

**First 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. 25-1021.02 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 25-279

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Ball and Pelton B., Roberts, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Gonzales J., Jodeh, Kipp, Michaelson
Jenet, Mullica, Snyder, Wallace, Weissman, Winter F.

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran and Hartsook,

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING UPDATES TO THE "COLORADO CODE OF MILITARY**
102 **JUSTICE".**

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 incorporates the federal "Uniform Code of Military Justice" (federal code) into the "Colorado Code of Military Justice" (state code), including specifically the punitive articles and general article of the federal code, which describe punishable offenses, and the statute of limitations that applies to charges brought pursuant to the state code. The bill repeals sections of the state code that are duplicative of 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 30, 2025

SENATE
Amended 3rd Reading
April 14, 2025

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 11, 2025

incorporated federal code.

Additionally, the bill:

- Applies the state code to a member of the state military forces (member) at all times, except when the member is ordered to active federal service pursuant to title 10 of the United States Code;
- Clarifies a commanding officer's authority to impose nonjudicial punishment under the state code;
- Makes changes to the procedures that govern, punitive authority of, and review of the decisions of courts-martial;
- Repeals courts of inquiry from the state code; and
- If concurrent civilian and military jurisdiction exists over the same offense and a district attorney has filed felony charges against a member for the offense, requires the state military forces to defer felony prosecution of the member to the district attorney.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-102, **amend**
3 **(20); and add (14.3) and (21.5)** as follows:

4 **28-3.1-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 3.1, unless the
5 context otherwise requires:

6 **(14.3) "NATIONAL GUARD" MEANS THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD,**
7 **THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD, AND ANY OTHER COMPONENT CREATED OR**
8 **AUTHORIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SERVE IN A**
9 **SIMILAR MANNER PURSUANT TO TITLE 32 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.**

10 **(20) "State military forces" means the National Guard of this state**
11 **as defined in section 28-3-101 (12), and any other militia or military**
12 **forces organized under the laws of the state.**

13 **(21.5) "UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE" MEANS THE**
14 **FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE", 10 U.S.C. SEC. 801 ET**
15 **SEQ.**

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 28-3.1-102.5** as

1 follows:

2 **28-3.1-102.5. Construction of code - incorporation of federal**
3 **"Uniform Code of Military Justice" - references to regulations -**
4 **legislative intent.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTENDS THAT THE STATE
5 MILITARY FORCES BE REGULATED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE
6 REGULATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT
7 THE "COLORADO CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE" ENACTED IN THIS ARTICLE
8 3.1 BE CONSTRUED CONSISTENT WITH THIS PURPOSE.

9 (2) (a) THE FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE",
10 FEDERAL RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF
11 MILITARY JUSTICE", AND THE MANUAL FOR COURTS-MARTIAL UNITED
12 STATES PUBLISHED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ARE
13 INCORPORATED INTO THE "COLORADO CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE", THIS
14 ARTICLE 3.1, AND GOVERN AND ARE APPLICABLE TO THE STATE MILITARY
15 FORCES, INCLUDING THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD, EXCEPT AS
16 OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE 3.1 AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED
17 BY THE GOVERNOR.

18 (b) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 3.1, REFERENCES IN THE
19 FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE", FEDERAL RULES
20 ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE "UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE", AND
21 THE MANUAL FOR COURTS-MARTIAL UNITED STATES TO:

22 (I) THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MEANS THE GOVERNOR,
23 AND THE DUTIES, FUNCTIONS, AND AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT ARE
24 ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GOVERNOR;

25 (II) THE SECRETARY OR SECRETARY CONCERNED MEANS THE
26 ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THIS STATE, AND THE DUTIES, FUNCTIONS, AND
27 AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OR SECRETARY CONCERNED ARE

1 ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL; AND

2 (III) THE ARMED FORCES, THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, THE
3 UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, OR SIMILAR MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS
4 INCLUDES MILITARY, MILITARY FORCES, THE MILITARY SERVICES, AND
5 STATE MILITARY FORCES.

