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

### REENGROSSED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted in the House of Introduction HOUSE BILL 25-1147

LLS NO. 25-0463.01 Michael Dohr x4347

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT MUNICIPAL COURT 102 DEFENDANTS ARE SUBJECT TO SIMILAR CONDITIONS AS STATE
- 103 COURT DEFENDANTS.

#### **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>.)

The bill caps the maximum incarceration sentence for a municipal violation that has a comparable state law crime at the same length as the state-level offense. When there is no comparable state-level offense, the maximum period of incarceration is capped at the maximum for a state-level petty offense. Mandatory minimums and increased penalties



Amended 2nd Reading March 5, 2025

HOUSE

based on prior convictions are prohibited unless the person is convicted of a municipal offense for which there is a comparable state offense or of an infraction that allows imposition of the same mandatory minimum or increased penalties based on prior convictions. The bill also caps a consecutive municipal sentence at 2 times the highest charge in the case.

The bill clarifies that municipal court defendants have a right to counsel and that municipal defense counsel have the same notice, case information, and opportunity to meet with their clients as do state-level defense counsel. Current law prohibits paying indigent municipal defense counsel on a fixed or flat-fee payment structure if the municipality prosecutes domestic violence cases. The bill applies the prohibition to all municipalities.

All municipal court proceedings are required to be open to public observation. Virtual observation is required for all in-custody proceedings, and prompt resolution of municipal cases is required.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: 2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly 3 finds and declares that: 4 (a) Fair and consistent criminal sentencing, access to counsel for indigent people accused of crimes, and transparency of court proceedings 5 6 across Colorado are matters of statewide concern: 7 Disparities in criminal sentencing reduce the fairness, (b)8 rationality, and equity of Colorado's criminal justice system; 9 (c) In 2020, Governor Jared Polis, in his Biennial Topics Letter, 10 directed the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to 11 propose comprehensive reform to Colorado's sentencing laws, explaining: 12 "Our sentencing scheme should be rational, just, and consistent so that the 13 punishment fits the conduct"; 14 (d) In this letter, Governor Polis listed as "values" to guide sentencing reform: "Ensuring fair and consistent treatment" and 15 "Eliminating unjustified disparities in sentencing"; 16 Following Governor Polis' directive, the Colorado 17 (e)

1	Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice recommended passage of
2	Senate Bill 21-271, which standardized and rationalized sentencing for
3	misdemeanors in state court. The bill was silent with regard to application
4	to municipal courts;
5	(f) Senate Bill 21-271 passed with bipartisan, law enforcement,
6	and criminal justice reformer support;
7	(g) Since the passage of Senate Bill 21-271, some municipal
8	courts have exercised their authority to sentence defendants to jail for up
9	to 364 days for crimes related to poverty, which are capped at a 10-day
10	jail sentence in state court under Senate Bill 21-271;
11	(h) The sentencing disparities between municipal and state courts
12	is a matter of statewide concern, requiring action to align sentences to
13	avoid irrational, unjust, and excessive punishments that are out of step
14	with Colorado values and legal standards; and
15	(i) The sentencing disparities between municipal and state courts
16	creates a 2-tiered system of justice that ensures unequal treatment under
17	the law, which is inconsistent with Colorado values and legal standards.
18	(2) Therefore, the general assembly expressly declares that there
19	is a need to end sentencing disparities between state and municipal courts
20	in order to ensure equal treatment under the law for all Coloradans.
21	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-1-132, amend
22	(3.5)(a)(III) and (4); and <b>add</b> (3.5)(a)(III.5), (3.5)(g.5), and (3.5)(h) as
23	follows:
24	13-1-132. Use of interactive audiovisual devices and
25	communication technology in court proceedings. (3.5) (a) All
26	Colorado courts, including municipal courts, shall make any criminal

27 court proceeding conducted in open court available for remote public

viewing and listening in real time, at no cost to the public, through an
online platform, which may include a participatory web conferencing
platform, and post prominently on the court's website the links for remote
observation, unless:

5 (III) Technology or Staffing or internet issues limit or prevent
6 remote observation; or

7 (III.5) TEMPORARY OR INTERMITTENT INTERNET OR TECHNOLOGY
8 ISSUES LIMIT OR PREVENT REMOTE OBSERVATION; OR

9 (g.5) THE EXCEPTIONS TO REMOTE OBSERVATION DESCRIBED IN 10 SUBSECTION (3.5)(a) OF THIS SECTION ARE CASE SPECIFIC AND FACT 11 SPECIFIC, SO A COURT SHALL NOT ADOPT BLANKET RULES PROHIBITING 12 REMOTE OBSERVATION FOR ANY CATEGORIES OF CASES OR TYPES OF 13 PROCEEDINGS.

(h) THE EXCEPTIONS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (3.5)(a)(I) AND
(3.5)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO COURT PROCEEDINGS IN
WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY.

17 (4) THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION SUPERSEDE ANY 18 STATUTE, JUDICIAL GUIDANCE, OR CHIEF JUSTICE DIRECTIVE LIMITING 19 REMOTE PUBLIC OBSERVATION OF CRIMINAL COURTS, INCLUDING CHIEF 20 JUSTICE DIRECTIVE 23-02 ADOPTED BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS 21 HOUSE BILL 25- . The supreme court may prescribe rules of 22 procedure pursuant to section 13-2-109 to implement this section, BUT 23 THE RULES MUST NOT NARROW OR CONFLICT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF 24 THIS SECTION.

