Second Regular Session Seventy-third General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0391.01 Alana Rosen x2606

SENATE BILL 22-049

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Gardner,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Tipper and Carver,

Senate Committees

House Committees

Judiciary

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING UPDATING THE "VICTIM RIGHTS ACT".

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 updates the "Victim Rights Act" (act). The purpose of the act is to ensure all victims of crimes are protected by law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges.

The bill updates include:

- Allowing a victim or the victim's designees to appear in court proceedings in person, by phone, or virtually via video or audio technology, or similar technology;
- Requiring defendants to attend sentencing hearings to hear

- the victim's impact statement, unless the court excludes the defendant;
- Clarifying that a victim or the victim's designees have a right to consult with the prosecution after any crime against the victim has been charged, and the prosecutor shall explain the sentencing terms;
- Requiring the court to provide the victim or the victim's designees with translation or interpretation services as needed during all critical stages of the hearing;
- Clarifying that a victim or the victim's designees have a right to attend all parole board hearings;
- Requiring a court to order a bond hearing in any case that falls under the act; and
- Clarifying that more than one person can represent the interests of a victim who is deceased or incapacitated.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-4.1-300.1 as

3 follows:

4 **24-4.1-300.1. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 3 IS THE

5 "VICTIM RIGHTS ACT".

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-302, **amend**

- 7 (2)(e.5) and (2)(k.3); and **add** (1)(nn) and (1)(oo) as follows:
- 8 **24-4.1-302. Definitions.** As used in this part 3, and for no other
- 9 purpose, including the expansion of the rights of any defendant:
- 10 (1) "Crime" means any of the following offenses, acts, and
- violations as defined by the statutes of the state of Colorado, whether
- committed by an adult or a juvenile:
- 13 (nn) FIRST DEGREE ARSON, IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 18-4-102;
- 14 (00) CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF A MINOR, IN
- 15 VIOLATION OF SECTION 18-6-701 (1)(a).
- 16 (2) "Critical stages" means the following stages of the criminal
- justice process:

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1	(e.5) Any subpoena OR APPLICATION for records concerning the
2	victim's medical history; mental health; education; or victim's
3	compensation; OR RECORDS THAT ARE PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL, OR
4	PRIVILEGED PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-90-107;
5	(k.3) The filing of any complaint, summons, or warrant FILED by
6	the probation department; for failure to report to probation or because the
7	location of a person convicted of a crime is unknown;
8	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-302.5, amend
9	(1)(b), (1)(b.9), (1)(d)(I), (1)(d)(VII), (1)(d.5)(I), (1)(d.5)(III),
10	(1)(d.5)(IV), (1)(e), (1)(j), (1)(j.2), (1)(j.5)(I), (1)(j.5)(II), (1)(j.5)(III),
11	(1)(j.5)(V), and (1)(z); and add (1)(e.2) as follows:
12	24-4.1-302.5. Rights afforded to victims - definitions. (1) In
13	order to preserve and protect a victim's rights to justice and due process,
14	each victim of a crime has the following rights:
15	(b) The right to be informed of and BE present BY APPEARING IN
16	PERSON, BY PHONE, VIRTUALLY BY AUDIO OR VIDEO, OR SIMILAR
17	TECHNOLOGY for all critical stages of the criminal justice process as
18	specified in section 24-4.1-302 (2); except that the victim shall have the
19	right to be informed of, without being present for, the critical stages
20	described in section 24-4.1-302 (2)(a), (2)(a.5), (2)(a.7), (2)(e.5), (2)(k.3),
21	(2)(n), (2)(p), (2)(q), and (2)(u), AND (2)(v);
22	(b.9) The right to receive a AN UNREDACTED, free copy of the
23	initial incident report from the investigating law enforcement agency;
24	except that the release of a document associated with the investigation is
25	at the discretion of the law enforcement agency based on the status of the
26	case or security and safety concerns in a correctional facility, local jail, or
27	private contract prison as defined in section 17-1-102. C.R.S.; THE