6 (3) REFERENCES IN THIS ARTICLE 3.1 TO THE GOVERNOR'S
7 REGULATIONS INCLUDE REGULATIONS PREPARED BY THE ADJUTANT
8 GENERAL AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR PURSUANT TO SECTION
9 28-3-106 (1)(j).

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3.1-103
11 as follows:

12 **28-3.1-103. Persons subject to this code.** This code applies to all
13 members of the state military forces AT ALL TIMES; EXCEPT THAT THIS
14 CODE DOES NOT APPLY TO A MEMBER OF THE STATE MILITARY FORCES
15 WHILE ORDERED TO ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE PURSUANT TO TITLE 10 OF
16 THE UNITED STATES CODE.

17 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-114, **amend**
18 (1), (2) introductory portion, (2)(a) introductory portion, (2)(a)(III),
19 (2)(a)(IV), (2)(a)(V), (2)(b) introductory portion, (2)(b)(IV), (2)(b)(V),
20 (4.4), and (4.7); **repeal** (2)(a)(I), (2)(b)(I), and (2.5); and **add** (2)(a)(VI),
21 (2)(b)(VI), and (2)(b)(VII) as follows:

22 **28-3.1-114. Commanding officer's nonjudicial punishment.**

23 (1) (a) Punishment may be imposed for any offense cognizable by a
24 court-martial upon any member of the state military forces under this
25 section. ~~Under such regulations as~~ The governor may, BY REGULATION,
26 prescribe limitations ~~may be placed~~ on the powers granted ~~by~~ IN this
27 section with respect to:

1 (I) The kind and amount of punishment authorized, THE
2 SUSPENSION OF PUNISHMENT, and the levels of commanding officers and
3 warrant officers exercising command authorized to exercise those powers;
4 AND

5 (II) THE KINDS OF COURTS-MARTIAL TO WHICH A CASE MAY BE
6 REFERRED UPON A DEMAND FOR A TRIAL BY COURT-MARTIAL BY THE
7 ACCUSED MEMBER OF THE STATE MILITARY FORCES.

8 (b) EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF THE IMPOSITION OF FINES UPON
9 OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS, PUNISHMENT MUST NOT BE IMPOSED
10 UPON A MEMBER OF THE STATE MILITARY FORCES PURSUANT TO THIS
11 SECTION IF THE MEMBER HAS, BEFORE THE IMPOSITION OF PUNISHMENT,
12 DEMANDED TRIAL BY COURT-MARTIAL IN LIEU OF PUNISHMENT.

13 (c) If authorized by regulations of the governor, ~~the governor or~~
14 ~~an officer of general rank in command~~ A COMMANDING OFFICER WHO,
15 PURSUANT TO THIS CODE, IS AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE GENERAL
16 COURT-MARTIAL JURISDICTION OR AN OFFICER OF GENERAL RANK IN
17 COMMAND may delegate ~~his or her~~ THE OFFICER'S powers ~~under~~
18 PURSUANT TO this section to a principal assistant. ~~If subject to disciplinary~~
19 ~~punishment, the accused must be afforded the opportunity to be~~
20 ~~represented by defense counsel having the qualifications prescribed under~~
21 ~~section 28-3.1-102 (10), if available. Otherwise, the accused must be~~
22 ~~afforded the opportunity to be represented by any available commissioned~~
23 ~~officer of his or her choice. The accused may also employ civilian counsel~~
24 ~~of his or her own choosing at his or her own expense. In all proceedings,~~
25 ~~the accused is allowed three duty days, or longer on written justification,~~
26 ~~to reply to the notification of intent to impose punishment under this~~
27 ~~section.~~

1 (2) Subject to subsection (1) of this section, ~~any~~ A commanding
2 officer may, in addition to or in lieu of admonition or PUNITIVE
3 reprimand, impose one or more of the following disciplinary punishments
4 without the intervention of a court-martial:

5 (a) Upon ~~an~~ A COMMISSIONED OR WARRANT officer of ~~his or her~~
6 THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S command:

7 (I) ~~Withholding of privileges for not more than two weeks, which~~
8 ~~need not be consecutive;~~