25 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 13-10-103 as
26 follows:

27 **13-10-103.** Applicability. This article 10 applies to and governs

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1 the operation of municipal courts in the cities and towns of this state. 2 Except for the provisions relating to the method of salary payment for 3 municipal judges; the incarceration of children pursuant to sections 4 19-2.5-305 and 19-2.5-1511; the appearance of the parent, guardian, or 5 lawful custodian of any child under eighteen years of age who is charged 6 with a municipal offense as required by section 13-10-111; the right to a 7 trial by jury for petty offenses pursuant to section 16-10-109; relief from 8 improperly entered guilty pleas pursuant to section 18-1-410.6; the 9 prosecution of an alleged act of domestic violence, as defined in section 10 18-6-800.3; making a criminal court proceeding conducted in open court 11 available for remote public viewing and listening in real time; rules of 12 procedure promulgated ADOPTED by the supreme court; and appellate 13 procedure; SENTENCING LIMITATIONS IN SECTION 13-10-113; AND THE 14 RIGHT TO COUNSEL FOR CERTAIN INDIGENT DEFENDANTS PURSUANT TO 15 SECTION 13-10-114.5, this article 10 may be superseded by charter or 16 ordinance enacted by a home rule city.

17 SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-10-111.5, amend 18 (2), (3)(a) introductory portion, and (3)(a)(I); and **add** (3)(c) as follows: 19 13-10-111.5. Notice to municipal courts of municipal holds. 20 (2) Once a municipal court receives notice that the A defendant is being 21 held solely on the basis of a municipal hold, the municipal court shall 22 hold a hearing within forty-eight hours after the receipt of such a THE 23 notice. The county sheriff OR MUNICIPAL JAIL ADMINISTRATOR shall make 24 the in-custody defendant available to appear in a timely manner before a 25 municipal judge for a hearing required by this subsection (2) at the date 26 and time mutually agreed to by the county sheriff and municipal court. This subsection (2) must not be construed to require the county sheriff OR 27

1 MUNICIPAL JAIL ADMINISTRATOR to transport the in-custody defendant to 2 the municipal court. It is not a violation of this section if a bond hearing 3 is not held within forty-eight hours when the delay is caused by 4 circumstances in which the defendant refuses to attend court, is unable to 5 attend court due to drug or alcohol use, a serious medical or behavioral 6 health emergency, or when the delay is caused by an emergency that 7 requires the court to close. When the A defendant is unable to attend 8 court, the sheriff OR MUNICIPAL JAIL ADMINISTRATOR shall provide the 9 court AND MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, IF ONE EXISTS, with a 10 list of people subject to this section who did not timely attend court, the 11 date of the person's arrest, and the location where the person is in custody. 12 The sheriff OR MUNICIPAL JAIL ADMINISTRATOR shall document the length 13 of the delay, the reason for the delay, and the efforts to abate the 14 emergency. As soon as the emergency has sufficiently abated, the sheriff 15 OR MUNICIPAL JAIL ADMINISTRATOR shall make the in-custody defendant 16 available to appear before the municipal court at the next scheduled bond 17 hearing. Use of audiovisual conferencing technology is permissible to 18 expedite the hearing. When high-speed internet access is unavailable, 19 making audiovisual conferencing impossible, the court may conduct the 20 hearing telephonically.

- 21 (3) (a) At the hearing required in PURSUANT TO subsection (2) of
  22 this section, the municipal court shall either:
- 23 (I) Arraign the defendant, INCLUDING ADVISEMENT, BOND
  24 SETTING, AND PLEA, UNLESS THE DEFENDANT SEEKS A PLEA CONTINUANCE;
  25 or
- 26 (c) (I) AT THE HEARING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)
  27 OF THIS SECTION, THE DEFENDANT HAS THE RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY

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COURT-APPOINTED INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL PURSUANT TO SECTION
 13-10-114.5.

(II) BEFORE THE HEARING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)
OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL NOTIFY INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL
OF EACH PERSON IN CUSTODY AND PROVIDE INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL
SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR AND PRESENT AN INDIVIDUALIZED
ARGUMENT REGARDING THE TYPE OF BOND AND CONDITIONS OF RELEASE
AT THE HEARING, CONSISTENT WITH THE COURT'S DOCKET AND
SCHEDULING PRIORITIES.

10 (III) THE MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL NOTIFY THE PROSECUTING 11 ATTORNEY OF EACH PERSON WHOSE MATTER IS SET FOR A HEARING 12 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. THE 13 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MAY APPEAR AT ALL INITIAL HEARINGS TO 14 PROVIDE THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S POSITION REGARDING THE TYPE 15 OF BOND AND CONDITIONS OF RELEASE, AND THE COURT SHALL PROVIDE 16 THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR AND 17 PRESENT ANY RELEVANT ARGUMENT, CONSISTENT WITH THE COURT'S 18 DOCKET AND SCHEDULING PRIORITIES.

