

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 14-0331.02 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 14-027

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Guzman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees
Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR
102 PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO APPEAR IN
103 COURT.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill requires a fingerprint-based criminal history background check for a law license applicant and a child and family investigator. The bill updates the license to practice law statute.

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

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-5-101 as
3 follows:

4 **12-5-101. License to practice necessary.** (1) No person shall be
5 permitted to practice as an attorney- or counselor-at-law or to commence,
6 conduct, or defend any action, suit, or plaint in which he OR SHE is not a
7 party concerned in any court of record within this state, either by using or
8 subscribing his OR HER own name or the name of any other person,
9 without having previously obtained a license ~~for that purpose from the~~
10 ~~supreme court. Said license shall constitute the person receiving the same~~
11 ~~an attorney- and counselor-at-law and shall authorize him to appear in all~~
12 ~~the courts of record in this state and there to practice as an attorney- and~~
13 ~~counselor-at-law according to the laws and customs thereof for and~~
14 ~~during his good behavior in said practice, and to demand and to receive~~
15 ~~all such fees as are established for any services which he renders as an~~
16 ~~attorney- and counselor-at-law in this state. Nothing in this section shall~~
17 ~~be construed to require membership in a professional organization or bar~~
18 ~~association as a prerequisite to licensure~~ OR OTHER AUTHORIZATION TO
19 PRACTICE LAW PURSUANT TO THE SUPREME COURT'S RULES GOVERNING
20 ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN COLORADO.

21 (2) UPON REQUEST OF THE SUPREME COURT OR ITS OFFICE OF
22 ATTORNEY REGULATION COUNSEL, THE COLORADO BUREAU OF
23 INVESTIGATION SHALL CONDUCT A STATE AND NATIONAL
24 FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK, UTILIZING
25 RECORDS OF THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE
26 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. UPON COMPLETION OF THE

1 CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK, THE BUREAU SHALL PROVIDE THE
2 RESULTS TO THE REQUESTING PERSON. UPON REQUEST OF THE SUPREME
3 COURT OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS OFFICE OF ATTORNEY REGULATION
4 COUNSEL, THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SHALL ALSO
5 PROVIDE A NAME-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK FOR ANY
6 APPLICANT WHOSE FINGERPRINTS ARE UNCLASSIFIABLE.

7 (3) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SHALL COOPERATE WITH
8 ANY SUPREME COURT REQUEST FOR RECORDS RELATED TO CRIMINAL
9 HISTORY.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 14-10-116.5, **add** (4)
11 as follows:

12 **14-10-116.5. Appointment in domestic relations cases - child**
13 **and family investigator - disclosure.** (4) PRIOR TO BEING APPOINTED AS
14 A CHILD AND FAMILY INVESTIGATOR, THE PERSON SHALL SUBMIT A
15 COMPLETE SET OF HIS OR HER FINGERPRINTS TO THE JUDICIAL
16 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF A BACKGROUND CHECK, AND THE
17 JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE BASED ON THE BACKGROUND
18 CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON IS SUITABLE TO ACT AS A CHILD AND FAMILY
19 INVESTIGATOR. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FORWARD SUCH FINGERPRINTS
20 TO THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
21 CONDUCTING A STATE AND NATIONAL FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL
22 HISTORY RECORD CHECK UTILIZING THE RECORDS OF THE COLORADO
23 BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.
24 THE DEPARTMENT IS THE AUTHORIZED AGENCY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION
25 REGARDING THE RESULT OF A NATIONAL FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL
26 HISTORY RECORD CHECK. UPON REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE
27 COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SHALL ALSO PROVIDE A

1 NAME-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK FOR ANY PERSON WHOSE
2 FINGERPRINTS ARE UNCLASSIFIABLE. THE APPLICANT SHALL PAY THE COST
3 ASSOCIATED WITH THE BACKGROUND CHECK.

4 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.