

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REVISED

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

LLS NO. 26-0200.01 Shelby Ross x4510

SENATE BILL 26-018

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Wallace and Kolker, Hinrichsen, Jodeh, Kipp, Weissman

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Froelich and Garcia,

Senate Committees
Judiciary

House Committees
Judiciary

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR THE DIGNITY OF A MINOR,
102 AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, SUPPRESSING A COURT
103 RECORD ASSOCIATED WITH CHANGING A MINOR'S NAME.

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 the court to suppress a record associated with a petition seeking to change the name of a petitioner who is less than 18 years of age unless the petitioner was previously convicted of a felony. The bill authorizes the court to use the suppressed court record for administrative purposes, but the court is prohibited from publishing the

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
2nd Reading Unamended
April 1, 2026

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
February 24, 2026

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 23, 2026

petitioner's name or the petitioner's new name online. The bill authorizes an individual to access a suppressed court record without a court order if the individual obtains verbal consent from a party to the case and submits an affidavit to the court, upon penalty of perjury, that the individual has obtained the verbal consent.

In determining parenting time and the allocation of decision-making responsibility, the bill requires the court to consider whether the parties recognize the child's identity as it relates to a protected class.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-15-101, **add** (7)
3 as follows:

4 **13-15-101. Petition - proceedings - applicability - definition.**

5 (7) (a) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (7), "SUPPRESSED COURT
6 RECORD" MEANS A COURT RECORD THAT IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE TO JUDGES;
7 COURT STAFF; A PARTY TO THE CASE, INCLUDING A PARTY'S ATTORNEY;
8 AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT STAFF; AND AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A
9 VALID COURT ORDER OR AFFIDAVIT AUTHORIZING ACCESS TO THE COURT
10 RECORD.

11 (b) (I) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, IF A PETITIONER IS UNDER
12 EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF FILING THE PETITION, A COURT
13 RECORD ASSOCIATED WITH A PETITION SEEKING TO CHANGE THE
14 PETITIONER'S NAME IS A SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD. NOTWITHSTANDING
15 SECTION 13-15-102, THE SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD MAY BE USED BY
16 THE COURT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, BUT THE COURT SHALL NOT
17 UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE PUBLISH THE PETITIONER'S NAME OR THE
18 PETITIONER'S NEW NAME ONLINE.

19 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (7)(b) DOES NOT APPLY IF THE NAME
20 CHANGE IS GRANTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION AND

1 THE GOOD CAUSE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(II) OF THIS SECTION
2 APPLIES.

3 (III) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (7)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION,
4 IF A PERSON PETITIONS THE COURT TO SUPPRESS A COURT RECORD
5 ASSOCIATED WITH A PETITION TO CHANGE THE PETITIONER'S NAME THAT
6 IS FILED BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE COURT SHALL GRANT THE REQUEST
7 AND ORDER THE RECORDS SUPPRESSED.

8 (c) A COURT SHALL GRANT AN INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO A
9 SUPPRESSED COURT RECORD IF THE INDIVIDUAL OBTAINS VERBAL CONSENT
10 FROM A PARTY TO THE CASE AND SUBMITS AN AFFIDAVIT TO THE COURT,
11 UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS OBTAINED THE
12 VERBAL CONSENT.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-15-102, add (3.5)
14 as follows:

15 **13-15-102. Publication of change.**

16 (3.5) A PETITIONER IS NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE PUBLIC NOTICE OF A
17 NAME CHANGE AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IF THE
18 PETITION IS BEING FILED BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, A PERSON WHO IS UNDER
19 EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.

20 =====

21 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
24 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
25 institutions.