19 (IV) PRIOR TO THE HEARING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 20 (2) OF THIS SECTION, ANY PRETRIAL SERVICES AGENCY OPERATING IN THAT 21 MUNICIPALITY, OR ANY OTHER AGENCY THAT REPORTS TO THE COURT, 22 THAT HAS CONDUCTED A PRETRIAL RELEASE ASSESSMENT OR GATHERED 23 INFORMATION FOR THE COURT'S CONSIDERATION AT THE HEARING SHALL 24 PROVIDE THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY AND THE DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY 25 ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE COURT REGARDING THE DEFENDANT 26 IN CUSTODY, WHICH MUST INCLUDE, IF PROVIDED TO THE COURT, THE 27 ARREST WARRANT, THE PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT, AND THE

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1 DEFENDANT'S CRIMINAL HISTORY.

(V) BEFORE THE HEARING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE SHERIFF AND JAIL PERSONNEL SHALL PROVIDE
INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL ACCESS TO THE DEFENDANT WHO WILL BE
APPEARING AT THE HEARING AND SHALL ALLOW INDIGENT DEFENSE
COUNSEL SUFFICIENT TIME WITH THE DEFENDANT PRIOR TO THE HEARING
IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE HEARING.

8 SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-10-112, add (3)
9 and (4) as follows:

10 13-10-112. Powers and procedures. (3) EACH MUNICIPAL COURT
11 SHALL ENSURE ALL COURT PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING COURT PROCEEDINGS
12 FOR DEFENDANTS IN CUSTODY, ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ANY MEMBER OF THE
13 PUBLIC FOR PUBLIC OBSERVATION.

14 (4) IF A MUNICIPAL COURT RECEIVES NOTICE THAT A DEFENDANT 15 WHO HAS A CRIMINAL OR TRAFFIC MATTER PENDING BEFORE THE COURT IS 16 IN CUSTODY IN COLORADO FOR ANY REASON, THE MUNICIPAL COURT 17 SHALL MAKE DILIGENT EFFORTS TO TIMELY RESOLVE THE MUNICIPAL 18 MATTER, INCLUDING TAKING REASONABLE STEPS TO PROMPTLY BRING THE 19 DEFENDANT BEFORE THE COURT. THE COURT SHALL ASSIGN INDIGENT 20 DEFENSE COUNSEL IN THE SAME MANNER AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 21 13-10-114.5. A MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL NOT DENY A DEFENDANT THE 22 ABILITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL COURT BECAUSE THE 23 DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY FOR ANOTHER, NON-MUNICIPAL MATTER. FOR 24 A HEARING OTHER THAN A TRIAL OR FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION BY 25 PLEA, THE COURT MAY PERMIT COUNSEL TO APPEAR ON BEHALF OF THE 26 DEFENDANT PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL COURT RULES AND 27 PERMIT APPEARANCE THROUGH AUDIOVISUAL OR TELEPHONIC MEANS, IF

AVAILABLE. THIS SUBSECTION (4) DOES NOT PRECLUDE A DEFENDANT
 FROM EXPRESSLY AGREEING TO DELAY A MATTER ONCE THE DEFENDANT
 APPEARS BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL COURT.

4 SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-10-113, amend
5 (1), (1.5), and (2) as follows:

13-10-113. Fines and penalties. (1) (a) Except as provided in
subsection (1)(b) of this section, Any A person convicted of violating a
municipal ordinance in a municipal court of record may be incarcerated
for a period not to exceed three hundred sixty-four days or fined, an
amount not to exceed two thousand six hundred fifty dollars, or both,
SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS IN SUBSECTIONS (1)(b) TO (1)(d) OF THIS
SECTION.

13 (b) (I) The limitation on municipal court fines set forth in 14 paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) shall be adjusted for inflation on 15 January 1, 2014, and on January 1 of each year thereafter. A MUNICIPAL 16 COURT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION FOR A 17 DEFENDANT CONVICTED OF A MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE IN A MUNICIPAL 18 COURT OF RECORD FOR A PERIOD TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM PENALTY 19 ALLOWED FOR ANY COMPARABLE MISDEMEANOR, PETTY OFFENSE, CIVIL 20 INFRACTION, TRAFFIC OFFENSE, OR TRAFFIC INFRACTION IMPOSED 21 PURSUANT TO STATE LAW. FOR CONVICTIONS BASED ON A VIOLATION OF 22 A MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE FOR WHICH THERE IS NO COMPARABLE 23 MISDEMEANOR, PETTY OFFENSE, CIVIL INFRACTION, TRAFFIC OFFENSE, OR 24 TRAFFIC INFRACTION IMPOSED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW, THE MUNICIPAL 25 COURT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION THAT EXCEEDS 26 THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR A PETTY OFFENSE PURSUANT TO STATE LAW. 27 A MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT REQUIRE IMPOSITION OF A MANDATORY

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1 MINIMUM JAIL SENTENCE UNLESS THE PERSON IS CONVICTED OF A 2 MUNICIPAL OFFENSE FOR WHICH THERE IS A COMPARABLE STATE OFFENSE 3 OR INFRACTION THAT REQUIRES IMPOSITION OF THE SAME MANDATORY 4 MINIMUM JAIL SENTENCE. A MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT IMPOSE INCREASED 5 PENALTIES BASED ON A PRIOR CONVICTION UNLESS THE PERSON IS 6 CONVICTED OF A MUNICIPAL OFFENSE FOR WHICH THERE IS A COMPARABLE 7 STATE OFFENSE OR INFRACTION THAT ALLOWS IMPOSITION OF THE SAME 8 INCREASED PENALTIES BASED ON A PRIOR CONVICTION.

