First Regular Session Sixty-ninth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0756.01 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 13-122

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Lambert, Lundberg

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

House Committees

Judiciary State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

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 creates a new part for criminal defendant's rights that includes requiring:

- ! The prosecution to provide all discovery documents to the defendant at no cost to the defendant;
- ! The prosecution to provide all discovery in its possession within 20 days from the defendant's first appearance and any discovery it receives after that date within 72 hours of

- the date when the prosecution receives the discovery;
- ! The court to provide a written ruling on any motion if the defendant files a motion at least 10 days prior to the trial date; and
- ! The court to hold a hearing on a defendant's motion to dismiss.

The bill states that the statute of limitations on state tax fraud cases begins to run on the date the tax return is due. For tax fraud cases, the case must be tried in the county where the return was filed or delivered and must be prosecuted by the local district attorney.

Under current law certain tax fraud crimes are class 5 felonies. The bill makes those crimes a class 1 misdemeanor if the amount of tax owed is \$3,000 or less. For a first offense, the penalty is limited to a fine equal to 25% of the tax owed and up to one year of probation.

The following changes apply only to tax fraud cases. If the United States internal revenue service rules that the defendant has no untaxed federal income for the tax year related to the charges, the court shall dismiss all charges against the defendant with prejudice. If a district attorney is going to charge a person, the district attorney shall notify the person of his or her intent and request that the person surrender to local law enforcement within 24 hours. If the person does not surrender to local law enforcement, the person may be arrested. The court may not set a monetary bond in excess of the amount of tax owed as specified in the charging document excluding interest. If a defendant is acquitted of any tax fraud charge or has a tax fraud charge dismissed by the court or an appellate court, the court shall enter an order for attorney fees and costs and actual damages for the defendant. The district attorney is liable for the attorney fees and costs and actual damages.

If a defendant appeals a tax fraud conviction, all requested transcripts necessary for the appeal shall be delivered to the defendant within 90 days of the defendant's written request. In a tax fraud appeal, the court of appeals or supreme court shall issue its opinion within one year after the defendant files his or her notice of appeal.

The bill creates a civil penalty of \$100 for failure to file a state tax return.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 7 to article

3 9 of title 16 as follows:

4 PART 7

5 DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS

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1	16-9-701. Discovery - no cost to the defendant - timing.
2	(1) THE PROSECUTION SHALL PROVIDE ALL DISCOVERY DOCUMENTS TO
3	THE DEFENDANT AT NO COST TO THE DEFENDANT.
4	(2) (a) THE PROSECUTION SHALL PROVIDE THE DEFENDANT WITH
5	ALL DISCOVERY IN ITS POSSESSION WITHIN TWENTY DAYS FROM THE
6	DEFENDANT'S FIRST APPEARANCE AND SHALL PROVIDE ANY DISCOVERY IT
7	RECEIVES AFTER THAT DATE WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS OF THE DATE
8	WHEN THE PROSECUTION RECEIVES THE DISCOVERY.
9	(b) THE PROSECUTION SHALL PROVIDE ALL RELEVANT
10	INFORMATION FROM THE GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS IN ITS DISCOVERY.
11	16-9-702. Defendant's rights - hearings and motions. (1) IF
12	THE DEFENDANT FILES A MOTION AT LEAST TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE TRIAL
13	DATE, THE COURT SHALL PROVIDE A WRITTEN RULING ON THE MOTION.
14	THE COURT MAY PROVIDE A WRITTEN RULING UPON ANY OTHER MOTION
15	FILED BY THE DEFENDANT.
16	(2) The court shall hold a hearing on a defendant's
17	MOTION TO DISMISS.
18	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-5-401, add (4.3)
19	as follows:
20	16-5-401. Limitation for commencing criminal proceedings
21	and juvenile delinquency proceedings. (4.3) The statute of
22	LIMITATIONS FOR A VIOLATION OF SECTION 39-21-118, C.R.S., BEGINS TO
23	RUN ON THE DATE THE TAX RETURN IS DUE.
24	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1-202, add (14)
25	as follows:
26	18-1-202. Place of trial. (14) If a person is charged with a
27	VIOLATION OF SECTION 39-21-118, C.R.S., THE PERSON MUST BE TRIED IN

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1	THE COUNTY WHERE THE TAX RETURN WAS MAILED OR DELIVERED OR
2	WHERE THE PERSON LIVED IF NO RETURN IS FILED, AND THE CASE MUST BE
3	PROSECUTED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THAT JUDICIAL DISTRICT.
4	ONLY THE DEFENDANT MAY FILE A REQUEST FOR A CHANGE OF VENUE.
5	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 39-21-118, amend
6	(1) and (2); and add (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11) as follows:
7	39-21-118. Criminal penalties. (1) (a) Any person who willfully
8	attempts in any manner to evade or defeat any tax IN EXCESS OF THREE
9	THOUSAND DOLLARS administered by the department or the payment
10	thereof, in addition to other penalties provided by law, is guilty of a class
11	5 felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in
12	section 18-1.3-401, C.R.S., or shall be punished by a fine of not more
13	than one hundred thousand dollars, or five hundred thousand dollars in
14	the case of a corporation, or by both such fine and imprisonment, together
15	with the costs of prosecution.
16	(b) ANY PERSON WHO WILLFULLY ATTEMPTS IN ANY MANNER TO
17	EVADE OR DEFEAT ANY TAX THAT IS THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR LESS
18	ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, IN
19	ADDITION TO OTHER PENALTIES PROVIDED BY LAW, IS GUILTY OF A CLASS
20	1 MISDEMEANOR. IF THE PERSON IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF THIS
21	PARAGRAPH (b) AND HAS NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF A
22	VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL REQUIRE THE DEFENDANT
23	TO PAY THE TAX OWED AND A FINE EQUAL TO TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF
24	THE TAX OWED AND MAY IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF PROBATION NOT TO
25	EXCEED ONE YEAR.
26	(2) (a) Any person required, or any person who purports to be
27	required under any title administered by the department to collect.

