Colorado Enacts Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act as California and New York Progress Their Own Bills

June 12, 2025

Last week, the Governor of Colorado signed the Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act ("the Colorado Act") into law, making Colorado the second U.S. state to enact a broad antitrust pre-merger notification requirement following Washington State in April.¹ The Colorado Act is expected to take effect on August 6, shortly after the Washington Act goes into effect on July 27. Both state laws are based on model antitrust legislation published by the Uniform Law Commission in 2024 and require that merging parties satisfying certain conditions (having a principal place of business in the state and annual in-state sales involved in the transaction of at least 20% of the HSR filing threshold) file a copy of their Hart-Scott-Rodino ("HSR") form with the State Attorney General.² Similar pre-merger notification laws have progressed in other state legislatures over the last weeks, achieving passage in the Senates of both California (on June 2) and New York (June 4).³

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https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2025a_126_signed.pdf;

S.B. 5122, 69 Leg., 2025 Reg. Sess. (Wash. 2025), <u>https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5122.PL.pdf?q=20250408084052</u>.

³ S.B. 25, 2025 Leg., 2025-2026 Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2025),

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB25; S.B. S335, 2025 Leg., 2025-2026 Reg. Sess. (N.Y. 2025), https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S335.



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¹ S.B. 25-126, 75th Gen. Assemb., 1st Reg. Sess. (Colo. 2025),

² Uniform Law Commission, Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act, <u>https://www.uniformlaws.org/viewdocument/final-act-104?CommunityKey=6bf5d101-d698-4c72-b7c1-0191302a6a95&tab=librarydocuments</u>.

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I. Colorado Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger **Notification Act: Key Provisions**

Like the Washington pre-merger notification law enacted in April, the Colorado Act hews closely to the text developed by the Uniform Law Commission and contains all of the same key provisions regarding thresholds, requirements, fees, penalties, and confidentiality.

Thresholds

Parties to a transaction are required to file HSR forms with the Colorado Attorney General if:

- 1) their principal place of business is in the state, or
- 2) if they (or a person they control) "directly or indirectly had annual net sales in this state of the goods or services involved in the transaction of at least twenty percent of the filing threshold."

At the current \$126.4 million federal HSR filing threshold, this amounts to a state minimum of \$25.28 million.⁴

Colorado, like Washington and a number of other states, also has a separate but narrower preexisting healthcare-specific pre-merger notification law: since 2008, transactions involving a transfer of 50 percent or more of a hospital's assets must be reported to the Colorado Attorney General.⁵

Requirements

Parties meeting either of the above threshold conditions must file a complete electronic copy of the HSR form and any "additional documentary material" filed with the form (e.g., "Business Documents" under the new HSR rules) with the Colorado Attorney General contemporaneously with their federal filing.

Fees

https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/competitionmatters/2025/02/new-hsr-thresholds-filing-fees-2025. Colorado, like Washington, conforms to the Uniform Law Commission's model in specifying that the Attorney General may not charge a fee in connection with the pre-merger notification requirement.

Penalties

Colorado, like Washington, adopts the Uniform Law Commission's suggested penalty for failure to file of \$10,000 per day of noncompliance.

Confidentiality

Colorado follows the Uniform Law Commission's confidentiality and reciprocity provisions, prohibiting publication or disclosure of filings except under limited circumstances (e.g. by the attorney general under a protective order in an administrative proceeding or judicial action).

In comments to its model confidentiality provisions, the Uniform Law Commission stated that its goal was to "facilitate information sharing and collaboration among the AGs and the federal antitrust agencies, and among the AGs themselves."6

II. Developments in Other States

As noted above, in the first week of June, the Senates of both California and New York passed their respective pre-merger notification legislation. The California bill largely adopts the same Uniform Act text enacted by Colorado and Washington, with one notable exception of a filing fee of \$1,000 for filings by parties meeting the principal place of business condition and \$500 for other filings.⁷ By contrast, New York's proposed legislation, the Twenty-First Century Antitrust Act, includes much broader pre-merger notification requirements: "any person conducting business in the state" required to file an HSR form for a transaction would have to provide the same notice and documentation in its entirety simultaneously to the New York AG.⁸ This represents the fourth attempt by New York legislatures since 2020 to significantly

⁴ Federal Trade Commission, New HSR thresholds and filing fees for 2025 (Feb. 6, 2025),

⁵ Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 6-19-101.

⁶ Uniform Law Commission, Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act, p. 6.

⁷ S.B. 25, 2025 Leg., 2025-2026 Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2025).

⁸ S.B. S335, 2025 Leg., 2025-2026 Reg. Sess. (N.Y. 2025),

p. 5, https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S335.

expand the scope of New York's preexisting antitrust legislation, the Donnelly Act.⁹

Both the California and New York bills, however, remain subject to approval by their Assemblies and Governors.

While bills equivalent to the Colorado and Washington laws remain pending in <u>Hawaii</u>, <u>West Virginia</u>, and <u>Washington, D.C.</u>, they have failed to pass in <u>Nevada</u> and <u>Utah</u>.¹⁰

III. Federal Backdrop

These state law developments are occurring against a backdrop of expanded federal reporting requirements. In addition to the heightened demands imposed by the new HSR form, which went into effect February 10 of this year, Section 857 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandates that parties to proposed mergers or acquisitions "that will require a review by the Department of Defense" and which are already being filed with the DOJ or FTC must "concurrently provide such information to the Department of Defense during the waiting period."¹¹ This provision has been in effect since December 2023, but in conjunction with new state notification requirements, it further broadens the potential list of HSR form recipients for some merging parties. Taken together, these developments reflect a growing trend toward expanded antitrust scrutiny at both the state and federal levels, underscoring the need for merging parties to plan for a more complex and multi-layered pre-merger notification landscape.

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⁹ N.Y. Gen. Bus. L. § 340.

¹⁰ S.B. 348, 32nd Leg., 2025 Reg. Sess. (Haw. 2025), <u>https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx</u> <u>?billtype=SB&billnumber=348&year=2025</u>; H.B. 2110, 87th Legis., 2025 Reg. Sess. (W. Va. 2025), <u>https://www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bills_history.cfm?</u> <u>input=2110&year=2025&sessiontype=rs&btype=bill</u>; S.B. 32, 87th Legis., 2025 Reg. Session (W. Va. 2025), <u>https://www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bills_history.cfm?</u> <u>input=32&year=2025&sessiontype=rs&btype=bill</u>; B. 26-0030, Council (D.C. 2025),

https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B26-0030; S.B. 218, 2025 Leg., 83rd Sess. (Nev. 2025),

https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/83rd2025/Bill/

<u>12306/Overview;</u> H.B. 466 S1, 66th Leg., 2025 Gen. Sess. (Utah 2025),

https://le.utah.gov/~2025/bills/static/HB0466.html.

¹¹ National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 § 857, Pub. L. 118-31, 137 Stat. 136, 346 (2023), <u>https://www.congress.gov/118/plaws/publ31/PLAW-</u> 118publ31.pdf.