9 (III) ~~If imposed by the governor, the adjutant general, or a~~
10 ~~commanding officer of the Army or National Guard,~~ A fine or forfeiture
11 of pay and ~~allowance~~ ALLOWANCES of not more than the amount of pay
12 and ~~allowance~~ ALLOWANCES received for ~~two~~ FOUR unit training
13 assemblies or ~~two~~ FOUR days of annual training, whichever is applicable
14 according to duty status;

15 (IV) An admonition; ~~or~~

16 (V) A reprimand; OR

17 (VI) IF IMPOSED BY A COMMANDING OFFICER WHO HAS THE
18 AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL JURISDICTION OR AN
19 OFFICER OF GENERAL OR FLAG RANK IN COMMAND:

20 (A) ARREST IN QUARTERS FOR NOT MORE THAN THIRTY
21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS; OR

22 (B) RESTRICTION TO CERTAIN SPECIFIED LIMITS, WITH OR WITHOUT
23 SUSPENSION FROM DUTY, FOR NOT MORE THAN THIRTY CONSECUTIVE
24 DAYS;

25 (b) Upon other military personnel of ~~his or her~~ THE COMMANDING
26 OFFICER'S command:

27 (I) ~~Withholding of privileges for not more than two weeks, which~~

1 ~~need not be consecutive;~~

2 (IV) ~~Reduction to next inferior grade if the grade from which he~~
3 ~~or she was demoted was established by the command or an equivalent or~~
4 ~~lower command; or~~ IN RANK, AS AUTHORIZED BY REGULATIONS ADOPTED
5 BY THE GOVERNOR;

6 (V) ~~A fine of any amount up to the maximum pay and allowances~~
7 ~~received for two~~ OR FORFEITURE OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF NOT MORE
8 THAN FOUR unit training assemblies or ~~two~~ FOUR days of annual training,
9 whichever is applicable according to duty status;

10 (VI) AN ADMONITION; OR

11 (VII) A REPRIMAND.

12 (2.5) ~~If the commanding officer is of field grade, grade of O-4 or~~
13 ~~rank of major or above, he or she may impose on an enlisted member any~~
14 ~~one or a combination of the following disciplinary punishments without~~
15 ~~the intervention of a court-martial:~~

16 (a) ~~Any of the punishments stated in subsections (2)(b)(I) to~~
17 ~~(2)(b)(III) of this section;~~

18 (b) ~~A fine of any amount up to the maximum pay and allowances~~
19 ~~received for two unit training assemblies or two days of annual training;~~
20 ~~whichever is applicable according to duty status;~~

21 (c) ~~Reduction to the lowest or any intermediate pay grade, if the~~
22 ~~current grade from which he or she is demoted is within the promotion~~
23 ~~authority of the officer imposing the reduction or an officer subordinate~~
24 ~~to the one imposing the reduction, but enlisted members in military grades~~
25 ~~above E-4 may not be reduced by more than two military grades.~~

26 (4.4) Maximum allowable punishments, ~~of withholding of~~
27 ~~privileges, restrictions, and extra duties may~~ MUST not be combined to run

1 consecutively.

2 (4.7) The officer who imposes the punishment pursuant to this
3 section, or the successor in command, may, at any time, suspend, set
4 aside, mitigate, or remit any part or amount of the punishment and restore
5 all rights, privileges, and property affected. ~~The officer also may:~~

6 ~~(a) Mitigate reduction in grade to forfeiture of pay;~~

7 ~~(b) Mitigate arrest in quarters to restriction; or~~

8 ~~(c) Mitigate extra duties to restriction.~~

9 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-201, **amend**
10 (2)(b) as follows:

11 **28-3.1-201. Courts-martial - jurisdiction - composition.**

12 (2) The three kinds of courts-martial are:

13 (b) Special courts-martial, WHICH ARE EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING
14 TYPES:

15 (I) A SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL consisting of a military judge and
16 not less than three members. ~~or A SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL CONSISTING~~
17 ~~OF A MILITARY JUDGE AND NOT LESS THAN THREE MEMBERS AS DESCRIBED~~
18 ~~IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) IS SUBJECT TO SECTION 28-3.1-204 (2)(a)(I)~~
19 ~~AND (2)(b) AND ANY LIMITATIONS PRESCRIBED IN REGULATION.~~

