



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 3/22/2017

Bill Number

House Bill 17-1014

Sponsors

*Representatives Rosenthal &
Williams D.
Senators Hill & Donovan*

Short Title

*Election Offenses Committed
By A Voter*

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill which will become effective August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Background

Currently, a voter who shows his or her completed ballot to another person, including activities such as "ballot selfies," could be found guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine up to \$1,000.

House Action

House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (January 25, 2017). At the hearing, representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado and El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office and two private citizens testified in support of the bill. A representative of the Colorado Department of State testified on the bill but did not state a position on the bill.

The committee adopted amendment L.001, and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole. Amendment L.001 struck everything below the enacting clause and substituted language allowing a voter to show his or her completed ballot to any other person or to make an image available of the ballot through electronic means, commonly referred to as a "ballot selfie." A county clerk and recorder or a clerk of a municipality may place reasonable restrictions on the use of photography in voter service and polling centers, polling places, or other locations where votes are being tabulated.

House second reading (January 30, 2017). The House adopted the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs committee report. The House passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

House third reading (January 31, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (February 22, 2017). At the hearing, a representative of the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office and two private citizens testified in support of the bill. One private citizen testified in opposition to the bill. A representative of the Colorado Department of State and one private citizen testified on the bill in a neutral position. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

Senate second reading (March 1, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate third reading (March 2, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.