

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REREVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 20-0650.01 Jerry Barry x4341

SENATE BILL 20-088

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields, Cooke, Gardner, Ginal, Marble, Priola, Tate

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Soper, Carver, Snyder, Valdez D., Woodrow

Senate Committees
Judiciary

House Committees
Judiciary

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING EVIDENTIARY RULES WHEN A DEFENDANT INTERFERES**
102 **WITH A WITNESS.**

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>.)

Under an opinion of the Colorado supreme court, if a party to a criminal case wrongfully procures the unavailability of a witness, evidence that the witness may have been able to offer is still inadmissible if it constitutes hearsay evidence. The bill provides that such a party forfeits the right to object to the admissibility of evidence of the witness based on hearsay and that such evidence is admissible.

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.*

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
June 8, 2020

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
June 4, 2020

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 13, 2020

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
February 12, 2020

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*
2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 13-25-139 as
3 follows:
4 **13-25-139. Criminal action - interference with witness -**
5 **forfeiture by wrongdoing.** WHEN A PARTY TO A CRIMINAL CASE
6 WRONGFULLY PROCURES THE UNAVAILABILITY OF A WITNESS, A
7 STATEMENT OTHERWISE NOT ADMISSIBLE PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO
8 RULES OF EVIDENCE THAT IS OFFERED AGAINST THE PARTY THAT WAS
9 INVOLVED IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WRONGDOING THAT WAS INTENDED
10 TO, AND DID, DEPRIVE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE IS
11 ADMISSIBLE AS AN EXCEPTION TO THE HEARSAY RULE; EXCEPT THAT SUCH
12 A STATEMENT IS NOT ADMISSIBLE UNLESS THE PROONENT HAS GIVEN TO
13 THE ADVERSE PARTY ADVANCE WRITTEN NOTICE OF AN INTENTION TO
14 INTRODUCE THE STATEMENT SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE THE ADVERSE PARTY
15 A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO CONTEST THE ADMISSIBILITY OF THE STATEMENT.
16 IN DETERMINING THE ADMISSIBILITY OF THE EVIDENCE, THE COURT SHALL
17 DETERMINE, PRIOR TO THE TRIAL, WHETHER THE FORFEITURE BY
18 WRONGDOING OCCURRED BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE.
19 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.
22 ■