

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

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0724.01 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 25-067

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Simpson and Roberts, Amabile, Baisley, Bridges, Carson, Catlin, Cutter, Daugherty, Exum, Frizell, Jodeh, Kipp, Kirkmeyer, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Rich, Rodriguez, Snyder, Weissman

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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Senate Committees
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House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE PROSECUTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

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>.)

A prosecution fellowship program in the department of higher education provides money to the Colorado district attorneys' council (CDAC) to fund fellowships for persons who have recently graduated from a law school in Colorado to allow them to pursue careers as prosecutors in rural Colorado. The program, through a prosecution fellowship committee, places up to 6 fellows in rural district attorneys' offices throughout the state each year.

The bill changes the prosecutor fellowship program to provide

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 18, 2025

SENATE
2nd Reading Unamended
February 14, 2025

fellowship funding to rural district attorneys' offices to recruit and hire new deputy district attorneys rather than selecting and placing fellows in rural district attorneys' offices. The selected offices then use the money to recruit and hire new district attorneys. The bill requires the prosecution fellowship committee to determine which rural district attorneys' offices receive funding. On or before January 1, 2028, CDAC shall provide a report to the judiciary committees regarding the prosecutor fellowship program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-19.3-101, **amend**
3 the introductory portion; and **add** (4) as follows:

4 **23-19.3-101. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 19.3,
5 unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (4) "RURAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE" MEANS A DISTRICT
7 ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WITHIN THE THIRD, FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH, NINTH,
8 ELEVENTH, TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH,
9 OR TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF COLORADO.

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-19.3-102, **amend**
11 (1)(a), (1)(b), (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(d), (2)(e), (3), (4) introductory portion,
12 and (4)(a) as follows:

13 **23-19.3-102. Prosecution fellowship program - creation -**
14 **committee - administration - conditions.** (1) (a) ~~There is created~~ The
15 prosecution fellowship program IS CREATED in the department to provide
16 ~~moneys~~ MONEY to the Colorado district attorneys' council to fund RURAL
17 DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE fellowships for persons who have ~~recently~~
18 graduated from a law school in Colorado and allow them to pursue
19 careers as prosecutors in rural Colorado. The general assembly may
20 appropriate ~~moneys~~ MONEY to the department for distribution to the
21 Colorado district attorneys' council to implement the provisions of this

1 ~~article~~ ARTICLE 19.3 AND TO PROVIDE FELLOWSHIP FUNDING TO A RURAL
2 DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SELECTED FOR THE FUNDING.

3 (b) ~~The program will match law school graduates for one-year~~
4 ~~fellowships with rural district attorneys' offices throughout Colorado. The~~
5 ~~initial fellowships will be awarded in fiscal year 2015-16. The program~~
6 ~~may fund the salary and benefits for up to six fellows each year. The~~
7 ~~fellows are independent contractors and not employees of the Colorado~~
8 ~~district attorneys' council. The program is limited to law school graduates~~
9 ~~from the university of Colorado school of law and the university of~~
10 ~~Denver Sturm college of law. Each law school shall contribute an equal~~
11 ~~amount toward twenty percent of the cost of the fellowship salaries if the~~
12 ~~school wants its students to be considered for the fellowship program~~ THE
13 PROGRAM PROVIDES FELLOWSHIP FUNDING TO A RURAL DISTRICT
14 ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN AN AMOUNT DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE
15 FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE THAT THE OFFICE SHALL USE TO RECRUIT, HIRE,
16 AND RETAIN NEW DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

17 (2) (a) ~~There is created~~ The prosecution fellowship committee IS
18 CREATED, which ~~shall select~~ SELECTS the recipients of the fellowships.
19 ~~and the fellowship locations.~~ The committee is comprised of ~~seven~~ FIVE
20 members, ~~which include~~ INCLUDING:

21 (I) The executive director of the Colorado district attorneys'
22 council, who ~~shall serve~~ SERVES as the chair of the committee; AND

23 ~~(II) The dean of the university of Colorado school of law;~~

24 ~~(III) The dean of the university of Denver Sturm college of law;~~

25 and

26 ~~(IV)~~ (II) Four elected RURAL district attorneys or their designees
27 appointed by the executive director of the Colorado district attorneys'

1 council.