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- 1 INITIAL INCIDENT REPORT MUST CONTAIN, AT A MINIMUM, THE VICTIM'S 2 NAME, THE OFFENDER'S NAME, THE DATE OF THE CRIME, THE CHARGES, 3 AND A SUMMARY OF THE INCIDENT SO THE VICTIM HAS SUFFICIENT DETAIL 4 TO HELP THE VICTIM WITH, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INSURANCE 5 CLAIMS, EMPLOYER INTERCESSION, PROTECTION ORDERS, AND 6 LANDLORD-TENANT NOTIFICATION. THE INITIAL REPORT MAY REDACT THE 7 NAMES OF OTHER VICTIMS INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT WHO ARE NOT 8 RELATED TO THE VICTIM REQUESTING THE REPORT. 9 (d) The right to be heard at any court proceeding: 10 Involving the defendant's bond as specified in section 11 24-4.1-302 (2)(c). If there is a request to decrease or modify the 12 BOND OR BOND CONDITIONS, THE COURT SHALL SET A HEARING PURSUANT 13 TO SECTION 16-4-109(1), AND THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHALL NOTIFY THE 14 VICTIM OF THE HEARING. 15 Involving ANY APPLICATION TO THE COURT FOR THE (VII) 16 ISSUANCE OF a subpoena for records concerning the victim's medical 17 history, mental health, education, or victim compensation, or any other 18 records that are PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL, OR privileged pursuant to
 - (d.5) (I) If a victim or a victim's designee is unavailable to be present for the critical stages described in paragraph (d) of this subsection (1) SUBSECTION (1)(d) OF THIS SECTION and the victim or the victim's designee wishes to address the court, the right to request that the court, within the court's resources, arrange and provide the means for the victim and the victim's designee to provide input to the court beyond a written victim impact statement, WHICH MAY INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, APPEARING BY PHONE, VIRTUALLY BY VIDEO OR AUDIO, OR SIMILAR

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TECHNOLOGY.

(III) The victim or the victim's designee shall notify the district
attorney within a reasonable time that he or she THE VICTIM OR THE
VICTIM'S DESIGNEE is unavailable to attend the court hearing. The district
attorney's office shall then inform the court that the victim or the victim's
designee, due to his or her the victim's or the victim's designee's
unavailability, is requesting the court to arrange for and provide the
means to address the court, which may MUST include but need not be
limited to appearing by phone, VIRTUALLY BY VIDEO OR AUDIO, or similar
technology. The district attorney shall inform the victim or the victim's
designee of the court's decision regarding an alternate arrangement
AVAILABLE OPTIONS TO APPEAR REMOTELY.

- (IV) This subsection (1)(d.5) applies to a victim who is incarcerated or otherwise being held in a local county jail, the department of corrections, or the division of youth services in the department of human services, but is limited to participation by telephone OR APPEARING VIRTUALLY BY VIDEO OR AUDIO, OR SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY.
- (e) The right to consult with the prosecution after any crime against the victim has been charged, PRIOR TO ANY PREFILE OR POST FILING DIVERSION OFFER, prior to any disposition of the case, or prior to any trial of the case, and the right to be informed of the final disposition of the case. The right to consult with the prosecution must include an explanation to the victim of the possibility that the defendant may not serve the defendant's entire sentence in prison because the defendant may receive good time credits or earned time while incarcerated;
 - (e.2) THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED IF A DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRANTS

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EARLY TERMINATION TO AN OFFENDER PARTICIPATING IN A DIVERSION PROGRAM AND THE DATE OF TERMINATION FROM THE DIVERSION PROGRAM;

