# First Regular Session Seventy-fifth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## REENGROSSED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted in the House of Introduction SENATE BILL 25-038

LLS NO. 25-0156.01 Jery Payne x2157

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

### 101 CONCERNING PROTECTION OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF

102 PERSONS IMPACTED BY WILDLIFE DAMAGE.

### **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 <u>http://leg.colorado.gov/.</u>)

Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee. Under current law, a person may file a claim with the division of parks and wildlife (division) for compensation for damages to property caused by wildlife, and the division must review and investigate that claim (claim procedures). The bill changes current law by requiring that the personal information of a claimant received by the division through the claim





procedures and proactive nonlethal measures is kept confidential and not disclosed pursuant to the "Colorado Open Records Act".

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

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**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly

3 finds that:

4 (a) Proposition 114, the ballot measure enacted in 2020 that
5 authorized the process to introduce gray wolves in Colorado, explicitly
6 required the state to fairly compensate owners for losses of livestock
7 caused by gray wolves in addition to losses of livestock caused by other
8 wildlife;

9 (b) To fulfill this obligation, the general assembly passed and the 10 governor signed into law Senate Bill 23-255, enacted in 2023, which, 11 along with funding sources that exist for damages resulting from other 12 types of wildlife, created a dedicated compensation fund to compensate 13 owners for depredation of livestock and working animals by gray wolves;

(c) Now that gray wolves have been released and are present in
Colorado, along with depredation by other wildlife, livestock and
working animals have been killed by wolves, entitling ranchers to
compensation for the losses; and

18 (d) However, ranchers in the state have been reluctant to 19 participate in site assessments and file claims for compensation due to the 20 fear of their personal information being made public through open 21 records requests brought by individuals and organizations with the intent 22 of:

23 (I) Traveling to the rancher's home or business to view gray24 wolves and other wildlife;

(II) Contacting the rancher directly; or

- 1 (III) Using the rancher's personal information to conduct other 2 invasions of the rancher's privacy.
- 3

(2) The general assembly therefore declares that:

- 4 (a) It is the intent of the state through the enactment of Proposition
  5 114 and Senate Bill 23-255 to prevent future depredations and fairly
  6 compensate ranchers for their losses; and
- (b) By protecting the personal information of <u>people that make</u>
  <u>compensation claims</u>, more ranchers will be comfortable submitting
  depredation claims to the division of parks and wildlife and participating
  in proactive nonlethal measures, and the intent of Proposition 114 and
  Senate Bill 23-255 will be better fulfilled.
- 12 <u>SECTION 2.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-72-204, add
  13 (3)(a)(XXIV) as follows:
- 14 24-72-204. Allowance or denial of inspection - grounds -15 procedure - appeal - definitions - repeal. (3) (a) The custodian shall 16 deny the right of inspection of the following records, unless otherwise 17 provided by law; except that the custodian shall make any of the 18 following records, other than letters of reference concerning employment, 19 licensing, or issuance of permits, available to the person in interest in 20 accordance with this subsection (3): 21 (XXIV) RECORDS THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE
- <u>PURSUANT TO SECTION 33-3-110.5.</u>
   SECTION <u>3.</u> In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 33-3-110.5 as
   follows:
   33-3-110.5. Confidentiality of personal information -
- definition. (1) (a) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "PERSONAL INFORMATION"
  MEANS:

1 <u>(I)</u> A	PERSON'S:
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- 2 <u>(A)</u> NAME;
- 3 (B) PHONE NUMBER;
- 4 (C) HOME ADDRESS;
- 5 (D) BUSINESS ADDRESS;
- 6 (E) PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS; OR
- 7 (F) BUSINESS EMAIL ADDRESS; OR
- 8 (II) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT WOULD REVEAL THE IDENTITY
- 9 OF THE <u>PERSON</u> OR THE <u>PERSON'S</u> BUSINESS.
- 10 (b) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE INFORMATION
- 11 <u>ABOUT NONLETHAL PREDATOR-LIVESTOCK CONFLICT MINIMIZATION</u>
- 12 MEASURES USED BY OR RECOMMENDED TO A PERSON, OR A SUMMARY OR
- 13 AGGREGATED DATA RELATED TO SUCH INFORMATION, SO LONG AS THE
- 14 INFORMATION OR SUMMARY OR AGGREGATED DATA DOES NOT REVEAL
- 15 <u>THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON OR THE PERSON'S BUSINESS.</u>

16 (2) THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF A PERSON THAT THE DIVISION 17 RECEIVES THROUGH THE CLAIM PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 18 33-3-107 TO 33-3-110 AND SITE ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY STATE 19 OFFICIALS AND THIRD PARTIES TO PREVENT FUTURE DEPREDATION AND 20 ANY PERSONAL OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ASSOCIATED 21 WITH THE USE OF PROACTIVE NONLETHAL PREDATOR-LIVESTOCK CONFLICT 22 MINIMIZATION MEASURES IS CONFIDENTIAL AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO 23 DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT", PART 24 2 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24.

25 (3) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS THE DISCLOSURE OF
 26 <u>NONIDENTIFYING INFORMATION REGARDING COUNTY-LEVEL DATA</u>
 27 HIGHLIGHTING THE NUMBER OR DOLLAR AMOUNT OF CLAIMS MADE TO THE

1 DIVISION, THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS MADE TO THE DIVISION THAT WERE 2 SETTLED AND THE MONETARY AMOUNTS OF THOSE SETTLEMENTS, THE 3 NUMBER OF CLAIMS MADE TO THE DIVISION THAT ARE PENDING AT THE 4 TIME OF A REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE, AND THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS MADE 5 TO THE DIVISION THAT WERE DENIED AND THE REASONS FOR DENIAL. 6 (4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO THE 7 CONTRARY, IF A PERSON, OR AN AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE OR 8 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERSON, TAKES ACTIONS OR MAKES STATEMENTS 9 THAT LEAD TO THE PERSON'S PERSONAL INFORMATION BECOMING 10 PUBLICLY KNOWN, THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL 11 AND IS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO OPEN 12 RECORDS ACT", PART 2 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24. 13 (5) A PERSON SHALL NOT BRING OR MAINTAIN A PRIVATE ACTION, 14 AT LAW OR IN EQUITY, CHALLENGING THE DIVISION'S DETERMINATION 15 THAT A PERSON, OR AN AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE OR REPRESENTATIVE OF 16 THE PERSON, HAS TAKEN ACTIONS OR MADE STATEMENTS THAT LED TO 17 THE PERSON'S PERSONAL INFORMATION BECOMING PUBLICLY KNOWN. 18 (6) ANY PERSON, OR AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE OR REPRESENTATIVE 19 OF THE PERSON, THAT REQUESTS RECORDS PERTAINING TO THE PERSON'S 20 OWN CLAIM PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT", PART 21 2 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24, IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE RECORDS 22 WITHOUT REGARD TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. 23 SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act 24 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the 25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except

of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

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that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V

act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.