9 (II) As used in this paragraph (b), "inflation" means the annual 10 percentage change in the United States department of labor, bureau of 11 labor statistics, consumer price index for Denver-Boulder, all items, all 12 urban consumers, or its successor index.

(c) A MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A FINE THAT EXCEEDS
THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR ANY COMPARABLE STATE OFFENSE OR
INFRACTION UNDER STATE LAW. FOR CONVICTIONS BASED ON A MUNICIPAL
ORDINANCE FOR WHICH THERE IS NO COMPARABLE STATE OFFENSE OR
INFRACTION, THE MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A FINE THAT
EXCEEDS THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR A PETTY OFFENSE PURSUANT TO STATE
LAW.

20 (d) A MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL NOT IMPOSE A MAXIMUM
21 CONSECUTIVE SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION FOR MUNICIPAL OFFENSES
22 CHARGED IN A SINGLE CASE THAT IS MORE THAN TWICE THE MAXIMUM
23 SENTENCE FOR THE HIGHEST CHARGE IN THE CASE.

(1.5) Any A MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL NOT SENTENCE TO
 INCARCERATION A person convicted of violating a municipal ordinance in
 a municipal court which THAT is not of record may be incarcerated for a
 period not to exceed ninety days or fined OR FINE THE PERSON IN an

1 amount not to exceed THAT EXCEEDS three hundred dollars. or both

2 (2) In sentencing or fining a violator, the municipal judge COURT 3 shall not exceed the sentence or fine limitations established by ordinance 4 SENTENCE THE VIOLATOR USING THE SENTENCING OR FINE LIMITATIONS 5 ESTABLISHED BY EITHER MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE OR STATE LAW, BASED ON 6 WHICHEVER LIMITATION IS LOWER. Any other provision of the law to the 7 contrary notwithstanding, the municipal judge COURT may suspend the 8 sentence or fine of any A violator and place him THE VIOLATOR on 9 probation for a period not to exceed one year.

SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend as it exists
until July 1, 2025, 13-10-114.5 as follows:

12 13-10-114.5. Representation by counsel-independent indigent 13 defense - definitions. (1) At the time of first appearance on a municipal 14 charge, if the defendant is in custody and the charged offense includes a 15 possible sentence of incarceration, the court shall appoint counsel to 16 represent the defendant for purposes of the initial appearance unless, after 17 a full advisement pursuant to C.M.C.R. 210 and section 16-7-207, C.R.S., 18 the defendant makes a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of his 19 or her right to counsel. A MUNICIPALITY SHALL PROVIDE DEFENSE 20 COUNSEL FOR EACH INDIGENT DEFENDANT CHARGED WITH A MUNICIPAL 21 VIOLATION FOR WHICH THE MUNICIPAL CODE ALLOWS A POSSIBLE 22 SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION UNLESS, AFTER BEING FULLY ADVISED 23 PURSUANT TO C.M.C.R. 210 AND SECTION 16-7-207, THE DEFENDANT 24 MAKES A KNOWING, INTELLIGENT, AND VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF THE RIGHT 25 TO COUNSEL.

26 (2) If the defendant remains in custody, the appointment of
 27 counsel continues until the defendant is released from custody. If the

defendant is released from custody, he or she may apply for 1 2 court-appointed counsel, and the court shall appoint counsel if the court 3 determines that the defendant is indigent and the charged offense includes 4 a possible sentence of incarceration. AN IN-CUSTODY MUNICIPAL 5 DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED INDIGENT AND AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO 6 REPRESENTATION BY COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL AT AND DURING EVERY 7 IN-CUSTODY COURT APPEARANCE. A MUNICIPALITY THAT AUTHORIZES 8 LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ARREST AN INDIVIDUAL FOR AN ALLEGED 9 MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATION SHALL ENSURE INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL 10 IS PRESENT AND AVAILABLE TO REPRESENT AN IN-CUSTODY DEFENDANT 11 AT ALL COURT APPEARANCES AND THAT COURT APPEARANCES OCCUR 12 WITHIN THE TIME FRAMES ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 13-10-111.5 (2). FOR 13 A COURT APPEARANCE AT WHICH THE MUNICIPAL COURT IS REQUIRED TO 14 SET A PERSONAL RECOGNIZANCE BOND, THE RIGHT TO INDIGENT DEFENSE 15 COUNSEL AT THE HEARING REMAINS IN PLACE, AS DOES THE REQUIREMENT 16 THAT THE COURT CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS BEFORE SETTING BOND AS 17 REQUIRED BY SECTION 13-10-111.5 (3).