- (j) The right to be informed of any proceeding at which any postconviction release from confinement in a secure state correctional facility is being considered for any person convicted of a crime against the victim and the right to be PRESENT BY APPEARING IN PERSON, BY PHONE, OR VIRTUALLY BY VIDEO OR AUDIO, OR SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY, AND heard at any such proceeding or to provide written information. thereto: For purposes of this subsection (1), "proceeding" means reconsideration of sentence, a parole hearing, a full parole board review, REVOCATION HEARING, RESCISSION HEARING, commutation of sentence, or consideration for placement in the specialized program developed by the department of corrections pursuant to section 17-34-102.
- (j.2) The right to be informed of any request for progression from the state mental health hospital on behalf of a person in its custody as a result of a criminal case involving the victim, and the right to be PRESENT BY APPEARING IN PERSON, BY PHONE, OR VIRTUALLY BY VIDEO OR AUDIO, OR SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY, AND heard at any hearing during which a court considers such a request. For purposes of this subsection (1)(j.2), "request for progression" includes any request for off-grounds or unsupervised privileges, community placement, conditional release, unconditional discharge, or a special furlough.
- (j.5) (I) The right to provide a written victim impact statement that will MUST be included with any referral made by the department of corrections or a district court to place an offender in a community corrections facility or program. A community corrections board may

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allow a victim to provide an oral statement BY APPEARING IN PERSON, BY PHONE, OR VIRTUALLY BY VIDEO OR AUDIO, OR SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY, to the community corrections board when an offender is being considered for a direct sentence to community corrections and may place reasonable limits on the victim's oral statement.

(II) For purposes of this paragraph SUBSECTION (1)(j.5), the victim shall have the right to provide a separate oral statement BY APPEARING IN PERSON, BY PHONE, OR VIRTUALLY BY VIDEO OR AUDIO, OR SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY, to the community corrections board considering a transitional referral, but the board shall have discretion to place reasonable parameters on the victim's oral statement. If a community corrections board denies the offender's referral to community corrections, the victim's right under this subparagraph (II) SUBSECTION (1)(j.5)(II) to provide an oral statement shall MUST not take effect.

(III) For purposes of this subsection (1)(j.5), if a victim or a victim's designee is unavailable to be present for a proceeding to consider an offender for a direct sentence or transitional referral to community corrections as described in subsection (1)(j.5)(I) of this section, and the victim or the victim's designee wishes to address the community corrections board, the victim or the victim's designee shall notify the community corrections board within a reasonable time that the victim is unavailable to attend the proceeding but would like to make a statement. Within its resources, the community corrections board shall arrange for and provide the means for the victim to address the board, which means may include, but need not be limited to, appearing by phone IN PERSON, BY PHONE, OR VIRTUALLY BY AUDIO OR VIDEO, or via similar technology.

(V) This subsection (1)(j.5) applies to a victim who is incarcerated

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1 or otherwise being held in a local county jail, the department of 2 corrections, or the division of youth corrections in the department of 3 human services but is limited to participation by phone APPEARING IN 4 PERSON, BY PHONE, OR VIRTUALLY BY AUDIO OR VIDEO, or similar 5 technology. 6 (z) The right to be notified of a hearing concerning any motion 7 filed for or petition for sealing of records described in section 24-72-706 8 OR 24-72-709 or 24-72-710 filed by a defendant in the criminal case 9 whose crime falls under section 24-4.1-302 (1); 10 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-303, amend 11 (2), (3.5), (4), (10)(b)(IV), (11)(b.7), (13.5)(a)(VI), (14.3), and (14.5)(b); 12 and **add** (1.5), (14.5)(a.5), (14.5)(d), and (14.5)(e) as follows: 13 24-4.1-303. Procedures for ensuring rights of victims of 14 **crimes.** (1.5) If a crime victim is deceased or incapacitated, as 15 DEFINED IN SECTION 24-4.1-302 (5), ONE OR MORE PEOPLE, AS DESCRIBED 16 IN SECTION 24-4.1-302 (6), MAY REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE VICTIM 17 AS THE VICTIM'S DESIGNEE AND MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED, 18 PRESENT, OR HEARD AT ANY PROCEEDING PURSUANT TO SECTION 19 24-4.1-302.5 (1)(d), (1)(j), AND (1)(j.5) AND SUBSECTIONS (13.5)(a)(III), 20 (13.5)(a)(IV), AND (14)(d) OF THIS SECTION. 21 (2) Upon request of a victim, All correctional officials shall keep 22 confidential the address, telephone number, place of employment, or 23 other personal information of such victim or members of such victim's 24 immediate family. 25 (3.5) The district attorney's office, if practicable, shall inform the 26 victim of any pending motion or decision by the district attorney to

