

First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0804.01 Debbie Haskins x2045

SENATE BILL 17-120

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Gardner,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO
102 BE A PEACE OFFICER IN COLORADO.

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 "Immigration and Nationality Act" allows states to pass laws requiring United States citizenship as a condition of employment. The bill imposes a United States citizenship requirement for peace officers, including certified peace officers, in Colorado.

A person who is a legal permanent resident and who is employed by a law enforcement agency as a peace officer or certified peace officer

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.

on the effective date of the bill is exempted from the United States citizenship requirement until July 1, 2020. A person who is a legal permanent resident and is a certified peace officer but not employed on the effective date of the bill is exempted from the United States citizenship requirement until July 1, 2020. If the person fails to obtain United States citizenship during the grandfathered-time period, the P.O.S.T. board shall revoke the person's peace officer certification, if applicable.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 16-2.5-101.5 as
3 follows:

4 **16-2.5-101.5. Peace officer and certified peace officers - United**
5 **States citizenship required - grandfather provision - repeal.** (1) ON
6 AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, IN ADDITION TO ALL
7 STANDARDS IMPOSED BY LAW ON A PEACE OFFICER, A PERSON WHO IS A
8 PEACE OFFICER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101, IS REQUIRED TO BE A
9 CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

10 (2) ON AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, IN
11 ADDITION TO ALL STANDARDS IMPOSED BY LAW ON A CERTIFIED PEACE
12 OFFICER, A PERSON WHO IS A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER, AS DEFINED IN
13 SECTION 16-2.5-102, IS REQUIRED TO BE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

14 (3) (a) A PERSON WHO IS A LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE
15 UNITED STATES AND WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
16 AS A PEACE OFFICER OR CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE
17 OF THIS SECTION IS EXEMPTED FROM THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP
18 REQUIREMENT UNTIL JULY 1, 2020. A PERSON WHO IS A LEGAL PERMANENT
19 RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND IS A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER BUT
20 NOT EMPLOYED ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION IS EXEMPTED
21 FROM THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT UNTIL JULY 1, 2020.

1 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-31-305, **add** (5)

3 as follows:

4 **24-31-305. Certification - issuance - renewal - revocation -**
5 **repeal.** (5) (a) ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2020, THE P.O.S.T. BOARD SHALL
6 REVOKE THE CERTIFICATION OF ANY PEACE OFFICER WHO FAILS TO MEET
7 THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN SECTION
8 16-2.5-101.5.

9 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021.

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