

HB 1056

**Expanding Veterans' Service Organizations' Ability
To Accept Community Service in Misdemeanor Sentencing**

Current law

- A misdemeanor defendant may be sentenced to "community or useful public service" (18-1.3-501)
- A Veterans' Service Organization (VSO) organized under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) may – in its discretion – supervise a misdemeanor defendant sentenced to community service

The problem

- State law excludes VSOs under 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(19) from participating in community service
- For example, American Legion posts are organized under 501(c)(19) and are excluded

What the bill does

- Allows VSOs organized under 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(19) to supervise a misdemeanor defendant sentenced to community service in the same way that a 501(c)(3) VSO may do so (18-1.3-507)

What the bill does not do

- Allow any 501(c)(4) that is not a VSO to participate in community service
- Remove discretion from the VSO whether to accept any particular community service assignment
- Change sentencing provisions for any offense
- Change judicial discretion in sentencing for any offense
- Modify the definition of any misdemeanor or other offense

Supporters

- United Veterans Committee of Colorado

Questions?

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We appreciate your support!