

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 14-0480.01 Michael Dohr x4347

HOUSE BILL 14-1144

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gardner,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Judiciary
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF DISTRICT**
102 **ATTORNEYS.**

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 bill suggests minimum salary requirements for entry-level deputy district attorneys. The counties can set salaries higher than the statutory minimum. The judiciary committees are periodically required to review the salary minimums and suggest statutory changes when appropriate. If a judicial district with fewer than 225,000 residents adopts

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.*

the minimum salary requirement, the state will contribute 20% toward the minimum salary requirements. If a judicial district with 225,000 or more residents adopts the minimum salary requirement, the state will contribute 10% toward the minimum salary requirements. The bill requires the general assembly to annually appropriate moneys to the statewide organization representing district attorneys for prosecution training.

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) A well staffed district attorneys office contributes to a robust
5 public safety community;

6 (b) Pay for deputy district attorneys varies dramatically throughout
7 the state while the pay for deputy public defenders is relatively equal;

8 (c) Rural judicial districts frequently pay deputy district attorneys
9 substantially less than judicial districts along the front range;

10 (d) The state should bear some of the salary cost for deputy
11 district attorneys throughout the state to provide for a more balanced
12 public safety system; and

13 (e) The state's share allocated toward deputy district attorney pay
14 should augment the district attorneys offices' budgets and should not be
15 used by counties as means of reducing county-based support to district
16 attorneys offices.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 20-1-301.5 as
18 follows:

19 **20-1-301.5. Compensation of district attorneys.**

20 ■ COMMENCING JULY 1, 2014, EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT IS ENCOURAGED
21 TO PROVIDE A MINIMUM SALARY OF FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED
22 EIGHT DOLLARS FOR ■ DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS WITH FEWER THAN

1 FIVE YEARS' PROSECUTION EXPERIENCE.

2

3 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 20-1-306 as
4 follows:

5 **20-1-306. Salaries paid from state and county funds.** (1) The
6 salaries of district attorneys of the several judicial districts of the state as
7 set forth in section 20-1-301 (1) (a) shall be paid in twelve equal monthly
8 installments of which the state shall contribute eighty percent annually
9 and the counties making up each district CONTRIBUTING the balance, each
10 county's payment ~~to be~~ IS in the same proportion as provided in section
11 20-1-302.

12 (2) (a) FOR A JUDICIAL DISTRICT WITH AN AGGREGATE POPULATION
13 OF FEWER THAN TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND RESIDENTS THAT
14 APPROVES AND FUNDS PAYMENT OF THE PRESUMED MINIMUM SALARY FOR
15 DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS PURSUANT TO SECTION 20-1-301.5, THE
16 STATE SHALL CONTRIBUTE TWENTY PERCENT OF THE SALARIES OF
17 DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 20-1-301.5. FOR
18 THE SEVERAL JUDICIAL DISTRICTS OF THE STATE WITH THE COUNTIES OF
19 THE DISTRICT CONTRIBUTING THE BALANCE, EACH COUNTY'S PAYMENT IS
20 IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 20-1-302.

21 (b) FOR A JUDICIAL DISTRICT WITH AN AGGREGATE POPULATION
22 OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND RESIDENTS OR MORE THAT
23 APPROVES AND FUNDS PAYMENT OF THE PRESUMED MINIMUM SALARY FOR
24 DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS PURSUANT TO SECTION 20-1-301.5, THE
25 STATE SHALL CONTRIBUTE TEN PERCENT OF THE SALARIES OF DEPUTY
26 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 20-1-301.5. FOR THE
27 SEVERAL JUDICIAL DISTRICTS OF THE STATE WITH THE COUNTIES OF THE

1 DISTRICT CONTRIBUTING THE BALANCE, EACH COUNTY'S PAYMENT IS IN
2 THE SAME PROPORTION AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 20-1-302.

3 (3) THE MONEYS FOR SALARIES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS
4 SECTION SHALL BE APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW FOR
5 ALLOCATION TO THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

6 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 20-1-111, **amend** (4)
7 as follows:

8 **20-1-111. District attorneys may cooperate or contract -**
9 **contents.** (4) (a) The statewide organization representing district
10 attorneys or any other organization established pursuant to this article
11 may receive, manage, and expend state funds in the manner prescribed by
12 the general assembly on behalf of the district attorneys who are members
13 of the organization.

14 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE
15 THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW
16 FOR ALLOCATION TO THE COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS COUNCIL, THE
17 STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, OR ITS
18 SUCCESSOR, FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PROSECUTION
19 TRAINING, SEMINARS, CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND OTHER
20 PROSECUTION-RELATED SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
21 WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED
22 TO, COSTS AND EXPENSES FOR PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, MATERIALS,
23 AND TRAVEL.

24 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
25 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
26 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.