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account for, or pay over any tax IN EXCESS OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS, who willfully fails to collect or truthfully account for or pay over such tax, including, but not limited to, willfully making a materially false statement in connection with an application for a refund of any tax for the purpose of falsely obtaining a refund of such tax, in addition to other penalties provided by law, is guilty of a class 5 felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-401, C.R.S., or shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars, or five hundred thousand dollars in the case of a corporation, or by both such fine and imprisonment, together with the costs of prosecution.

(b) Any person required, or any person who purports to be required, under any title administered by the department to collect, account for, or pay over any tax that is three thousand dollars or less, who willfully fails to collect or truthfully account for or pay over such tax, including but not limited to willfully making a materially false statement in connection with an application for a refund of any tax for the purpose of falsely obtaining a refund of such tax, in addition to other penalties provided by law, is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor. If the person is convicted of a violation of this paragraph (b) and has not been previously convicted of a violation of this section, the court shall require the defendant to pay the tax owed and a fine equal to twenty-five percent of the tax owed and may impose a sentence of probation not to exceed one year.

(6) (a) AN AGENCY THAT IS INVESTIGATING A PERSON FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOTIFY THE PERSON OF THE

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1	INVESTIGATION WITHIN AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS OF STARTING THE
2	INVESTIGATION.
3	(b) A PERSON MAY NOT BE CHARGED WITH A VIOLATION OF THIS
4	SECTION UNTIL ALL ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL APPEAL REMEDIES HAVE
5	BEEN EXHAUSTED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 39-21-103 AND 39-21-105.
6	(7) IN A CASE FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, IF THE UNITED
7	STATES INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RULES THAT THE DEFENDANT HAS NO
8	UNTAXED FEDERAL INCOME FOR THE TAX YEAR RELATED TO THE CHARGES
9	IN THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL DISMISS ALL CHARGES RELATED TO
10	THIS SECTION AGAINST THE DEFENDANT WITH PREJUDICE.
11	(8) IF A DISTRICT ATTORNEY INTENDS TO CHARGE A PERSON WITH
12	A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHALL NOTIFY
13	THE PERSON OF HIS OR HER INTENT AND REQUEST THAT THE PERSON
14	$SURRENDER\ TO\ LOCAL\ LAW\ ENFORCEMENT\ WITHIN\ TWENTY-FOUR\ HOURS.$
15	IF THE PERSON DOES NOT SURRENDER TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE
16	PERSON MAY BE ARRESTED.
17	(9) FOR A DEFENDANT CHARGED WITH A VIOLATION OF THIS
18	SECTION, THE COURT MAY NOT SET A MONETARY BOND IN EXCESS OF THE
19	AMOUNT OF TAX OWED AS SPECIFIED IN THE CHARGING DOCUMENT
20	EXCLUDING INTEREST.
21	(10) If a defendant is acquitted of any violation of this
22	SECTION OR HAS A CHARGE FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION DISMISSED
23	BY THE COURT OR AN APPELLATE COURT, THE COURT SHALL ENTER AN
24	ORDER FOR ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS AND ACTUAL DAMAGES FOR THE
25	DEFENDANT. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS LIABLE FOR THE ATTORNEY FEES
26	AND COSTS AND ACTUAL DAMAGES.
27	(11) (a) If a defendant appeals a conviction pursuant to

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1	THIS SECTION, ALL REQUESTED TRANSCRIPTS NECESSARY FOR THE APPEAL
2	SHALL BE DELIVERED TO THE DEFENDANT WITHIN NINETY DAYS OF THE
3	DEFENDANT'S WRITTEN REQUEST.
4	(b) IN AN APPEAL RELATED TO A CONVICTION FOR A VIOLATION OF
5	THIS SECTION, THE COURT OF APPEALS OR SUPREME COURT SHALL ISSUE
6	ITS OPINION WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER THE DEFENDANT FILES HIS OR HER
7	NOTICE OF APPEAL.
8	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 39-21-118.5 as
9	follows:
10	39-21-118.5. Civil penalty - failure to file a tax return.
11	(1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A PERSON WHO
12	FAILS TO FILE A STATE TAX RETURN IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY OF ONE
13	HUNDRED DOLLARS.
14	(2) This section may only be enforced by the district
15	ATTORNEY FOR THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE PERSON WHO FAILED TO
16	FILE THE TAX RETURN LIVED AT THE TIME OF THE FAILURE TO FILE. THE
17	DISTRICT ATTORNEY MUST SHOW BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE
18	THAT THE PERSON FAILED TO FILE A STATE TAX RETURN FOR THE COURT TO
19	FIND A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.
20	SECTION 6. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,
21	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
22	preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

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