20 (II) A SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL consisting of only a military
21 judge, if the accused so requests under the same conditions as those
22 prescribed in ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF
23 THIS SECTION OR IF THE CASE IS SO REFERRED BY THE CONVENING
24 AUTHORITY. A SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL CONSISTING OF ONLY A MILITARY
25 JUDGE AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b)(II) IS SUBJECT TO
26 SECTION 28-3.1-204 (2)(a)(II) AND (2)(b) AND ANY LIMITATIONS
27 PRESCRIBED IN REGULATION.

1 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-203, **amend**
2 (1) introductory portion, (1)(a), (1)(e), and (1)(f) as follows:

3 **28-3.1-203. Jurisdiction of general courts-martial.** (1) General
4 courts-martial have jurisdiction to try persons subject to this code for ~~any~~
5 AN offense punishable under this code and may adjudge any of the
6 following punishments:

7 (a) Confinement for not more than ~~two~~ FIVE years, unless
8 otherwise specified in this code;

9 (e) Dismissal, ~~or~~ dishonorable discharge, OR BAD CONDUCT
10 DISCHARGE;

11 (f) Reduction of a ~~noncommissioned officer~~ ENLISTED PERSONNEL
12 to any inferior grade; or

13 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3.1-204
14 as follows:

15 **28-3.1-204. Jurisdiction of special courts-martial.** (1) Special
16 courts-martial have jurisdiction to try ~~any~~ A person subject to this code for
17 ~~any~~ AN offense punishable under this code, EXCEPT FOR CONDUCT THAT
18 CONSTITUTES AN OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 120 (a), 120 (b), 120b
19 (a), OR 120b (b) OF THE FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE",
20 10 U.S.C. SEC. 920 (a) AND (b) AND 10 U.S.C. SEC. 920b (a) AND (b).

21 (2) A special court-martial has the same powers of punishment as
22 a general court-martial, INCLUDING THE AUTHORITY TO ORDER A BAD
23 CONDUCT DISCHARGE; except that:

24 (a) (I) ~~confinement may not be more than ninety days and~~ A
25 SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL THAT DOES NOT CONSIST OF A MILITARY JUDGE
26 ALONE, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 28-3.1-201 (2)(b)(I), SHALL NOT IMPOSE
27 CONFINEMENT FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS AND SHALL

1 NOT ORDER A DISMISSAL OR DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE; AND

2 (II) A SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL THAT CONSISTS OF A MILITARY
3 JUDGE ALONE PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-3.1-201 (2)(b)(II) SHALL NOT
4 IMPOSE CONFINEMENT FOR MORE THAN NINETY DAYS AND SHALL NOT
5 ORDER A DISMISSAL OR DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE; AND

6 (b) The fine or forfeiture of pay and allowances imposed by a
7 special court-martial ~~may~~ MUST not be more than the maximum pay and
8 allowances received for six unit training assemblies or six days of annual
9 training, whichever is applicable according to duty status.

10 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 16-10-101, A SPECIAL
11 COURT-MARTIAL CONSISTING OF A JUDGE ALONE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO
12 TRY CASES AND IMPOSE PUNISHMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.

13 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-205, **amend**
14 (1) as follows:

15 **28-3.1-205. Jurisdiction of summary courts-martial.**

16 (1) (a) Summary courts-martial have jurisdiction to try ~~any~~ A person
17 subject to this code, except commissioned officers, warrant officers,
18 cadets, ~~and~~ candidates, AND A PERSON WHO OBJECTS TO TRIAL BY
19 SUMMARY COURT-MARTIAL AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS
20 SECTION, for any offense made punishable under this code, EXCEPT FOR
21 CONDUCT THAT CONSTITUTES AN OFFENSE DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 120 (a),
22 120 (b), 120b (a), OR 120b (b) OF THE FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF
23 MILITARY JUSTICE", 10 U.S.C. SEC. 920 (a) AND (b) AND 10 U.S.C. SEC.
24 920b (a) AND (b).

