

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0563.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

HOUSE BILL 26-1040

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Froelich,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter,

House Committees
Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE STERILIZATION RIGHTS OF A PERSON WITH**
102 **INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.**

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://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires a person with an intellectual and developmental disability (person) to receive counseling on the long-term impacts of sterilization and the less intrusive means available to prevent pregnancy before the person consents to sterilization. The counseling must take place regardless of whether the person is deemed competent to give consent.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 9, 2026

The bill prohibits sterilization against the person's will, regardless of whether the person is deemed competent to consent, unless maintaining fertility or a pregnancy would pose an imminent threat to the life or health of the person.

The bill requires a petition for court-ordered sterilization to include a statement that the person has received counseling on the long-term impacts of sterilization and the less intrusive means available to prevent pregnancy.

If a person expresses a desire to the court to maintain fertility and does not want to undergo sterilization, the bill prohibits a court from ordering sterilization unless sterilization is necessary to preserve the life or health of the person.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend 25.5-10-231**
3 as follows:

4 **25.5-10-231. Sterilization rights - legislative intent - definition.**

5 (1) It is the intent of the general assembly that the ~~procedures set~~
6 ~~forth in the following subsections be utilized when sterilization is being~~
7 ~~considered for the primary purpose of rendering the person incapable of~~
8 ~~reproduction.~~ **CONSENT REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION**
9 **APPLIES TO ANY PERSON WITH AN INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL**
10 **DISABILITY WHEN STERILIZATION IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE PRIMARY**
11 **PURPOSE OF RENDERING THE PERSON INCAPABLE OF REPRODUCTION.**

12 (2) (a) ~~Any person with an intellectual and developmental~~
13 ~~disability over eighteen years of age who has given informed consent has~~
14 ~~the right to be sterilized, subject to the following:~~ **A PERSON WITH AN**
15 **INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY WHO HAS**
16 **DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY SHALL NOT BE STERILIZED AGAINST THE**
17 **PERSON'S WILL. A PERSON WITH AN INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL**
18 **DISABILITY WHO LACKS DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY SHALL NOT BE**
19 **STERILIZED AGAINST THE PERSON'S WILL EXCEPT IN CIRCUMSTANCES**

1 WHERE THERE IS AN IMMINENT THREAT TO THE LIFE OR HEALTH OF THE
2 PERSON AND THE DECISION IS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROCESS,
3 REQUIREMENTS, OR LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 14 OF TITLE 15 OR
4 ANY OTHER APPLICABLE LAW OR COURT ORDER.

5 (a) Prior to the procedure, competency to give informed consent
6 and assurance that such consent is voluntarily and freely given shall be
7 evaluated by the following:

8 (I) A psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician who does not provide
9 services or supports to the person and who has consulted with and
10 interviewed the person with an intellectual and developmental disability;
11 and

12 (II) An intellectual and developmental disabilities professional
13 who does not provide services or supports in which said person
14 participates, and who has consulted with and interviewed the person with
15 an intellectual and developmental disability.

16 (b) The professionals who conducted the evaluation pursuant to
17 paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall consult with the physician who
18 is to perform the operation concerning each professional's opinion in
19 regard to the informed consent of the person requesting the sterilization.

20 AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2), "IMMINENT THREAT TO THE LIFE OR
21 HEALTH" MEANS A CONDITION THAT POSES A REAL, IMMEDIATE, OR
22 SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF DEATH OR SERIOUS AND IRREVERSIBLE HARM
23 UNLESS PROMPT MEDICAL INTERVENTION OCCURS.

24 (3) Any person with an intellectual and developmental disability
25 whose capacity to give an informed consent is challenged by the
26 intellectual and developmental disabilities professional or the physician
27 may file a petition with the court to declare competency to give consent

1 pursuant to the procedures set forth in section 25.5-10-232.

2 (4) No person with an intellectual and developmental disability
3 who is over eighteen years of age and has the capacity to participate in the
4 decision-making process regarding sterilization shall be sterilized in the
5 absence of the person's informed consent. No minor may be sterilized
6 without a court order pursuant to section 25.5-10-233.

7 (5) Sterilization conducted pursuant to this section shall be legal.
8 Consent given by any person pursuant to subsection (2) of this section is
9 not revocable after sterilization, and no person shall be liable for acting
10 pursuant to such consent.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-10-220, **amend**
12 **(9)** as follows:

13 **25.5-10-220. Right to medical care and treatment.**

14 (9) ~~No~~ A person receiving services ~~may~~ **MUST NOT** have any
15 organs removed for the purpose of transplantation without the PERSON'S
16 consent ~~of such person~~, if the person is over eighteen years ~~of age~~ **OLD**
17 and is able to give such consent. ~~If the person's ability to give consent to~~
18 ~~the medical procedure is challenged by the physician, the same~~
19 ~~procedures as those set forth in section 25.5-10-232 shall be followed.~~
20 Consent for the removal of organs for transplantation may be given by the
21 parents of a person receiving services, if the person is under eighteen
22 years ~~of age~~ **OLD**, or by the person's legal guardian. ~~Such~~ **A PARENT'S OR**
23 **LEGAL GUARDIAN'S** consent may be given only after consultation with the
24 interdisciplinary team and an intellectual and developmental disabilities
25 professional not affiliated with the facility or community residential home
26 in which the person receiving services resides. However, ~~no~~ **A person**
27 receiving services of any age ~~may~~ **SHALL NOT** be a donor of an organ if

1 the person implicitly or expressly objects to ~~such~~ THE procedure.

2 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 25.5-10-232,
3 25.5-10-233, and 25.5-10-234.

4 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
5 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
6 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
7 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
8 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
9 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
10 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
11 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
12 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.