

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0579.01 Conrad Imel x2313

HOUSE BILL 20-1130

---

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

**Soper and Weissman**, Bird, Bockenfeld, Carver, Cutter, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Herod, McCluskie, Rich, Roberts, Snyder, Van Winkle

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Bridges and Hisey**,

---

House Committees

Judiciary  
Appropriations

Senate Committees

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE ONLINE AVAILABILITY OF OPINIONS ISSUED BY  
102 COLORADO COURTS.

---

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 judicial department to publish opinions of the Colorado supreme court and the Colorado court of appeals online. The opinions must be published online in a searchable format and be made available free of charge. Colorado supreme court and court of appeals opinions that are not published pursuant to state law or court rules are exempt from the online publishing requirement.

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

---

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) Every person is presumed to know the law and to follow the  
5 law at all times;

6           (b) The Colorado constitution, Colorado revised statutes,  
7 Colorado court rules, and state administrative regulations are available,  
8 free of charge, online;

9           (c) Colorado supreme court opinions are case law that other state  
10 court judges are bound to follow, and published opinions of the Colorado  
11 court of appeals are case law that must be followed as precedent by all  
12 lower court judges in Colorado; and

13           (d) Colorado supreme court opinions and published opinions of  
14 the Colorado court of appeals should be available online in the same  
15 manner as other sources of law.

16           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 13-2-122 as  
17 follows:

18           **13-2-122. Supreme court and court of appeals opinions**  
19 **published.** (1) The opinions of the supreme court of the state of  
20 Colorado and of the court of appeals ~~shall~~ **MUST** be published in volumes  
21 of the size, as nearly as may be, as present volumes of the Colorado  
22 reports, and containing not less than six hundred fifty pages each.

23           (2) (a) IN ADDITION TO THE PUBLISHING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO  
24 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT SHALL  
25 PUBLISH ONLINE, IN A SEARCHABLE FORMAT, AND MAKE AVAILABLE FREE  
26 OF CHARGE:

1 (I) EACH OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF  
2 COLORADO AND OF THE COURT OF APPEALS ISSUED ON OR AFTER  
3 SEPTEMBER 1, 2021; AND

4 (II) NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2026, EVERY OPINION OF THE  
5 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AND THE COURT OF APPEALS  
6 ISSUED PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1, 2021.

7 (b) AN OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF  
8 COLORADO THAT IS NOT PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS  
9 SECTION AND ANY COURT OF APPEALS OPINION NOT DESIGNATED FOR  
10 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO APPELLATE RULES  
11 IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE PUBLISHED ONLINE PURSUANT TO THIS  
12 SUBSECTION (2).

13 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-2-124, **amend** (1)  
14 as follows:

15 **13-2-124. Publication of reports.** (1) In lieu of the publication  
16 of the opinions of the supreme court and the court of appeals ~~as provided~~  
17 ~~for in this article~~ PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-2-122 (1), the supreme court  
18 may designate the published volumes of the decisions of the supreme  
19 court and the court of appeals, as the same are published by any person,  
20 firm, or corporation, to be the official reports of the decisions of the  
21 supreme court and the court of appeals. Any publication so designated as  
22 the official reports may include both the opinions of the supreme court  
23 and the court of appeals in the same volume.

24 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
25 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
26 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
27 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a

1 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
2 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
3 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
4 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
5 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
6 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.