

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 23-0436.02 Pierce Lively x2059

**HOUSE BILL 23-1206**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Marshall,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

Judiciary  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELD**  
102               **OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103               **PROHIBITING CERTAIN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY COUNTY**  
104               **SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEES.**

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**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 a county sheriff in a county with a population of 25,000 or more to possess a bachelor's degree or higher in criminal justice or a related field.

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

The bill requires candidates for the offices of county sheriff and district attorney to petition onto the ballot and prevents those candidates from being nominated as a candidate for a primary process election. Relatedly, the bill also prevents a ballot from listing the political affiliation of candidates for the offices of county sheriff and district attorney and excludes county sheriffs and district attorneys from party committees.

Lastly, the bill prohibits county sheriff's office employees from participating in specified political activities.

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



3 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 30-10-528** as  
4 follows:

5 **30-10-528. Limitations on political activities - definition.**

6 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
7 REQUIRES, "EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE" MEANS ANY  
8 EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INCLUDING THE COUNTY  
9 SHERIFF, WHILE THE SHERIFF IS IN UNIFORM OR USING GOVERNMENT  
10 PROPERTY, AND ANY DEPUTY SHERIFFS.

11 (2) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHALL NOT:

12 (a) PARTICIPATE IN ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WHILE ON DUTY;

13 (b) SOLICIT MONEY ON BEHALF OF ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS;

14 EXCEPT THAT THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b) SHALL NOT PROHIBIT AN EMPLOYEE  
15 OF THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WHO IS RUNNING FOR AN ELECTED  
16 OFFICE FROM SOLICITING AND ACCEPTING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
17 THE EMPLOYEE'S OWN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IF THE EMPLOYEE IS NOT ON  
18 DUTY OR IN UNIFORM WHEN SUCH ACTIVITIES OCCUR;

19 (c) USE THE EMPLOYEE'S OFFICIAL POSITION TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC

20 ENDORSEMENT OF ANY CANDIDATE IN ANY CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTED

1 OFFICE; EXCEPT THAT, IF THE EMPLOYEE IS RUNNING FOR AN ELECTED  
2 OFFICE, THEN THE RESTRICTION IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(c) DOES NOT  
3 APPLY TO THE EMPLOYEE'S OWN CAMPAIGN;

4 (d) USE THE EMPLOYEE'S OFFICIAL POSITION TO REFLECT THE  
5 EMPLOYEE'S PERSONAL POLITICAL FEELINGS AS THOSE OF THE COUNTY  
6 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OR USE THE EMPLOYEE'S OFFICIAL POSITION TO  
7 EXERT ANY PRESSURE ON ANYONE TO INFLUENCE THAT PERSON'S  
8 POLITICAL VIEWS;

9 (e) DISPLAY ANY POLITICAL ADVERTISING OR PARAPHERNALIA ON  
10 THE EMPLOYEE'S BODY OR AUTOMOBILE WHILE ON DUTY OR IN UNIFORM;

11 (f) DISPLAY CAMPAIGN LITERATURE, BANNERS, PLACARDS,  
12 STREAMERS, STICKERS, SIGNS, OR OTHER ITEMS OF CAMPAIGN OR  
13 POLITICAL ADVERTISING ON BEHALF OF ANY PARTY, COMMITTEE, OR  
14 AGENCY OR CANDIDATE FOR POLITICAL OFFICE ON THE PREMISES OF ANY  
15 BUILDING OR LAND OWNED BY THE COUNTY OR USE ANY FACILITIES OF THE  
16 COUNTY, INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES, FOR THOSE PURPOSES; OR

17 (g) USE COUNTY PUBLIC BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES FOR MEETINGS  
18 OR PREPARATION OF CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF ANY PARTICULAR  
19 CANDIDATE, PARTY, OR MEASURE.

20 (3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2)(f) OF THIS SECTION,  
21 NOTHING IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION PROHIBITS OR PREVENTS ANY  
22 SUCH EMPLOYEE FROM BECOMING OR CONTINUING TO BE A MEMBER OF A  
23 POLITICAL CLUB OR ORGANIZATION AND ENJOYING ALL THE RIGHTS AND  
24 PRIVILEGES OF SUCH MEMBERSHIP OR FROM ATTENDING ANY POLITICAL  
25 MEETINGS WHILE NOT ON DUTY.

26 (4) ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION  
27 IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

1 PER VIOLATION AND MAY BE DISMISSED FROM THE SERVICE OF THE  
2 COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

3 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
6 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
7 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
8 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
9 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
10 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
11 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.