### Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

# ENGROSSED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted on Second Reading in the House of Introduction HOUSE BILL 24-1118

LLS NO. 24-0459.01 Megan McCall x4215

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP** 

Marshall and Joseph,

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

101	CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO
102	OPERATE A DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DUE TO A VACANCY
103	TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE
104	GOVERNOR.

#### **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 <u>http://leg.colorado.gov.</u>)

The attorney general is authorized to appear for the state and prosecute and defend all actions and proceedings, civil and criminal, in which the state is a party or is interested when required to do so by the



governor. In these circumstances, the bill allows the attorney general to also expend funds, manage staff, and perform other administrative functions essential for the operation of a district attorney's office. If it is essential during this time for the attorney general to hire personnel, while the attorney general has the ultimate authority regarding hiring decisions, a committee consisting of the attorney general, a representative from the Colorado district attorneys' council, and the highest ranking attorney or official at the district attorney's office shall make recommendations regarding hiring decisions that the attorney general must consider.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: 2 SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-31-101, amend 3 (1)(t) and (1)(u); and add (1)(v) as follows: 4 24-31-101. Powers and duties of attorney general. (1) The 5 attorney general: 6 (t) May bring a civil action to enforce section 25-7-144; and 7 (u) May, if the attorney general has reason to believe that a 8 violation of a statute or rule is causing an imminent and substantive 9 endangerment to the public health, water quality, or environment within 10 a mobile home park, request a temporary restraining order, preliminary 11 injunction, permanent injunction, or any other relief necessary to protect 12 the public health, water quality, or environment; AND 13 (v) MAY EXPEND MONEY, MANAGE STAFF, AND PERFORM OTHER 14 ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS ESSENTIAL FOR THE OPERATION OF A 15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WHEN APPOINTED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER OF 16 THE GOVERNOR. 17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-31-117 as 18 follows: 19 24-31-117. Hiring committee when attorney general to operate 20 district attorney's office due to a vacancy. IF, DURING THE COURSE OF

1 PERFORMING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DUTIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 2 24-31-101 (1)(v), IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO HIRE 3 PERSONNEL AT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THE ATTORNEY 4 GENERAL SHALL ESTABLISH A HIRING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE 5 ATTORNEY GENERAL, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COLORADO DISTRICT 6 ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL, AND THE HIGHEST RANKING ATTORNEY OR OFFICIAL 7 AT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS 8 REGARDING HIRING DECISIONS. THE COMMITTEE MAY RECOMMEND THAT 9 THE HIRING OF PERSONNEL BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS CONDITIONAL 10 UPON THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE PERSON APPOINTED TO FILL THE 11 VACANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY POSITION. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RETAINS 12 THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY REGARDING HIRING DECISIONS WHILE ACTING 13 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-31-101 (1)(v) BUT MUST CONSIDER THE 14 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE IN MAKING HIRING DECISIONS.

SECTION 3. Applicability. This act applies to actions taken by
the attorney general pursuant to section 24-31-101 (1)(v) or 24-31-117,
Colorado Revised Statutes, on or after the effective date of this act.

18 SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, 19 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate 20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for 21 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state 22 institutions.