

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT  
9.26.17

BILL 6

LLS NO. 18-0248.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions  
Interim Study Committee

**BILL TOPIC:** "State Court Administrator Reminder Call Center"

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 CONCERNING REQUIRING THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR TO  
102 ADMINISTER A DIVISION TO REMIND CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS TO  
103 APPEAR IN COURT AS SCHEDULED.

**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/>.)*

**County Courthouse and County Jail Funding and Overcrowding Solutions Interim Study Committee.** The bill requires the state court administrator to administer a division that is charged with reminding criminal defendants to appear at their scheduled hearings in the county courts and district courts of the state. The objective of the division

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

is to significantly reduce the number of defendants who are committed to the custody of a county jail solely as a result of their failure to appear in court.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-3-101, **amend** (1);  
3 and **add** (10) as follows:

4 **13-3-101. State court administrator.** (1) There is created,  
5 pursuant to section 5 (3) of article VI of the state constitution, the position  
6 of state court administrator, who shall be appointed by the justices of the  
7 supreme court at such compensation as shall be determined by them. The  
8 state court administrator is responsible to the supreme court, and IN  
9 ADDITION TO THE DUTIES DESCRIBED WITHIN THIS SECTION, HE OR SHE  
10 shall perform ~~such~~ THE duties ~~as~~ assigned to him OR HER by the chief  
11 justice and the supreme court.

12 (10)(a) ON AND AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2018, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
13 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION AND SECTION 5 (3) OF ARTICLE VI OF THE  
14 STATE CONSTITUTION, THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL  
15 ADMINISTER A DIVISION THAT IS CHARGED WITH REMINDING CRIMINAL  
16 DEFENDANTS TO APPEAR AT THEIR SCHEDULED HEARINGS IN THE COUNTY  
17 COURTS AND DISTRICT COURTS OF THE STATE. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE  
18 DIVISION IS TO SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS WHO  
19 ARE COMMITTED TO THE CUSTODY OF A COUNTY JAIL SOLELY AS A RESULT  
20 OF THEIR FAILURE TO APPEAR IN COURT. THE DIVISION MAY ACHIEVE ITS  
21 OBJECTIVE VIA TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATIONS, TRADITIONAL MAIL, OR  
22 INTERNET-BASED TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO E-MAIL  
23 AND TEXTING. THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHALL ENSURE THAT  
24 THE DIVISION IS ADEQUATELY STAFFED TO SERVICE THE DOCKETS OF

1 EVERY COUNTY COURT AND DISTRICT COURT IN THE STATE.

2 (b) EACH COUNTY COURT AND DISTRICT COURT SHALL UTILIZE THE  
3 SERVICES OF THE DIVISION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (10)(a) OF THIS  
4 SECTION UNLESS THE COURT HAS ITS OWN PROCEDURE FOR REMINDING  
5 CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS TO APPEAR AT THEIR SCHEDULED HEARINGS, SO  
6 LONG AS THE PROCESS IS SATISFACTORY TO THE STATE COURT  
7 ADMINISTRATOR.

8 **SECTION 2. 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 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); 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.