2 (b) The committee shall develop a fellow and A district attorneys'
3 ~~offices~~ ATTORNEY'S OFFICE application process and determine the
4 selection criteria for ~~fellows and district attorneys' office locations~~
5 FELLOWSHIPS.

6 (d) ~~The members~~ EACH ELECTED DISTRICT ATTORNEY MEMBER of
7 the committee shall serve without compensation FOR A TERM OF TWO
8 YEARS AS DETERMINED BY THE FISCAL YEAR CALENDAR.

9 (e) The committee shall review applications received by the
10 program, select ~~up to six fellows for the particular fiscal year plus any~~
11 ~~back-up candidates as determined necessary by the committee, and select~~
12 ~~up to six~~ THE district attorneys' office locations for placement of fellows
13 ~~each year~~ OFFICES THAT WILL RECEIVE PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE
14 ELIGIBLE TIME PERIOD, AND DETERMINE THE APPLICABLE AWARD AMOUNT
15 FOR EACH SELECTED OFFICE. After ~~selecting the fellows and~~ THE
16 COMMITTEE SELECTS the district attorneys' office locations, the committee
17 ~~shall match the fellows with a particular district attorney's office~~ OFFICES
18 THAT WILL RECEIVE PROGRAM FUNDING, THE COLORADO DISTRICT
19 ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE THE FUNDS TO THE SELECTED
20 OFFICES.

21 (3) ~~In the event that the~~ IF A fellow who is receiving a fellowship
22 FUNDING leaves the position the Colorado district attorneys' council shall
23 ~~allocate any remaining awarded program moneys to funding a new~~
24 ~~fellow, if the position is filled immediately, or to fund another fellowship.~~
25 ~~If the position is not filled immediately or another vacant position does~~
26 ~~not exist~~ WITHIN THE AWARD PERIOD, THE RECIPIENT OFFICE SHALL
27 RETURN ANY REMAINING FELLOWSHIP FUNDING TO THE COLORADO

1 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL. UPON RECEIPT OF ANY UNSPENT FUNDS,
2 THE COMMITTEE MAY MEET AND AWARD THE FUNDING TO THE SAME OR
3 ANOTHER DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. EACH OFFICE THAT RECEIVES
4 FUNDING SHALL RETURN ANY UNEXPENDED PROGRAM FUNDING TO THE
5 COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL. The Colorado district
6 attorneys' council shall return any unexpended program ~~moneys~~ MONEY
7 to the department AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

8 (4) ~~By January 1, 2019~~ ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2028, the
9 Colorado district attorneys' council shall provide a report to the house of
10 representatives and senate judiciary committees, or their successor
11 committees, regarding the prosecution fellowship program. The report
12 must include the following information regarding the placement of the
13 fellows:

14 (a) For each ~~fellow placed, whether the fellow obtained deputy~~
15 ~~district employment with~~ FELLOWSHIP AWARDED, the DISTRICT
16 ATTORNEY'S office ~~where he or she was placed, with a different rural~~
17 ~~district attorney's office, or an urban district attorney's office~~ RECEIVING
18 THE AWARD; THE AMOUNT OF THE FELLOWSHIP FUNDING AWARDED; AND
19 THE STATUS OF ANY FELLOW'S EMPLOYMENT WITH THE OFFICE, WITH ANY
20 OTHER DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WITHIN COLORADO, OR OTHER
21 EMPLOYMENT, IF KNOWN, AFTER THE FELLOWSHIP ENDS;

22 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
23 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
24 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
25 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
26 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
27 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

1 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
2 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
3 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.