18 (3) IF A DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY, CANNOT POST BAIL OR IS NOT 19 ALLOWED TO POST BAIL, AND HAS A MUNICIPAL HOLD, INDIGENT DEFENSE 20 COUNSEL FOR THE HOLDING MUNICIPALITY MAY AUTOMATICALLY ELECT 21 TO REPRESENT THE DEFENDANT IN THE MUNICIPAL CASE AND SHALL 22 NOTIFY THE MUNICIPAL COURT EITHER VERBALLY OR IN WRITING OF THE 23 REPRESENTATION. IF A MUNICIPAL COURT RECEIVES NOTICE, INCLUDING 24 FROM AN INCARCERATED DEFENDANT, JAIL, OR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, 25 OF A DEFENDANT IN CUSTODY WHO CANNOT POST BAIL OR IS NOT 26 ALLOWED TO POST BAIL, AND HAS A MUNICIPAL HOLD, THE HOLDING 27 MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL EITHER APPOINT INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL TO

REPRESENT THE DEFENDANT IN THE MUNICIPAL CASE WHILE THE
 DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY OR NOTIFY THE DEFENDANT'S INDIGENT
 DEFENSE COUNSEL TO ALLOW INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL THE
 OPPORTUNITY TO AUTOMATICALLY ELECT TO REPRESENT THE DEFENDANT
 WHILE THE DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY.

6 (3.5) AT THE TIME OF A DEFENDANT'S FIRST OUT-OF-CUSTODY 7 APPEARANCE IN MUNICIPAL COURT FOR A VIOLATION FOR WHICH THE 8 MUNICIPAL CODE ALLOWS A POSSIBLE SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION, THE 9 COURT SHALL ADVISE THE DEFENDANT OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO 10 COUNSEL. THE COURT MAY INQUIRE AND MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO 11 INDIGENCE IMMEDIATELY UPON REQUEST OR SHALL ADVISE THE 12 DEFENDANT OF THE PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR COURT-APPOINTED 13 INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL. IF THE COURT DETERMINES THE DEFENDANT 14 IS INDIGENT, THE COURT SHALL APPOINT INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL IN 15 THE MUNICIPAL CASE UNLESS, AFTER BEING FULLY ADVISED PURSUANT TO 16 RULE 210 OF THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL COURT RULES AND SECTION 17 16-7-207, THE DEFENDANT MAKES A KNOWING, INTELLIGENT, AND 18 VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL. NOTHING IN THIS 19 SECTION PREVENTS THE COURT FROM MAKING A DETERMINATION OF 20 INDIGENCE IN ADVANCE OF AN OUT-OF-CUSTODY HEARING OR AT THE 21 SAME HEARING WHEN THE DEFENDANT REQUESTS APPOINTMENT OF 22 COUNSEL.

(3) (4) (a) On and after January 1, 2020, each municipality shall
provide independent indigent defense for each indigent defendant charged
with a municipal code violation for which there is a possible sentence of
incarceration. Independent indigent defense requires, at minimum, that a
nonpartisan entity independent of the municipal court and municipal

1 officials oversee or evaluate indigent defense counsel.

(b) (I) Because the office of alternate defense counsel created in
section 21-2-101 is an independent system of indigent defense overseen
by an independent commission, provision of indigent defense by lawyers
evaluated or overseen by the office of alternate defense counsel satisfies
the requirement described in subsection (3)(a) SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this
section.

8 (II) Because a legal aid clinic at any Colorado law school 9 accredited by the American bar association is an independent system of 10 indigent defense overseen by the dean of the law school with which it is 11 affiliated, <del>any</del> A provision or oversight of indigent defense through a legal 12 aid clinic associated with any Colorado law school accredited by the 13 American bar association satisfies the requirement described in 14 <del>subsection (3)(a)</del> SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this section.

15 (c) To satisfy the requirement described in subsection (3)(a)
16 SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this section, a municipality that contracts directly
17 with one or more defense attorneys to provide counsel to indigent
18 defendants shall ensure that:

(I) The process to select indigent defense attorneys is transparentand based on merit; and

(II) Each contracted indigent defense attorney is periodically
evaluated by an independent entity for competency and independence.
The municipality shall evaluate each newly hired defense attorney as soon
as practicable but no later than one year after he or she THE DEFENSE
ATTORNEY is hired. Otherwise, the municipality shall evaluate each
defense attorney at least every three years. An independent entity that
evaluates defense attorneys pursuant to this subsection (3)(c)(II)

SUBSECTION (4)(c)(II) shall provide evaluation results and any
 recommendations for corrective action in writing to the municipality. For
 the purpose of this subsection (3) SUBSECTION (4), "independent entity"
 means:

5

(A) The office of alternate defense counsel;

6 (B) An attorney or a group of attorneys, each of whom has 7 substantial experience practicing criminal defense in Colorado within the 8 preceding five years, so long as the attorney or group of attorneys is not 9 affiliated with the municipality receiving the services, including <del>any</del> A 10 municipal judge, prosecutor, or indigent defense attorney; or

(C) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission,
 as described in subsection (3)(d) SUBSECTION (4)(d) of this section.

13 (d) (I) To satisfy the requirement described in subsection (3)(a)14 SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this section, a municipality may establish a local 15 independent indigent defense commission or coordinate with one or more 16 other municipalities to establish a regional independent indigent defense 17 commission. Any local or regional independent indigent defense 18 commission in existence as of January 1, 2018, is deemed to be in 19 compliance with this subsection (3)(d) SUBSECTION (4)(d) and may 20 continue as established.

(II) Each local or regional independent indigent defense commission ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) must include at least three members, each of whom is selected by the chief municipal judge in consultation with the Colorado criminal defense bar, the office of alternate defense counsel, or the office of the state public defender. Prior to serving on a commission, any commission member who is selected by a chief municipal judge must be approved by the office of alternate defense counsel. The office of alternate defense counsel shall
 approve such appointed commission members whom the office, in its
 discretion, deems likely to promote the provision of competent and
 independent indigent defense.

