

2026 Legislative Priority Proposal
Updated: 9/15/25

Update Statutory Definition of Entertainment District	
Huerfano County (Commissioner Karl Sporleder)	
Preferred Contact:	commissioners@huerfano.us
Co-Sponsoring Counties/Commissioners:	None.
Who is your subject matter expert?	Carl Young, County Administrator, Huerfano County, 719.225.3890, cyoung@huerfano.us
Has this proposal been approved by your BoCC?	Yes.
Have you reviewed the CCI Instructional Memo?	Yes.
Describe the problem your proposal will solve.	As currently written State Law severely limits, or effectively prohibits, small rural communities from creating entertainment districts and taking advantage of the State allowing common consumption areas. This removes a potential economic opportunity for small communities.
Areas of Impact:	Power/Authority/Mandate of county government; General community advancement.
What is the ultimate source of this problem?	Outdated Statute - One size fits all.
What is your initial proposal to solve this problem?	We propose to amend C.R.S. § 44-3-103(15)(c) to eliminate the square footage minimum. This would allow local governments and their business communities the option of creating entertainment districts.
Please provide sample language for this solution.	<p>C.R.S. § 44-3-103(15)(c) Proposed text:</p> <p>Strike: "Contains at least twenty thousand square feet of premises that, at the time the district is created, is"</p> <p>And replace with: "IS ZONED, OR CUSTOMARILY USED, FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES AND CONTAINS ANY COMBINATION OF PREMISES licensed pursuant to this article 3 as:"" [...]"</p>
Are there any solutions that do not require state-level legislation? Has your county explored these alternatives?	This is purely a statutory issue.

Has CCI or any other organizations sought a solution to this problem before?	Not to our knowledge.
What possible organization(s) would support your proposed solution?	We believe we would have support from local chambers of commerce, restaurant industry.
What possible organization(s) would oppose your proposed solution?	We do not believe this proposal will encounter significant opposition.
Have you spoken with any legislators about your proposed solution? If so, what was their response?	Not yet.
What are the financial implications of this problem to your county? Are there any financial implications to this solution either?	We believe this problem limits opportunities for tourism and capturing tourism spending in Huerfano County. We have some non-profits with enough manpower to pull special event permits and provide alcoholic beverage service, but these groups are reliant on volunteers and donations of product to sell. This solution will not lead to measurable cost increases for our County.
What are the financial implications of this problem to any other impacted parties? What are the financial implications of this solution to any other impacted parties? <i>Please consider any relevant Colorado State Departments.</i>	This problem prevents local bars and restaurants in smaller communities from taking full advantage of street festivals, limiting potential economic gain and sale tax revenue. We do not believe this solution will have a negative financial impact or require additional state appropriations.
Staff Feedback	<u>Risk/Difficulty</u> : Low – A bill creating an option for flexibility in creating an entertainment district could be successful. Local chambers and businesses would be likely allies. Sponsors would still need to be secured.

	<u>Time Commitment:</u> Medium – Staff would be responsible for securing sponsors and conducting stakeholder meetings, as well as seeing the bill through the process. However, drafting appears to be simple, especially if an option is created for smaller counties.
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