sequester the victim from a critical stage in the case. The district attorney

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shall inform the court of the victim's position on the motion or the district attorney's decision, if any. If the victim has objected, then the court, before granting the sequestration order, shall state in writing or on the record that the victim's objection was considered and state the basis for the court's decision. If a victim is sequestered, the court shall work with the district attorney to prioritize the victim's testimony and minimize the amount of time the victim is sequestered from the critical stage in the case.

(4) After a crime has been charged, OR AS PART OF A PREFILING OR POST FILING DIVERSION OFFER, unless inconsistent with the requirements of investigative activities, the district attorney shall consult, where IF practicable, with the victim concerning the reduction of charges, negotiated pleas, diversion, dismissal, seeking of death penalty, or other disposition. The DISTRICT ATTORNEY SHALL EXPLAIN TO THE VICTIM THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DEFENDANT MAY NOT SERVE THE DEFENDANT'S ENTIRE SENTENCE IN PRISON BECAUSE THE DEFENDANT MAY RECEIVE GOOD TIME CREDITS OR EARNED TIME WHILE INCARCERATED. Failure to comply with this subsection (4) shall DOES not invalidate any decision, agreement, or disposition. This subsection (4) shall MUST not be construed as a restriction on or delegation of the district attorney's authority under the constitution and laws of this state.

(10) (b) As soon as available, the law enforcement agency shall give to each victim, as appropriate, the following information:

(IV) UPON REQUEST OF THE VICTIM, the law enforcement agency shall provide the victim in a cold case information concerning any change in the status of the case. In addition, the law enforcement agency shall provide an update at least annually to the victim concerning the status of

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1	a cold case involving one or more crimes for which the criminal statute
2	of limitations is longer than three years.
3	(11) The district attorney shall inform a victim of the following:
4	(b.7) Any motion filed, UNLESS THE MOTION IS DENIED BECAUSE
5	THE MOTION IS EITHER INSUFFICIENT OR THE DEFENDANT IS NOT ENTITLED
6	TO RELIEF, or any hearing concerning a motion or petition for sealing of
7	records as described in section 24-72-706, 24-72-709, or 24-72-710 that
8	was filed by a defendant in the criminal case and whose crime falls under
9	section 24-4.1-302 (1). The notification should be made using the last
10	known contact information that is available for the victim.
11	(13.5) (a) Following a sentence to probation and upon the written
12	request of a victim, the probation department shall notify the victim of the
13	following information regarding any person who was charged with or
14	convicted of a crime against the victim:
15	(VI) Any complaint, summons, or warrant filed by the probation
16	department; for failure to report to probation or because the location of
17	a person convicted of a crime is unknown;
18	(14.3) Upon receipt of a written statement from the victim, The
19	juvenile parole board shall notify the victim of the following information
20	regarding any person who was charged with or adjudicated of an offense
21	against the victim:
22	(a) Any scheduled juvenile parole hearings pursuant to sections
23	19-2.5-1203 and 19-2.5-1206 regarding the person, any change in the
24	scheduling of such a hearing in advance of the hearing, the victim's right
25	to be present and heard at such hearings, the results of any such hearing,
26	any parole decision to release the person, and the terms and conditions of
27	any such release; AND

