission of her intent to resign from the
2 Commission, effective July 1, 2021; and

3 WHEREAS, Section 5 (2)(e) of article XXIX of the state
4 constitution provides that, when a member of the Commission is
5 appointed to fill an unexpired term, that member's term ends at the same
6 time as the term of the person being replaced; and

7 WHEREAS, Pursuant to his authority, Speaker Alec Garnett has
8 appointed Annie Kao to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of
9 Debra Johnson from the Commission, effective July 1, 2021, to serve as
10 the House appointee to the Commission for the remainder of the
11 unexpired term through June 30, 2023; and

12 WHEREAS, Ms. Kao, who is affiliated with the Democratic Party,
13 is the founder of Ascent Inclusion Consulting, an entity focused on
14 providing guidance for the advancement of inclusion, equity, and
15 diversity in the outdoor industry and the outdoor recreation economy,
16 bringing together people of all abilities, races, ethnicities, genders, and
17 diverse backgrounds and identities in the pursuit of an outdoors for all;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The establishment of Ascent Inclusion Consulting has
20 provided Ms. Kao the opportunity to combine her legal education and
21 experience with her personal love of the outdoors and her passion for and
22 expertise in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoor
23 industry and recreation economy; and

24 WHEREAS, From 2010 to 2020, Ms. Kao served as in-house
25 counsel for Vail Resorts, including as Assistant General Counsel --
26 Mountain Resorts and as lead operations attorney for several world-class
27 resorts, including Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone, and
28 Whistler Blackcomb; and

29 WHEREAS, Prior to her work with Vail Resorts, Ms. Kao was a
30 commercial trial attorney in Denver at the law firms of Hogan Lovells
31 from 2008 to 2010 and at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck from 2003 to
32 2008, following a judicial clerkship with Chief Justice Mary J. Mullarkey
33 of the Colorado Supreme Court from 2002 to 2003; and

34 WHEREAS, Ms. Kao advanced the interests of Asian Pacific
35 American legal professionals in her capacity as a Regional Governor of

1 the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association from 2007 to 2009
2 and subsequently as the Secretary of the Association from 2009 to 2010,
3 and as the President of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of
4 Colorado from 2007 to 2008; and

5 WHEREAS, Because of her personal life experiences, her
6 extensive legal training and experience, her understanding and respect for
7 others, and her unique ability to connect and communicate with a wide
8 variety of audiences, Ms. Kao has inspired positive change in a variety of
9 industries, fostering open dialogue geared toward building an essential
10 foundation of understanding, trust, and respect; and

11 WHEREAS, Through her volunteer efforts, similarly focused on
12 advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoor industry and
13 recreation economy, Ms. Kao serves as a Board Member of and Secretary
14 for the Share Winter Foundation, a grant-making and resource hub whose
15 mission is to improve the lives, health, and fitness of youth through
16 winter sports by creating a more diverse, inclusive, and welcoming winter
17 sports community; and

18 WHEREAS, Ms. Kao has been invited to be a guest lecturer at the
19 University of Colorado Boulder's Leeds School of Business and Colorado
20 Mesa University's outdoor recreation industries studies program, and to
21 serve as a partner to the Outdoor Industry Master of Business
22 Administration program at Western Colorado University because of her
23 ability to educate, motivate, and inspire others; and

24 WHEREAS, On the basis of her dedicated service to the
25 betterment of her community, her considerable legal knowledge and
26 experience, and her undisputed reputation as an individual of integrity
27 and compassion, Annie Kao has demonstrated the temperament and
28 personal qualities that will enable her to serve as a respected member of
29 the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission in an exemplary manner
30 and in a way that will reflect well upon the House of Representatives, the
31 Colorado General Assembly, and the State of Colorado; now, therefore,

32 *Be It Further Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
33 *Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

34 That the House of Representatives hereby approves Speaker
35 Garnett's appointment of Annie Kao to fill the vacancy occasioned by the
36 resignation of Debra Johnson as the House appointee to the Independent

1 Ethics Commission, effective July 1, 2021, for the remainder of the
2 unexpired term ending June 30, 2023.

3 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this House Resolution be
4 sent to the Chair of the Independent Ethics Commission, the Executive
5 Director of the Independent Ethics Commission, and Ms. Kao.