25 (b) AN ACCUSED PERSON MAY OBJECT TO TRIAL BY A SUMMARY
26 COURT-MARTIAL. IF AN ACCUSED PERSON OBJECTS, A SUMMARY
27 COURT-MARTIAL SHALL NOT TRY THE PERSON AND THE CONVENING

1 AUTHORITY, OR OFFICER TO WHOM THE CASE IS REFERRED BY THE
2 CONVENING AUTHORITY, SHALL ORDER THE ACCUSED TRIED BY A GENERAL
3 COURT-MARTIAL OR SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL, AS APPROPRIATE.

4 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-213, **amend**
5 (3) as follows:

6 **28-3.1-213. Absent and additional members.** (3) EXCEPT FOR
7 A LAWFULLY CONVENED SPECIAL COURT-MARTIAL THAT CONSISTS OF A
8 MILITARY JUDGE ALONE, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 28-3.1-201 (2)(b)(II),
9 whenever a special court-martial is reduced ~~below~~ TO FEWER THAN three
10 members, the trial ~~may~~ MUST not proceed unless the convening authority
11 appoints new members sufficient in number to provide ~~not less than~~ AT
12 LEAST three members. When the new members have been sworn, the trial
13 may proceed as if no evidence ~~has~~ WAS previously ~~been~~ introduced,
14 unless a verbatim record of the testimony of previously examined
15 witnesses or a stipulation thereof is read to the court in the presence of the
16 accused and counsel.

17 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3.1-301
18 as follows:

19 **28-3.1-301. General procedures.** The ~~procedure~~ GOVERNOR MAY
20 PRESCRIBE, BY REGULATION, PRETRIAL, TRIAL, AND POST-TRIAL
21 PROCEDURES, including modes of proof, in cases before military courts
22 and other military tribunals. ~~may be prescribed by the governor by~~
23 ~~regulation and shall~~ THE PROCEDURES, so far as practicable, MUST be the
24 principles of law and the rules of evidence generally recognized in the
25 trial of criminal cases in the courts of Colorado and in the trial of
26 courts-martial of the United States, but ~~such procedure may~~ THE
27 PROCEDURES MUST not be contrary to or inconsistent with this code.

1 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-306, **add** (3)
2 as follows:

3 **28-3.1-306. Challenges.** (3) IF THE EXERCISE OF A PEREMPTORY
4 CHALLENGE OR CHALLENGE FOR CAUSE REDUCES THE NUMBER OF
5 MEMBERS TO FEWER THAN THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF MEMBERS FOR THE
6 COURT-MARTIAL AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 28-1.3-213, THE CONVENING
7 AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT NEW MEMBERS TO THE COURT-MARTIAL
8 PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-1.3-213.

9 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
10 **with amendments,** 28-3.1-308 as follows:

11 **28-3.1-308. Statute of limitations.** THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
12 TO BRING CHARGES FOR AN OFFENSE PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 3.1 IS THE
13 SAME AS IN THE FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE".

14 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 28-3.1-407
15 as follows:

16 **28-3.1-407. Initial action on the record by convening authority**
17 **- staff judge advocate review.** (1) After a trial by court-martial, the
18 ~~record shall be forwarded~~ MILITARY JUDGE WHO PRESIDED OVER THE
19 COURT-MARTIAL SHALL FORWARD THE RECORD OF THE COURT-MARTIAL
20 to the convening authority. ~~as reviewing authority, and action thereon~~
21 ~~may be taken by the person who convened the court, a commissioned~~
22 ~~officer commanding for the time being, a successor in command, or the~~
23 ~~governor. The reviewer may approve the sentence or such part, amount,~~
24 ~~or commuted form of the sentence as he or she sees fit and may suspend~~
25 ~~or defer the execution of the sentence.~~ UPON RECEIPT OF THE RECORD OF
26 THE COURT-MARTIAL, THE CONVENING AUTHORITY SHALL FORWARD THE
27 RECORD TO THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE DESIGNATED BY THE STATE

