

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 26-0200.01 Shelby Ross x4510

SENATE BILL 26-018

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Wallace and Kolker,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Froelich and Garcia,

Senate Committees

Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR THE DIGNITY OF A MINOR,**
102 **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, SUPPRESSING A COURT**
103 **RECORD ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGING A MINOR'S NAME.** ==

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://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the court to suppress a record associated with a petition seeking to change the name of a petitioner who is less than 18 years of age unless the petitioner was previously convicted of a felony. The bill authorizes the court to use the suppressed court record for administrative purposes, but the court is prohibited from publishing the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

petitioner's name or the petitioner's new name online. The bill authorizes an individual to access a suppressed court record without a court order if the individual obtains verbal consent from a party to the case and submits an affidavit to the court, upon penalty of perjury, that the individual has obtained the verbal consent.

In determining parenting time and the allocation of decision-making responsibility, the bill requires the court to consider whether the parties recognize the child's identity as it relates to a protected class.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-15-101, **add** (7) as follows:

13-15-101. Petition - proceedings - applicability - definition.

(7) (a) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (7), "SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD" MEANS A COURT RECORD THAT IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE TO JUDGES; COURT STAFF; A PARTY TO THE CASE, INCLUDING A PARTY'S ATTORNEY; AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT STAFF; AND AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A VALID COURT ORDER AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO THE COURT RECORD.

(b) (I) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, IF A PETITIONER IS UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF FILING THE PETITION, A COURT RECORD ASSOCIATED WITH A PETITION SEEKING TO CHANGE THE PETITIONER'S NAME IS A SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 13-15-102, THE SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD MAY BE USED BY THE COURT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, BUT THE COURT SHALL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE PUBLISH THE PETITIONER'S NAME OR THE PETITIONER'S NEW NAME ONLINE.

(II) THIS SUBSECTION (7)(b) DOES NOT APPLY IF THE NAME CHANGE IS GRANTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION AND THE GOOD CAUSE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION

1 APPLIES.

2 (III) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, IF A
3 PERSON PETITIONS THE COURT TO SUPPRESS A COURT RECORD ASSOCIATED
4 WITH A PETITION TO CHANGE THE PETITIONER'S NAME THAT IS FILED
5 BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COURT SHALL GRANT THE REQUEST AND ORDER
6 THE RECORDS SUPPRESSED.

7 (c) A COURT SHALL GRANT AN INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO A
8 SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD IF THE INDIVIDUAL OBTAINS VERBAL CONSENT
9 FROM A PARTY TO THE CASE AND SUBMITS AN AFFIDAVIT TO THE COURT,
10 UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS OBTAINED THE
11 VERBAL CONSENT.

12 **SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-15-102, add (3.5)**
13 **as follows:**

14 **13-15-102. Publication of change.**

15 (3.5) A PETITIONER IS NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF A
16 NAME CHANGE AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IF THE
17 PETITION IS BEING FILED BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, A PERSON WHO IS UNDER
18 EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.

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20 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
21 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
23 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
24 institutions.