

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-eighth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 12-0554.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

SENATE BILL 12-072

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE COLORADO MOUNTED RANGERS.**

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The Colorado mounted rangers (rangers) are established as an all-volunteer, unpaid auxiliary unit for the purpose of lending assistance to statewide and local law enforcement agencies and emergency management, fire-fighting, emergency medical service, and search-and-rescue agencies (emergency management agencies). A director of a statewide law enforcement agency; a county sheriff, police chief, town marshal; and a senior management official of an emergency

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

management agency may call upon the rangers to lend assistance in any situation wherein he or she deems such assistance to be necessary.

A ranger who lends assistance to an emergency management agency shall, at a minimum, meet the training standards imposed by the agency. Any expenses associated with such training shall be borne by the ranger.

A ranger who lends assistance to a law enforcement agency shall, at a minimum, possess a valid reserve peace officer certification issued by the peace officers standards and training board. Any expenses associated with such certification, as well as any expenses associated with any additional training required by a law enforcement agency to which the ranger lends assistance, shall be borne by the ranger. A ranger who possesses such certification is a reserve police officer.

A ranger who lends assistance to a law enforcement agency shall do so only at the request of, and under the direct supervision and control of, a county sheriff, police chief, or town marshal, or under the direct supervision and control of a designee of such a person, so long as the designee is a certified peace officer.

Rangers who lend assistance to emergency management agencies, and rangers who lend assistance to law enforcement agencies, shall wear distinctive uniforms to distinguish themselves from each other.

Rangers in all circumstances shall serve without compensation.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) The Colorado mounted rangers, also known as the Colorado
5 rangers, have served and protected the territory and the state of Colorado
6 since 1861;

7 (b) The Colorado rangers comprised the first law enforcement
8 agency in the new territory of Colorado;

9 (c) The Colorado rangers were called upon by the state's
10 governors to protect the state during the mining strikes and the
11 prohibition period;

12 (d) In 1923, the Colorado rangers were disbanded, leaving
13 Colorado without a statewide law enforcement organization until the

1 Colorado state patrol was formed;

2 (e) In 1941, by request of former Governor Teller Ammons, a
3 volunteer group in Bailey, Colorado, formed the Colorado mounted
4 rangers, whose primary function was to promote Colorado by holding
5 livestock shows and appearing in radio shows and motion pictures;

6 (f) Today, the Colorado mounted rangers are available to assist the
7 division of emergency management within the department of local affairs;
8 train with and assist the office of preparedness, security, and fire safety;
9 provide security in emergency situations such as airline disasters,
10 search-and-rescue operations, and forest fires; and provide assistance to
11 local, state, and federal authorities upon request;

12 (g) The Colorado mounted rangers have assisted in natural
13 disasters such as the Big Thompson flood, the Black Ridge fire, and the
14 Hayman fire;

15 (h) While conducting search-and-rescue efforts during the past
16 seventy years, the Colorado mounted rangers have saved the lives of
17 many lost and injured mountain climbers and bikers; and

18 (i) During the past year, the Colorado mounted rangers
19 volunteered more than fifty thousand hours of devoted service to the
20 people of Colorado.

21 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that the
22 Colorado mounted rangers shall be established as an all-volunteer, unpaid
23 auxiliary unit for the purpose of lending assistance to law enforcement,
24 emergency management, fire-fighting, emergency medical service, and
25 search-and-rescue agencies in the state.

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-2.5-110, **amend**
27 (1) (a), (2), and (5) as follows:

1 **16-2.5-110. Reserve police officer - reserve deputy sheriff -**
2 **reserve deputy town marshal - Colorado mounted rangers -**

3 **definitions.** (1) (a) A reserve police officer, a reserve deputy sheriff, ~~and~~
4 a reserve deputy town marshal, AND CERTAIN COLORADO MOUNTED
5 RANGERS, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-2.5-149, are reserve officers.

6 (2) A city, city and county, town, county, or state institution of
7 higher education assigning duties to a reserve officer beyond those duties
8 included in the P.O.S.T. board training shall assume the responsibility for
9 ensuring that the reserve officer is adequately trained for the duties.
10 EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-2.5-149, any expenses associated
11 with the additional training shall be authorized by the city, city and
12 county, town, county, or state institution of higher education. If the
13 jurisdiction allows or requires the reserve officer to carry or use a firearm
14 while on duty, the reserve officer shall be certified for firearms
15 proficiency with the same frequency and subject to the same requirements
16 as a P.O.S.T.-certified peace officer in the jurisdiction. A reserve officer
17 who does not comply with the training requirements set forth in this
18 subsection (2) is not authorized to enforce the laws of the state of
19 Colorado.

20 (5) (a) (I) A reserve officer may be compensated for his or her
21 time during a declared emergency or during a time of special need. In all
22 other circumstances, a reserve officer shall serve without compensation,
23 but may be reimbursed at the discretion of the city, city and county, town,
24 county, or state institution of higher education benefitting from the
25 services of the reserve officer for any authorized out-of-pocket expenses
26 incurred in the course of his or her duties.

27 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF

1 THIS PARAGRAPH (a) TO THE CONTRARY, A COLORADO MOUNTED RANGER
2 SERVING AS A RESERVE OFFICER SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
3 OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES.

