

HD19-1119

**SUMMARY SHEET
CONCERNING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF A COMPLETED PEACE OFFICER
INTERNAL INVESTIGATION FILE**

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Background

Although criminal justice agencies are subject to open records requests, the current CRS 24-72-305 subsections allow the file custodians to deny requests under the "contrary to public interest" clause. Currently the vast majority of these open records requests are denied.

Purpose

Despite the fact that the public has a compelling interest in knowing that their complaints about peace officer misconduct are handled fairly and thoroughly, most law enforcement agencies refuse to release internal investigation files to the public, even in the wake of large monetary settlements. Because of that, it is our responsibility as public servants to gain and strengthen the trust of Coloradans by allowing them to have access to an internal investigation file of a peace officer for in-uniform or on-duty conduct, that involves a member of the public, so that taxpayers know how and why public dollars have been spent to settle cases of law enforcement misconduct.

Bill Action

- *HB 19-1119* allows public access to law enforcement internal investigative files related to interactions between officers and the public after the investigation has been completed.
 - Any truly private information, such as Social Security and bank account numbers, must be redacted before internal affairs records can be disclosed. Any identifying information on confidential informants, youths, witnesses, and victims also must be redacted.
 - Law enforcement agencies may redact certain information that would compromise the safety of victims, witnesses or informants. They may also withhold confidential intelligence information.
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Supporting Organizations

