

CHAPTER 304

COURTS

SENATE BILL 24-187

BY SENATOR(S) Roberts and Gardner, Bridges, Buckner, Exum, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rodriguez, Smallwood, Will, Fenberg; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Herod, Bird, Pugliese, Taggart.

AN ACT**CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.**

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

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly holds in high regard the role of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board in ensuring that law enforcement serves Coloradans in a manner that promotes the safety of every Coloradan through the establishment of clear standards for peace officers.

(2) The general assembly relies on the P.O.S.T. board to review applications for peace officer status and to make recommendations for statutory recognition of peace officer status for individuals and groups in Colorado. The P.O.S.T. board's expertise in this process is invaluable. The general assembly takes this extraordinary step of expanding the peace officer status for the administrator of judicial security in advance of the sunrise process established in statute due to the extraordinary circumstances facing the judiciary today.

(3) The general assembly finds that alarming events have occurred in recent months that have threatened the security of courthouses in Colorado and placed at risk the safety of litigants, lawyers, staff, judges, and the public as a whole. These events have hindered access to justice for Coloradans.

(4) The general assembly finds that the Colorado judicial department has demonstrated an immediate need for more peace officers who are qualified to help coordinate with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of the public, staff, and judges at courthouses throughout Colorado. The general assembly encourages the P.O.S.T. board to review as quickly as possible an application from the judicial department and to work cooperatively with the judicial

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

department on its efforts to expand the number of personnel who serve as peace officers under the position of administrator of judicial security.

(5) The general assembly finds that in 2017 the P.O.S.T. board approved the position of administrator of judicial security, and in 2018 the general assembly codified the position in statute. The general assembly finds that the office of the state court administrator needs multiple peace officers to address the growing and immediate security threats facing the state in order to ensure that courthouses throughout Colorado are safe places for Coloradans to find resolution to their legal disputes. The general assembly further finds that ensuring the safety and security of courthouses provides a clear and obvious public benefit, ensuring access to justice for all Coloradans.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 13-1-141 as follows:

13-1-141. Ralph L. Carr Colorado judicial center - Colorado state patrol - law enforcement services. THE COLORADO STATE PATROL SHALL PROVIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FOR THE RALPH L. CARR COLORADO JUDICIAL CENTER AND ITS GROUNDS, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 16-2.5-152 as follows:

16-2.5-152. Administrators of judicial security. ~~An administrator~~ ADMINISTRATORS of judicial security employed by the judicial department ~~is a~~ ARE peace officer OFFICERS whose authority includes the enforcement of all laws of the state of Colorado, and ~~such administrator~~ THE ADMINISTRATORS of judicial security must be certified by the P.O.S.T. board. FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING PEACE OFFICER STATUS FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL UNDER THE TITLE OF JUDICIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR, NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 16-2.5-201, ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATORS OF JUDICIAL SECURITY ARE GRANTED TEMPORARY PEACE OFFICER STATUS PENDING APPLICATION AND REVIEW BY THE P.O.S.T. BOARD. FOLLOWING REVIEW BY THE P.O.S.T. BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-2.5-201 AND UPON A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FOR PEACE OFFICER STATUS FROM THE P.O.S.T. BOARD TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TEMPORARY PEACE OFFICER STATUS FOR ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATORS IS PERMANENT. IF THE P.O.S.T. BOARD DOES NOT RECOMMEND PEACE OFFICER STATUS FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL UNDER THE TITLE OF JUDICIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR, THE TEMPORARY PEACE OFFICER STATUS EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025, UNLESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROVIDES OTHERWISE. ANY PEACE OFFICER POSITIONS CREATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AFTER JANUARY 1, 2025, SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH A DECISION ITEM IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-216.5, **amend** (1) as follows:

24-33.5-216.5. Patrol services furnished to the general assembly - judges and justices - definition. (1) (a) The Colorado state patrol shall provide protection for the members of the general assembly when they are present in the state capitol buildings group and shall respond to all complaints relating to criminal activity against or security threats or risks to a member of the general assembly. As used in

this subsection (1), "state capitol buildings group" has the same meaning as set forth in section 24-82-105 (1)(a).

(b) THE COLORADO STATE PATROL SHALL PROVIDE PROTECTION TO COLORADO JUDGES AND JUSTICES WHEN THEY ARE PRESENT IN THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDINGS GROUP.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

Approved: May 31, 2024