4 (b) The city, city and county, town, county, or state institution of
5 higher education shall pay the cost of workers' compensation benefits for
6 injuries incurred by a reserve officer while on duty and while acting
7 within the scope of his or her assigned duties. A reserve officer is an
8 authorized volunteer for purposes of article 10 of title 24, C.R.S.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 16-2.5-149 as
10 follows:

11 **16-2.5-149. Colorado mounted rangers - established - training**
12 **standards.** (1) THE COLORADO MOUNTED RANGERS, REFERRED TO
13 WITHIN THIS SECTION AS THE "RANGERS", ARE HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS AN
14 ALL-VOLUNTEER, UNPAID AUXILIARY UNIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF LENDING
15 ASSISTANCE TO STATEWIDE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
16 AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRE-FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL
17 SERVICE, AND SEARCH-AND-RESCUE AGENCIES.

18 (2) (a) A SENIOR MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL OF A STATEWIDE OR
19 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRE-FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL
20 SERVICE, OR SEARCH-AND-RESCUE AGENCY MAY CALL UPON THE RANGERS
21 TO LEND ASSISTANCE IN ANY SITUATION WHEREIN HE OR SHE DEEMS SUCH
22 ASSISTANCE TO BE NECESSARY.

23 (b) A RANGER WHO LENDS ASSISTANCE TO AN EMERGENCY
24 MANAGEMENT, FIRE-FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, OR
25 SEARCH-AND-RESCUE AGENCY SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, MEET THE TRAINING
26 STANDARDS IMPOSED BY THE AGENCY. ANY EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH
27 TRAINING REQUIRED BY THIS PARAGRAPH (b) SHALL BE BORNE BY THE

1 RANGER WHO RECEIVES THE TRAINING.

2 (c) RANGERS WHO LEND SUPPORT TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
3 FIRE-FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, AND SEARCH-AND-RESCUE
4 AGENCIES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) SHALL WEAR DISTINCTIVE
5 UNIFORMS TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES FROM RANGERS WHO LEND
6 SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)
7 OF THIS SECTION.

8 (3) (a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
9 SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-103, C.R.S., THE CHIEF OF THE
10 COLORADO STATE PATROL CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-201, C.R.S., THE
11 DIRECTOR OF THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION CREATED IN
12 SECTION 24-33.5-401, C.R.S., THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-128.5, C.R.S.,
14 AND A COUNTY SHERIFF, POLICE CHIEF, OR TOWN MARSHAL MAY CALL
15 UPON THE RANGERS TO LEND ASSISTANCE IN ANY SITUATION WHEREIN HE
16 OR SHE DEEMS SUCH ASSISTANCE TO BE NECESSARY.

17 (b) A RANGER WHO LENDS ASSISTANCE TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT
18 AGENCY SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, POSSESS A VALID RESERVE PEACE OFFICER
19 CERTIFICATION ISSUED BY THE PEACE OFFICERS STANDARDS AND TRAINING
20 BOARD AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-305 (1.3), C.R.S. ANY EXPENSES
21 ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH CERTIFICATION, AS WELL AS ANY EXPENSES
22 ASSOCIATED WITH ANY ADDITIONAL TRAINING REQUIRED BY A LAW
23 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO WHICH THE RANGER LENDS ASSISTANCE, SHALL
24 BE BORNE BY THE RANGER.

25 (c) EACH RANGER WHO LENDS ASSISTANCE TO A LAW
26 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL DO SO ONLY AT THE REQUEST OF, AND
27 UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF, THE EXECUTIVE

1 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION
2 24-33.5-103, C.R.S., THE CHIEF OF THE COLORADO STATE PATROL
3 CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-201, C.R.S., THE DIRECTOR OF THE
4 COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-401,
5 C.R.S., THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
6 CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-128.5, C.R.S., OR A COUNTY SHERIFF, POLICE
7 CHIEF, OR TOWN MARSHAL, OR UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND
8 CONTROL OF A DESIGNEE OF SUCH A PERSON, SO LONG AS THE DESIGNEE IS
9 A CERTIFIED PEACE OFFICER AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-2.5-102.

10 (d) RANGERS WHO LEND SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
11 AGENCIES PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) SHALL WEAR DISTINCTIVE
12 UNIFORMS TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES FROM RANGERS WHO LEND
13 SUPPORT TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRE-FIGHTING, EMERGENCY
14 MEDICAL SERVICE, AND SEARCH-AND-RESCUE AGENCIES PURSUANT TO
15 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (4) A STATEWIDE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR
17 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRE-FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL
18 SERVICE, OR SEARCH-AND-RESCUE AGENCY THAT CALLS UPON THE
19 RANGERS TO LEND ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PAY
20 THE COST OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR INJURIES INCURRED
21 BY A RANGER WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS OR HER ASSIGNED
22 DUTIES.

23 (5) A RANGER LENDING ASSISTANCE TO A STATEWIDE OR LOCAL
24 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
25 FIRE-FIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, OR SEARCH-AND-RESCUE
26 AGENCY IS AN AUTHORIZED VOLUNTEER FOR PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 10 OF
27 TITLE 24, C.R.S.

1 (6) RANGERS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
2 COMPENSATION.

3 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
4 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
5 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
6 7, 2012, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2012); except that, if a
7 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
8 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
9 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
10 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
11 November 2012 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.