5 (III) The terms and procedures for the members of a local or 6 regional independent indigent defense commission <del>must be</del> ESTABLISHED 7 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) ARE determined by the municipality 8 or municipalities that <del>establish</del> ESTABLISHED the independent indigent 9 defense commission.

(IV) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission established pursuant to this subsection (3)(d) SUBSECTION (4)(d) has the responsibility and exclusive authority to appoint indigent defense counsel for a term of at least one year or more to be served until a successor is appointed. The independent indigent defense commission retains sole authority to supervise the indigent defense counsel and discharge him or her THEM for cause.

17 (V) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission 18 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d), through its ability to 19 supervise, appoint, and discharge the indigent defense counsel PURSUANT 20 TO SUBSECTION (4)(d)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, shall ensure that indigent 21 defendants accused of violations of municipal ordinances for which there 22 is a possible sentence of incarceration are represented independently of 23 any political considerations or private interests, that such THE indigent 24 defendants receive legal services that are commensurate with those 25 available to nonindigent defendants, and that municipal indigent defense 26 attorneys provide representation in accordance with the Colorado rules of 27 professional conduct and the American bar association standards relating

1 to the administration of criminal justice.

(VI) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) shall not interfere
with the discretion, judgment, and zealous advocacy of indigent defense
attorneys in specific cases.

6 (VII) A local or regional independent indigent defense 7 commission ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) shall 8 make recommendations to its municipality or municipalities regarding the 9 provision of adequate monetary resources to provide legal services to 10 indigent defendants accused of violations of such municipal ordinances.

11 The members of an independent indigent defense (VIII) 12 commission ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) shall 13 serve without compensation; except that a municipality that establishes 14 a local independent indigent defense commission or that coordinates with 15 one or more other municipalities to establish a regional independent 16 indigent defense commission shall reimburse the members of the 17 commission for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the 18 performance of their duties.

(5) IF A DEFENDANT REMAINS IN CUSTODY, THE APPOINTMENT OF
COUNSEL CONTINUES UNTIL THE DEFENDANT IS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY.
IF A DEFENDANT IS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY, THE DEFENDANT MAY
APPLY FOR COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL, AND THE COURT SHALL APPOINT
COUNSEL IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT THE DEFENDANT IS INDIGENT
AND THE CHARGED OFFENSE INCLUDES A POSSIBLE SENTENCE OF
INCARCERATION.

26 SECTION 8. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend as it will
27 become effective July 1, 2025, 13-10-114.5 as follows:

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1 13-10-114.5. Representation by counsel - independent indigent 2 defense - definitions. (1) At the time of first appearance on a municipal 3 charge, if the defendant is in custody and the charged offense includes a 4 possible sentence of incarceration, the court shall appoint counsel to 5 represent the defendant for purposes of the initial appearance unless, after 6 a full advisement pursuant to C.M.C.R. 210 and section 16-7-207, C.R.S., 7 the defendant makes a knowing, intelligent, and voluntary waiver of his 8 or her right to counsel. A MUNICIPALITY SHALL PROVIDE DEFENSE 9 COUNSEL FOR EACH INDIGENT DEFENDANT CHARGED WITH A MUNICIPAL 10 VIOLATION FOR WHICH THE MUNICIPAL CODE ALLOWS A POSSIBLE 11 SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION UNLESS, AFTER BEING FULLY ADVISED 12 PURSUANT TO C.M.C.R. 210 AND SECTION 16-7-207, THE DEFENDANT 13 MAKES A KNOWING, INTELLIGENT, AND VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF THE RIGHT 14 TO COUNSEL.

15 (2) If the defendant remains in custody, the appointment of 16 counsel continues until the defendant is released from custody. If the 17 defendant is released from custody, he or she may apply for 18 court-appointed counsel, and the court shall appoint counsel if the court 19 determines that the defendant is indigent and the charged offense includes 20 a possible sentence of incarceration. AN IN-CUSTODY MUNICIPAL 21 DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED INDIGENT AND AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO 22 REPRESENTATION BY COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL AT AND DURING EVERY 23 IN-CUSTODY COURT APPEARANCE. A MUNICIPALITY THAT AUTHORIZES 24 LAW ENFORCEMENT TO ARREST AN INDIVIDUAL FOR AN ALLEGED 25 MUNICIPAL CODE VIOLATION SHALL ENSURE INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL 26 IS PRESENT AND AVAILABLE TO REPRESENT AN IN-CUSTODY DEFENDANT 27 AT ALL COURT APPEARANCES AND THAT COURT APPEARANCES OCCUR

WITHIN THE TIME FRAMES ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 13-10-111.5 (2). FOR
 A COURT APPEARANCE AT WHICH THE MUNICIPAL COURT IS REQUIRED TO
 SET A PERSONAL RECOGNIZANCE BOND, THE RIGHT TO INDIGENT DEFENSE
 COUNSEL AT THE HEARING REMAINS IN PLACE, AS DOES THE REQUIREMENT
 THAT THE COURT CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS BEFORE SETTING BOND AS
 REQUIRED BY SECTION 13-10-111.5 (3).

