



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 6/2/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1017

Sponsors

*Representatives Pabon and
Lawrence
Senators Cooke and Johnston*

Short Title

*Victim Impact Panel
Appearances For DUI*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor on March 22, 2016, and becomes effective July 1, 2016.

Summary

Under state law, courts can sentence individuals convicted of driving under the influence (DUI), DUI per se, driving while ability impaired, or underage drinking and driving to attend a victim impact panel and pay an associated fee. This bill changes the fee limit that can be charged for attendance at a victim impact panel from \$25 to \$50. The bill also specifies that starting July 1, 2017, and every July 1 thereafter, the fee limit will be changed in accordance with percentage changes in the United States Department of Labor's consumer price index for Denver-Boulder.

Background

Victim impact panels provide community members with the opportunity to discuss the effects drunk or impaired driving has had on their lives. Sentencing DUI offenders to attend the panels is intended to underscore the grave potential consequences impaired driving can have on others. The nonprofit organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) currently organizes and hosts these panels at various times throughout the year in several locations throughout the state. Currently, DUI offenders sentenced to attend a victim impact panel pay the associated fee directly to MADD.

House Action

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House Judiciary Committee (January 26, 2016). At the hearing, representatives of MADD, the County Sheriffs of Colorado, and the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance testified in support of the bill. A representative of the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar testified on the bill from a neutral perspective. The committee adopted amendment L.003, which capped the victim impact panel attendance fee at \$50; under the introduced version of the bill, the fee had no cap. Amendment L.003 also created the inflation index mechanism for the fee. The committee referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole.

House Second Reading (February 1, 2016). The House adopted the House Judiciary Committee report and passed the bill on second reading.

House Third Reading (February 2, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate Judiciary Committee (February 29, 2016). At the hearing, representatives of MADD testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

Senate Second Reading (March 3, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate Third Reading (March 4, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.