

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R14-0721.01 Ashley Zimmerman x2291

SJR14-002

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kefalas, Aguilar, Newell

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Ginal and Fischer,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-002

101 **CONCERNING CIVILITY AND RESPECT IN THE COLORADO GENERAL**
102 **ASSEMBLY.**

1 WHEREAS, Being elected as a member of the Colorado General
2 Assembly bestows high honor and opportunity to participate in matters of
3 important public interest; and

4 WHEREAS, Being elected as a member of the Colorado General
5 Assembly also compels the ethical responsibility to enhance and maintain
6 the public confidence in the state legislature as an institution and in our
7 system of democratic government in general; and

8 WHEREAS, Strong public confidence in government officials and
9 institutions is particularly important in these times of serious economic

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.

1 challenges and political divides; and

2 WHEREAS, People are frustrated and tired of partisan gridlock,
3 obstruction, delay, rancor, the federal government shutdown, and
4 name-calling and want to see professionalism, courtesy, integrity, and
5 results; and

6 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of all Coloradans to have fair
7 deliberation of all public issues occur in an atmosphere of mutual respect,
8 cooperation, civility, trust, and collegiality among the members of the
9 Colorado General Assembly; and

10 WHEREAS, Engaging in effective and courteous dialogue in such
11 an atmosphere contributes to better debate and decision-making by the
12 members of the Colorado General Assembly, enhances public
13 participation in the legislative process, resulting in a more engaged and
14 informed electorate, and makes for more effective governance through
15 the enactment of laws that best serve the interests and priorities of the
16 public; and

17 WHEREAS, By following these core principles and serving as
18 positive role models, the Colorado General Assembly advances respectful
19 public discourse and behavior by all residents of the state that leads to
20 greater acceptance and understanding of diverse viewpoints within civil
21 society; now, therefore,

22 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly*
23 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

24 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, agree
25 to conduct ourselves at all times in a manner so as to reflect credit on the
26 Colorado General Assembly and its two houses and to inspire the
27 confidence, respect, and trust of the public in the laws, the Colorado
28 General Assembly, and democratic government.

29 *Be It Further Resolved,* That we, the members of the Colorado
30 General Assembly, agree to conduct ourselves during all legislative
31 proceedings in a manner that creates a professional environment by
32 adhering to the following standards of civility and respect:

33 (1) Each member acts in a dignified manner and in accord with
34 the traditional legislative norms, and such dignified behavior extends to

1 members of the general public and the media.

2 (2) Members allow to each other the same rights, courtesies, and
3 respect that they would expect to be given themselves as members of the
4 Colorado General Assembly.

5 (3) Each member confines himself or herself to the subject matter
6 under discussion with a focus on solving problems and understanding the
7 subject matter from all perspectives, including urban and rural points of
8 view.

9 (4) Members are respectful of each other and never impugn
10 another member's honesty, integrity, or motive.

11 (5) Members observe decency of speech and conduct.

12 (6) Each member takes full and personal responsibility for his or
13 her own conduct, through both language and action.