

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 12-0554.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**SENATE BILL 12-072**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lambert,** Newell, Grantham, Scheffel, Cadman, Aguilar, King K., Lundberg, Neville,  
Renfro

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Stephens,** Holbert, Joshi, Looper, DelGrosso, Gerou

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**Senate Committees**  
Judiciary

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE COLORADO MOUNTED RANGERS.**

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**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.

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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;

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

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

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

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

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

25 **SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-32-2222, amend**  
26 **(1), (2) (a), (2) (b), (2) (c), and (2) (d); and add (5) as follows:**

27 **24-32-2222. County sheriff - local government - local**

1 emergency planning committee - memorandum of understanding  
2 with volunteer organizations. (1) Any county sheriff, the director of  
3 any local government, any local emergency planning committee, or any  
4 state agency may develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding  
5 with one or more volunteer organizations, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED  
6 TO THE COLORADO MOUNTED RANGERS, to assist the county sheriff, local  
7 government, local emergency planning committee, or state agency in  
8 providing services in the event of a disaster AS REQUIRED.

9 (2) A memorandum of understanding between a county sheriff, a  
10 local government, a local emergency planning committee, or a state  
11 agency and a volunteer organization may include the following  
12 information:

13 (a) The circumstances under which the county sheriff, local  
14 government, local emergency planning committee, or state agency may  
15 request the services of the volunteer organization; ~~in a disaster;~~

16 (b) The circumstances under which the volunteer organization  
17 may accept or refuse the request for assistance by the county sheriff, local  
18 government, local emergency planning committee, or state agency; ~~in a~~  
19 ~~disaster;~~

20 (c) The party that will be responsible for any costs incurred by the  
21 volunteer organization in the course of assisting the county sheriff, local  
22 government, local emergency planning committee, or state agency; ~~in a~~  
23 ~~disaster;~~

24 (d) The specific training or certification required for volunteers  
25 who are members of the volunteer organization to be authorized to assist  
26 the county sheriff, local government, local emergency planning  
27 committee, or state agency; ~~in a disaster;~~

1           (5) A MEMBER OF THE COLORADO MOUNTED RANGERS AND ANY  
2           OTHER VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION LENDING ASSISTANCE TO A COUNTY  
3           SHERIFF, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE,  
4           OR STATE AGENCY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS AN AUTHORIZED  
5           VOLUNTEER FOR THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 10 OF THIS TITLE.

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