1 JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.

2 (2) THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE SHALL REVIEW THE RECORD AND
3 SUBMIT A WRITTEN OPINION TO THE CONVENING AUTHORITY. THE STAFF
4 JUDGE ADVOCATE'S OPINION MUST INCLUDE:

5 (a) CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHETHER:

6 (I) THE COURT-MARTIAL HAD JURISDICTION OVER THE ACCUSED;

7 (II) THE CHARGE AND SPECIFICATION STATED AN OFFENSE; AND

8 (III) THE SENTENCE WAS WITHIN THE LIMITS PRESCRIBED AS A
9 MATTER OF LAW;

10 (b) IF THE ACCUSED MAKES ALLEGATIONS IN WRITING, A RESPONSE
11 TO EACH ALLEGATION OF ERROR MADE IN WRITING BY THE ACCUSED; AND

12 (c) IN AN OPINION ABOUT THE FINDINGS OF A SUMMARY
13 COURT-MARTIAL, ADVICE TO THE CONVENING AUTHORITY ON THE
14 SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE AS TO EACH FINDING MADE BY THE
15 SUMMARY COURT-MARTIAL.

16 (3) A CONVENING AUTHORITY SHALL NOT ACT ON THE FINDINGS OF
17 OR SENTENCE IMPOSED BY A COURT-MARTIAL BEFORE THE STAFF JUDGE
18 ADVOCATE REVIEW.

19 (4) (a) AFTER RECEIVING THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE'S WRITTEN
20 OPINION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE CONVENING
21 AUTHORITY OF A GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL OR A SPECIAL
22 COURT-MARTIAL:

23 (I) SHALL NOT ACT ON THE FINDINGS OF THE COURT-MARTIAL; AND

24 (II) MAY ACT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b) OF THIS
25 SECTION ON THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT-MARTIAL IF:

26 (A) THE TOTAL PERIOD OF A SENTENCE TO CONFINEMENT IMPOSED
27 FOR ALL OFFENSES INVOLVED, RUNNING CONSECUTIVELY, IS LESS THAN

1 ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS; AND

2 (B) THE COURT-MARTIAL DID NOT IMPOSE A SENTENCE OF
3 DISMISSAL OR DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE.

4 (b) A CONVENING AUTHORITY ACTING ON A SENTENCE IMPOSED BY
5 A COURT-MARTIAL PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION
6 MAY:

7 (I) APPROVE THE COURT-MARTIAL'S SENTENCE;

8 (II) DISAPPROVE, COMMUTE, OR SUSPEND THE COURT-MARTIAL'S
9 SENTENCE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART; OR

10 (III) DISAPPROVE THE COURT-MARTIAL'S SENTENCE AND ORDER A
11 REHEARING ON THE SENTENCE.

12 (c) AFTER APPROPRIATE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE REVIEW, THE
13 CONVENING AUTHORITY OF A SUMMARY COURT-MARTIAL MAY:

14 (I) APPROVE THE COURT-MARTIAL'S FINDINGS AND SENTENCE;

15 (II) DISMISS ANY CHARGE OR SPECIFICATION BY SETTING ASIDE
16 THE FINDING OF GUILTY;

17 (III) CHANGE THE COURT-MARTIAL'S FINDING OF GUILTY OF THE
18 CHARGE OR SPECIFICATION TO A FINDING OF GUILTY OF A LESSER
19 INCLUDED OFFENSE;

20 (IV) DISAPPROVE THE COURT-MARTIAL'S FINDINGS AND SENTENCE
21 AND DISMISS THE CHARGE AND SPECIFICATION;

22 (V) DISAPPROVE THE COURT-MARTIAL'S FINDINGS AND SENTENCE
23 AND ORDER A REHEARING ON THE FINDINGS AND SENTENCE;

24 (VI) DISAPPROVE, COMMUTE, OR SUSPEND THE COURT-MARTIAL'S
25 SENTENCE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART; OR

26 (VII) DISAPPROVE THE COURT-MARTIAL'S SENTENCE AND ORDER
27 A REHEARING AS TO THE SENTENCE.

