

**NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signatures of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.**



SENATE BILL 12-102

BY SENATOR(S) Brophy, Aguilar, Cadman, Carroll, Giron, Grantham, Guzman, Jahn, King K., King S., Mitchell, Neville, Roberts, Scheffel, Spence, Steadman, White, Williams S., Shaffer B.;  
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Nikkel, Levy.

CONCERNING THE REPEAL OF THE CRIME OF CRIMINAL LIBEL.

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 18-13-105 as follows:

**18-13-105. Criminal libel.** ~~(1) A person who shall knowingly publish or disseminate, either by written instrument, sign, pictures, or the like, any statement or object tending to blacken the memory of one who is dead, or to impeach the honesty, integrity, virtue, or reputation or expose the natural defects of one who is alive, and thereby to expose him to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule, commits criminal libel.~~

~~(2) It shall be an affirmative defense that the publication was true, except libels tending to blacken the memory of the dead and libels tending to expose the natural defects of the living.~~

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*Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.*

~~(3) Criminal libel is a class 6 felony.~~

**SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect September 1, 2012; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be

held in November 2012 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

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Brandon C. Shaffer  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

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Frank McNulty  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Cindi L. Markwell  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

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Marilyn Eddins  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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John W. Hickenlooper  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO