

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

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0382.01 Owen Hatch x2698

HOUSE BILL 26-1103

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Garcia and Goldstein,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter,

House Committees

Judiciary

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AMENDING SPECIFIC LEGAL PROCESSES FOR CERTAIN**
102 **VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.**

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 a law enforcement entity that receives a report alleging an offense involving sexual assault or abuse of a child to contact a child advocacy center within the judicial district where the alleged crime occurred, or the nearest child advocacy center if the judicial district where the alleged crime occurred does not have a child advocacy center, within 24 hours after taking the report. The law enforcement entity is

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.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 24, 2026

required to collaborate with the child advocacy center in requesting a forensic interview for the alleged child victim.

The bill creates a rebuttable presumption that a witness who is a child or a person who has an intellectual and developmental disability will suffer serious emotional distress or trauma from courtroom testimony when the defendant is present.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) This act seeks to provide further pathways for justice and
5 healing for child victims and does not usurp or otherwise interfere with
6 the current mandatory reporting structure; and

7 (b) This act does not impose a required timeline for an
8 investigation, or for a forensic interview to be completed, but instead
9 ensures that a child victim receives professional care as early as is
10 feasible after an allegation of sexual abuse.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-31-908 as
12 follows:

13 **24-31-908. Required reporting of child sexual abuse.**

14 (1) WHEN A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, THE COLORADO
15 STATE PATROL, OR THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, OR A
16 PEACE OFFICER THEREOF, TAKES A REPORT ALLEGING AN OFFENSE LISTED
17 IN SECTION 18-3-411 (1), THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITY OR PEACE
18 OFFICER SHALL, WITHIN **ONE WEEK** AFTER TAKING THE REPORT, **NOTIFY**
19 **AND** REPORT THE ALLEGATION TO:

20 (a) A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER LOCATED WITHIN THE JUDICIAL
21 DISTRICT WHERE THE ALLEGED CRIME OCCURRED; OR

22 (b) IF THE ALLEGED OFFENSE OCCURRED IN A JURISDICTION OTHER

1 THAN THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH IT WAS REPORTED, THE CHILD
2 ADVOCACY CENTER IN THE APPROPRIATE JURISDICTION, AS DETERMINED
3 BY THE RECEIVING LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITY OR PEACE OFFICER. IN ALL
4 CASES, A LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITY OR PEACE OFFICER SHALL NOTIFY A
5 CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER WITHIN THE STATE.

6 (2) IF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST THAT PROHIBIT THE
7 LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITY OR PEACE OFFICER FROM NOTIFYING THE
8 CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OF THE ALLEGATION WITHIN ONE WEEK, THE
9 LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITY OR PEACE OFFICER MUST EXPLAIN THE
10 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES TO THE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER WHEN
11 THE ENTITY OR OFFICER REPORTS THE ALLEGATION.

12 (3) A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, THE COLORADO STATE
13 PATROL, OR THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, OR A PEACE
14 OFFICER THEREOF, SHALL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CHILD ADVOCACY
15 CENTER THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITY OR PEACE OFFICER
16 REPORTED THE ALLEGED OFFENSE TO, COORDINATE A FORENSIC INTERVIEW
17 PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SECTION 19-3-308.5 FOR
18 THE ALLEGED VICTIM, IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITY OR PEACE
19 OFFICER DEEMS A FORENSIC INTERVIEW NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

20 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-10-402, **amend**
21 (1)(a) introductory portion and (1)(a)(II); and **add** (6) as follows:

22 **16-10-402. Use of closed-circuit television - child or witness**
23 **with intellectual and developmental disabilities - definition.**

24 (1) (a) When a witness at the time of a trial is a child ~~less than~~
25 ~~twelve~~ UNDER EIGHTEEN years of age, OLD or is a person who has an
26 intellectual and developmental disability as defined in section
27 25.5-10-202, ~~C.R.S.~~, the court may, upon motion of a party or upon its

1 own motion, order that the witness's testimony be taken in a room other
2 than the courtroom and be televised by closed-circuit television in the
3 courtroom if:

4 (II) The judge determines that testimony by the witness in the
5 courtroom and in the presence of the defendant would result in the
6 witness suffering serious emotional distress or trauma. ~~such that the~~
7 ~~witness would not be able to reasonably communicate~~ THE TRIAL COURT
8 SHALL MAKE FINDINGS ON THE RECORD REGARDING THE WITNESS'S
9 ABILITY TO TESTIFY IN THE COURTROOM AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE
10 DEFENDANT; and

11 (6) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
12 REQUIRES, "CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION" MEANS A DIRECT, CLOSED-LOOP
13 AUDIO AND VIDEO TRANSMISSION SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS PRIVATE VIEWING
14 AND IS NOT PUBLICLY BROADCAST, AND MAY INCLUDE THE USE OF OTHER
15 DIGITAL OR WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES.

16 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
18 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
19 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
20 institutions.