7 (3) IF A DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY, CANNOT POST BAIL OR IS NOT 8 ALLOWED TO POST BAIL, AND HAS A MUNICIPAL HOLD, INDIGENT DEFENSE 9 COUNSEL FOR THE HOLDING MUNICIPALITY MAY AUTOMATICALLY ELECT 10 TO REPRESENT THE DEFENDANT IN THE MUNICIPAL CASE AND SHALL 11 NOTIFY THE MUNICIPAL COURT EITHER VERBALLY OR IN WRITING OF THE 12 REPRESENTATION. IF A MUNICIPAL COURT RECEIVES NOTICE, INCLUDING 13 FROM AN INCARCERATED DEFENDANT, JAIL, OR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, 14 OF A DEFENDANT IN CUSTODY WHO CANNOT POST BAIL OR IS NOT 15 ALLOWED TO POST BAIL, AND HAS A MUNICIPAL HOLD, THE HOLDING 16 MUNICIPAL COURT SHALL EITHER APPOINT INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL TO 17 REPRESENT THE DEFENDANT WHILE THE DEFENDANT IS IN CUSTODY OR 18 NOTIFY THE DEFENDANT'S INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL TO ALLOW 19 INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL THE OPPORTUNITY TO AUTOMATICALLY 20 ELECT TO REPRESENT THE DEFENDANT WHILE THE DEFENDANT IS IN 21 CUSTODY.

(3.5) AT THE TIME OF A DEFENDANT'S FIRST OUT-OF-CUSTODY
APPEARANCE IN MUNICIPAL COURT FOR A VIOLATION FOR WHICH THE
MUNICIPAL CODE ALLOWS A POSSIBLE SENTENCE OF INCARCERATION, THE
COURT SHALL ADVISE THE DEFENDANT OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO
COUNSEL. THE COURT MAY INQUIRE AND MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO
INDIGENCE IMMEDIATELY UPON REQUEST OR SHALL ADVISE THE

1 DEFENDANT OF THE PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR COURT-APPOINTED 2 INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL. IF THE COURT DETERMINES THE DEFENDANT 3 IS INDIGENT, THE COURT SHALL APPOINT INDIGENT DEFENSE COUNSEL IN 4 THE MUNICIPAL CASE UNLESS, AFTER BEING FULLY ADVISED PURSUANT TO RULE 210 OF THE COLORADO MUNICIPAL COURT RULES AND SECTION 5 6 16-7-207, THE DEFENDANT MAKES A KNOWING, INTELLIGENT, AND 7 VOLUNTARY WAIVER OF THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL. NOTHING IN THIS 8 SECTION PREVENTS THE COURT FROM MAKING A DETERMINATION OF 9 INDIGENCE IN ADVANCE OF AN OUT-OF-CUSTODY HEARING OR AT THE 10 SAME HEARING WHEN THE DEFENDANT REQUESTS APPOINTMENT OF 11 COUNSEL.

12 (3) (4) (a) On and after January 1, 2020, each municipality shall 13 provide independent indigent defense for each indigent defendant charged 14 with a municipal code violation for which there is a possible sentence of 15 incarceration. Independent indigent defense requires, at minimum, that a 16 nonpartisan entity independent of the municipal court and municipal 17 officials oversee or evaluate indigent defense counsel.

(b) (I) Because the office of alternate defense counsel created in
section 21-2-101 is an independent system of indigent defense overseen
by an independent commission, provision of indigent defense by lawyers
evaluated or overseen by the office of alternate defense counsel satisfies
the requirement described in subsection (3)(a) SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this
section.

(II) Because a legal aid clinic at any Colorado law school
accredited by the American bar association is an independent system of
indigent defense overseen by the dean of the law school with which it is
affiliated, <del>any</del> THE provision or oversight of indigent defense through a

legal aid clinic associated with any Colorado law school accredited by the
 American bar association satisfies the requirement described in
 subsection (3)(a) SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this section.

4 (c) To satisfy the requirement described in subsection (3)(a)
5 SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this section, a municipality that contracts directly
6 with one or more defense attorneys to provide counsel to indigent
7 defendants shall ensure that:

8 (I) The process to select indigent defense attorneys is transparent
9 and based on merit;

10 (II) Each contracted indigent defense attorney is periodically 11 evaluated by an independent entity for competency and independence. 12 The municipality shall evaluate each newly hired defense attorney as soon 13 as practicable but no later than one year after he or she THE DEFENSE 14 ATTORNEY is hired. Otherwise, the municipality shall evaluate each 15 defense attorney at least every three years. An independent entity that 16 evaluates defense attorneys pursuant to this subsection (3)(c)(H)17 SUBSECTION (4)(c)(II) shall provide evaluation results and any 18 recommendations for corrective action in writing to the municipality. For 19 the purpose of this subsection (3) SUBSECTION (4), "independent entity" 20 means:

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(A) The office of alternate defense counsel;

(B) An attorney or a group of attorneys, each of whom has
substantial experience practicing criminal defense in Colorado within the
preceding five years, so long as the attorney or group of attorneys is not
affiliated with the municipality receiving the services, including any A
municipal judge, prosecutor, or indigent defense attorney; or

(C) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission,

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1 as described in <del>subsection (3)(d)</del> SUBSECTION (4)(d) of this section.

