

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REENGROSSED

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

LLS NO. 17-0074.02 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 17-1179

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING IMMUNITY FOR A PERSON WHO RENDERS EMERGENCY**
102 **ASSISTANCE FROM A LOCKED VEHICLE.**

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 provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for a person who forcibly enters a locked vehicle for the purpose of rendering assistance to an at-risk person or animal. To receive immunity, the person must:

- ! Have a good faith belief that the person or animal is in imminent danger of death or suffering great bodily injury;

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.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
March 1, 2017

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 28, 2017

- ! Verify the vehicle is locked;
- ! Make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or operator of the vehicle;
- ! Contact a law enforcement or other first responder agency prior to forcibly entering the vehicle and not interfere with the actions of any such responding law enforcement agency;
- ! Use no more force than reasonably necessary to enter the locked vehicle;
- ! Remain with the at-risk person or animal in a safe location close to the vehicle until law enforcement or other first responder arrives at the scene; except that, if the person rendering assistance has to leave the scene before the owner or operator of the vehicle returns, prior to leaving the scene, the person rendering assistance shall leave a notice on the vehicle with his or her name and contact information and the name and location, if any, of the facility to which he or she took the at-risk person or animal. Also prior to leaving the scene, the person rendering assistance shall contact law enforcement, animal control, or other first responder to provide them with the same information.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 13-21-108.4 as
3 follows:

4 **13-21-108.4. Persons rendering emergency assistance from a**
5 **locked vehicle - exempt from criminal and civil liability - definitions.**

6 (1) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
7 REQUIRES:

8 (a) "ANIMAL" MEANS A DOG OR CAT. THE TERM "ANIMAL" DOES
9 NOT INCLUDE LIVESTOCK, AS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS
10 SECTION.

11 (b) "AT-RISK PERSON" MEANS AN AT-RISK ADULT, AN AT-RISK
12 ADULT WITH IDD, AN AT-RISK ELDER, OR AN AT-RISK JUVENILE, AS THOSE
13 TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SECTION 18-6.5-102.

1 (c) "LIVESTOCK" MEANS CATTLE, HORSES, MULES, BURROS, SHEEP,
2 POULTRY, SWINE, LLAMAS, AND GOATS.

3 (2) A PERSON IS IMMUNE FROM CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR
4 PROPERTY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM HIS OR HER FORCIBLE ENTRY INTO A
5 LOCKED VEHICLE IF:

6 (a) THE VEHICLE IS NOT A LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE; AND

7 (b) AN AT-RISK PERSON OR ANIMAL IS PRESENT IN THE VEHICLE
8 AND THE PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE HAS A REASONABLE BELIEF
9 THAT THE AT-RISK PERSON OR ANIMAL IS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH
10 OR SUFFERING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY; AND

11 (c) THE PERSON DETERMINES THAT THE VEHICLE IS LOCKED AND
12 THAT FORCIBLE ENTRY IS NECESSARY; AND

13 (d) THE PERSON MAKES A REASONABLE EFFORT TO LOCATE THE
14 OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE AND DOCUMENTS THE COLOR,
15 MAKE, MODEL, LICENSE PLATE NUMBER, AND LOCATION OF THE VEHICLE;
16 AND

17 (e) THE PERSON CONTACTS A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY,
18 THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, ANIMAL CONTROL, OR A 911 OPERATOR PRIOR TO
19 FORCIBLY ENTERING THE VEHICLE, AND THE PERSON DOES NOT INTERFERE
20 WITH, HINDER, OR FAIL TO OBEY A LAWFUL ORDER OF ANY PERSON DULY
21 EMPOWERED WITH POLICE AUTHORITY OR OTHER FIRST RESPONDER DUTIES
22 WHO IS DISCHARGING OR APPARENTLY DISCHARGING HIS OR HER DUTIES;
23 AND

24 (f) THE PERSON USES NO MORE FORCE THAN HE OR SHE BELIEVES
25 IS REASONABLY NECESSARY; AND

26 (g) (I) THE PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE REMAINS WITH THE
27 AT-RISK PERSON OR ANIMAL, REASONABLY CLOSE TO THE VEHICLE, UNTIL

1 A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER,
2 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, OR OTHER FIRST RESPONDER ARRIVES AT THE
3 SCENE.

4 (II) IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE
5 TO LEAVE THE SCENE BEFORE THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE
6 RETURNS TO THE SCENE, OR BEFORE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER,
7 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER, ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, OR
8 OTHER FIRST RESPONDER ARRIVES AT THE SCENE, AND REGARDLESS OF
9 WHETHER OR NOT THE PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE TOOK THE AT-RISK
10 PERSON OR ANIMAL TO A HOSPITAL, AN APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT,
11 ANIMAL CONTROL, OR VETERINARY FACILITY, PRIOR TO LEAVING THE
12 SCENE THE PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE SHALL:

13 (A) PLACE A NOTICE ON THE WINDSHIELD OF THE VEHICLE THAT
14 INCLUDES HIS OR HER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION AND THE NAME
15 AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE LOCATION, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE
16 PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE TOOK THE AT-RISK PERSON OR ANIMAL
17 WHEN HE OR SHE LEFT THE SCENE; AND

18 (B) CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT, ANIMAL CONTROL, OR OTHER
19 FIRST RESPONDER TO ADVISE THEM OF HIS OR HER NAME AND CONTACT
20 INFORMATION, THAT HE OR SHE IS LEAVING THE SCENE, AND THE NAME
21 AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE LOCATION, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE
22 PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE IS TAKING THE AT-RISK PERSON OR
23 ANIMAL.

24 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 18-1-706.5 as
25 follows:

26 **18-1-706.5. Justification and exemption from liability when**
27 **rendering emergency assistance to an at-risk person or animal in a**

1 **locked vehicle.** A PERSON IS JUSTIFIED AND EXEMPT FROM CRIMINAL
2 LIABILITY FOR CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, CRIMINAL TRESPASS, OR CRIMINAL
3 TAMPERING INVOLVING PROPERTY IF SUCH ACTION OCCURRED WHEN HE OR
4 SHE RENDERED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO AN AT-RISK PERSON OR
5 ANIMAL IN A LOCKED VEHICLE, PROVIDED THE PERSON RENDERING
6 ASSISTANCE ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION
7 13-21-108.4.

8 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
9 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
10 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
11 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
12 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
13 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
14 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
15 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
16 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
17 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.