1 (5) IF, PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE CONVENING AUTHORITY
2 REDUCES, COMMUTES, OR SUSPENDS THE SENTENCE, THE DECISION OF THE
3 CONVENING AUTHORITY MUST INCLUDE A WRITTEN EXPLANATION OF THE
4 REASONS FOR THE ACTION.

5 (6) THE CONVENING AUTHORITY SHALL FORWARD ITS FINAL
6 DECISION TO THE MILITARY JUDGE WHO PRESIDED OVER THE
7 COURT-MARTIAL AND PROVIDE COPIES OF THE DECISION TO THE ACCUSED
8 AND TO ANY VICTIM OF THE OFFENSE. THE MILITARY JUDGE SHALL
9 INCORPORATE THE CONVENING AUTHORITY'S FINAL DECISION INTO THE
10 RECORD.

11 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3.1-421, **amend**
12 (1) introductory portion as follows:

13 **28-3.1-421. Appeal by the state.** (1) ~~In a trial by court-martial~~
14 ~~or in a trial by military judge only pursuant to section 28-3.1-316 (4) in~~
15 ~~which a punitive discharge may be adjudged,~~ The state ~~may~~ SHALL not
16 appeal a finding of not guilty with respect to ~~the~~ A charge or specification.
17 In a trial by court-martial in which a punitive discharge may be adjudged,
18 the state may appeal the following:

19 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
20 **with amendments,** part 5 of article 3.1 of title 28 as follows:

21 PART 5

22 PUNITIVE ARTICLES

23 **28-3.1-501. Punitive articles of the federal "Uniform Code of**
24 **Military Justice" incorporated.** PURSUANT TO SECTION 28-3.1-102.5,
25 THE PUNITIVE ARTICLES, 10 U.S.C. SECS. 877 TO 933, AND THE GENERAL
26 ARTICLE, 10 U.S.C. SEC. 934, OF THE FEDERAL "UNIFORM CODE OF
27 MILITARY JUSTICE" ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE "COLORADO CODE OF

1 MILITARY JUSTICE", THIS ARTICLE 3.1; EXCEPT THAT THE MAXIMUM
2 PUNISHMENTS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF OFFENSES SET FORTH IN SECTIONS
3 28-3.1-402 AND 28-3.1-402.5 APPLY TO CONVICTIONS PURSUANT TO THIS
4 ARTICLE 3.1.

5 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 28-3.1-606.5
6 as follows:

7 **28-3.1-606.5. Concurrent jurisdiction with civil authorities.** IF
8 CONCURRENT CIVILIAN AND MILITARY JURISDICTION EXISTS TO PROSECUTE
9 THE SAME OFFENSE ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY A MEMBER OF THE STATE
10 MILITARY FORCES, AND A DISTRICT ATTORNEY WITH JURISDICTION TO
11 PROSECUTE THE OFFENSE HAS FILED FELONY CHARGES AGAINST THE
12 MEMBER PURSUANT TO STATE LAW, THE STATE MILITARY FORCES SHALL
13 DEFER PROSECUTION OF THE OFFENSE OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO THIS CODE
14 TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY. IF A DISTRICT ATTORNEY DECLINES TO
15 PURSUE FELONY CHARGES OR DISMISSES CHARGES WITHOUT TRIAL, A
16 COURT-MARTIAL MAY BE CONVENED AGAINST THE MEMBER IN
17 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS CODE.

18 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 28-3.1-111,
19 28-3.1-112, 28-3.1-113, 28-3.1-214, 28-3.1-215, 28-3.1-216, 28-3.1-217,
20 28-3.1-218, 28-3.1-219, 28-3.1-302, 28-3.1-304, 28-3.1-305, 28-3.1-307,
21 28-3.1-309, 28-3.1-310, 28-3.1-314, 28-3.1-315, 28-3.1-316, 28-3.1-317,
22 28-3.1-318, 28-3.1-319, and 28-3.1-605.

23 **SECTION 18. Act subject to petition - effective date -**
24 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect September 1, 2025; except that,
25 if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of
26 the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
27 within the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general

1 assembly, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless
2 approved by the people at the general election to be held in November
3 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official
4 declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

5 (2) This act applies to offenses committed on or after the
6 applicable effective date of this act.