(III) (A) The contract does not use a fixed or flat-fee payment
structure for indigent defense services but instead uses the same payment
structure and rates that are paid by the state of Colorado to attorneys and
other interdisciplinary team members under contract with the office of
alternate defense counsel created in section 21-2-101 and that are
consistent with chief justice directive 04-04, or any successor chief justice
directive.

9 (B) This subsection (3)(c)(III) only applies to a municipality that
 10 prosecutes an act of domestic violence, as defined in section 18-6-800.3.

(C) For the purposes of this subsection (3)(c) SUBSECTION (4)(c),
"fixed or flat-fee payment structure" means a fee paid as a MAXIMUM
fixed amount for specified legal services, regardless of the time or effort
involved, but does not include an amount paid as a salary or on a salary
basis.

16 (d) (I) To satisfy the requirement described in subsection (3)(a)17 SUBSECTION (4)(a) of this section, a municipality may establish a local 18 independent indigent defense commission or coordinate with one or more 19 other municipalities to establish a regional independent indigent defense 20 commission. Any A local or regional independent indigent defense 21 commission in existence as of January 1, 2018, is deemed to be in 22 compliance with this subsection (3)(d) SUBSECTION (4)(d) and may 23 continue as established.

(II) Each local or regional independent indigent defense
 commission ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) must
 include at least three members, each of whom is selected by the chief
 municipal judge in consultation with the Colorado criminal defense bar,

the office of alternate defense counsel, or the office of the state public defender. Prior to serving on a commission, any commission member who is selected by a chief municipal judge must be approved by the office of alternate defense counsel. The office of alternate defense counsel shall approve such appointed commission members whom the office, in its discretion, deems likely to promote the provision of competent and independent indigent defense.

8 (III) The terms and procedures for the members of a local or 9 regional independent indigent defense commission must be ESTABLISHED 10 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) ARE determined by the municipality 11 or municipalities that establish ESTABLISHED the independent indigent 12 defense commission.

(IV) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission established pursuant to this subsection (3)(d) SUBSECTION (4)(d) has the responsibility and exclusive authority to appoint indigent defense counsel for a term of at least one year or more to be served until a successor is appointed. The independent indigent defense commission retains sole authority to supervise the indigent defense counsel and discharge him or her THEM for cause.

20 (V) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission 21 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d), through its ability to 22 supervise, appoint, and discharge the indigent defense counsel PURSUANT 23 TO SUBSECTION (4)(d)(IV) OF THIS SECTION, shall ensure that indigent 24 defendants accused of violations of municipal ordinances for which there 25 is a possible sentence of incarceration are represented independently of 26 any political considerations or private interests, that such indigent 27 defendants receive legal services that are commensurate with those

available to nonindigent defendants, and that municipal indigent defense
 attorneys provide representation in accordance with the Colorado rules of
 professional conduct and the American bar association standards relating
 to the administration of criminal justice.

5 (VI) A local or regional independent indigent defense commission 6 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) shall not interfere 7 with the discretion, judgment, and zealous advocacy of indigent defense 8 attorneys in specific cases.

9 (VII) A local or regional independent indigent defense 10 commission ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) shall 11 make recommendations to its municipality or municipalities regarding the 12 provision of adequate monetary resources to provide legal services to 13 indigent defendants accused of violations of such municipal ordinances.

14 The members of an independent indigent defense (VIII) 15 commission ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)(d) shall 16 serve without compensation; except that a municipality that establishes 17 a local independent indigent defense commission or that coordinates with 18 one or more other municipalities to establish a regional independent 19 indigent defense commission shall reimburse the members of the 20 commission for actual and reasonable expenses incurred in the 21 performance of their duties.

(5) IF A DEFENDANT REMAINS IN CUSTODY, THE APPOINTMENT OF
COUNSEL CONTINUES UNTIL THE DEFENDANT IS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY.
IF A DEFENDANT IS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY, THE DEFENDANT MAY
APPLY FOR COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL, AND THE COURT SHALL APPOINT
COUNSEL IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT THE DEFENDANT IS INDIGENT
AND THE CHARGED OFFENSE INCLUDES A POSSIBLE SENTENCE OF

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1 INCARCERATION.

2 SECTION 9. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 21-2-103, amend (5)
3 as follows:

4 21-2-103. Representation of persons who are indigent -5 definition. (5) The office of alternate defense counsel may, but is not 6 required to, evaluate the performance of attorneys providing indigent 7 defense in municipal courts at the request of any municipality, as 8 described in section 13-10-114.5 (3)(c)(II) SECTION 13-10-114.5 9 (4)(c)(II). The office of alternate defense counsel shall not perform any 10 such evaluations without sufficient funding for personnel to perform such 11 evaluations.

SECTION 10. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 21-2-108, amend
(2) as follows:

14 **21-2-108.** Conflict-free defense for indigent persons in 15 municipal courts - fund created. (2) A municipality that wants to utilize 16 the services of the office of alternate defense counsel to evaluate the 17 provision of defense counsel to indigent defendants as described in 18 section 13-10-114.5 (3)(c)(II)(A) SECTION 13-10-114.5 (4)(c)(II)(A) 19 during the next calendar year shall request such services on or before 20 September 1, 2018, and on or before September 1 each year thereafter.

21 SECTION 11. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, 22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate 23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for 24 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state 25 institutions.