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1 (b) Any escape by the person while serving juvenile parole and 2 any subsequent recapture of the person; 3 (c) Any placement change that occurs during the period of parole 4 that may impact the victim's safety or public safety as determined by the 5 division of youth services; and 6 (d) Any discharge from juvenile parole. 7 (14.5) (a.5) IN THE ABSENCE OF A COURT ORDER, A PARTY SHALL 8 NOT ISSUE A SUBPOENA TO PRODUCE PURSUANT TO RULE 17 OF THE 9 COLORADO RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF 10 PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL, OR PRIVILEGED RECORDS REGARDING A VICTIM. 11 At a proceeding specified in section 24-4.1-302.5 (b) (I) 12 (1)(d)(VII), involving a subpoena for records of a victim, the court shall 13 ascertain whether the victim received notice from the district attorney's 14 office of the subpoena. After considering all evidence relevant to the 15 subpoena, the court shall deny a request for a victim's records that are 16 privileged pursuant to section 13-90-107, C.R.S., unless the court makes 17 a finding supported by specific facts that a victim has expressly or 18 impliedly waived the victim's statutory privilege specified in section 19 13-90-107, C.R.S. AFTER CONSIDERING ALL RELEVANT EVIDENCE, THE 20 COURT SHALL DENY AN APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SUBPOENA 21 FOR PRIVILEGED RECORDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-90-107, UNLESS THE 22 COURT FINDS, AS SUPPORTED BY SPECIFIC EVIDENCE, THAT A VICTIM HAS 23 WAIVED THE STATUTORY PRIVILEGE. IN CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION 24 FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SUBPOENA FOR PERSONAL OR CONFIDENTIAL 25 RECORDS, THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER: 26 (A) THERE IS A REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SUBPOENAED 27 RECORDS EXIST;

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1	(B) THE SUBPOENAED RECORDS ARE EVIDENTIARY AND RELEVANT;
2	(C) THE SUBPOENAED RECORDS CANNOT BE REASONABLY
3	PROCURED IN ADVANCE OF THE TRIAL DESPITE DUE DILIGENCE;
4	(D) THE PARTY CANNOT PROPERLY PREPARE FOR TRIAL WITHOUT
5	PRODUCTION AND INSPECTION OF THE SUBPOENAED RECORDS, AND
6	FAILURE TO INSPECT THE SUBPOENAED RECORDS IN ADVANCE MAY
7	UNREASONABLY DELAY THE TRIAL; AND
8	(E) THE APPLICATION TO REVIEW THE SUBPOENAED RECORDS IS
9	MADE IN GOOD FAITH.
10	(II) IF THE COURT CONDUCTS A HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR
11	THE ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAED RECORDS, THE COURT SHALL PROCEED
12	ONLY AFTER INPUT FROM THE VICTIM, UNLESS THE VICTIM IS UNAVAILABLE
13	AND THE COURT FINDS THAT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY NOTIFIED THE
14	VICTIM OR MADE ALL REASONABLE EFFORTS TO NOTIFY THE VICTIM.
15	(d) The court shall provide the victim or the victim's
16	DESIGNEE WITH TRANSLATION OR INTERPRETATION SERVICES AS NEEDED
17	DURING ALL CRITICAL STAGES OF THE HEARING. THE VICTIM OR THE
18	VICTIM'S DESIGNEE SHALL NOTIFY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WITHIN A
19	REASONABLE TIME THAT THE VICTIM OR THE VICTIM'S DESIGNEE NEEDS AN
20	INTERPRETER FOR THE CRITICAL STAGES OF THE HEARING. THE DISTRICT
21	ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SHALL INFORM THE COURT THAT THE VICTIM OR
22	VICTIM'S DESIGNEE REQUESTS THAT THE COURT ARRANGE FOR
23	TRANSLATION OR INTERPRETATION SERVICES.
24	(e) THE COURT SHALL REQUIRE THE DEFENDANT TO BE PRESENT BY
25	APPEARING IN PERSON, BY PHONE, OR VIRTUALLY BY AUDIO OR VIDEO, OR
26	SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY, DURING THE SENTENCING HEARING TO HEAR THE
27	VICTIM'S IMPACT STATEMENT, UNLESS THE COURT EXCLUDES THE

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1	DEFENDANT.
2	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-4-103, amend (1)
3	as follows:
4	16-4-103. Setting and selection type of bond - criteria.
5	(1) (a) At the first appearance of a person in custody before any court or
6	any person designated by the court to set bond, the court or person shall
7	determine the type of bond and conditions of release unless the person is
8	subject to the provisions of section 16-4-101.
9	(b) At a hearing other than an advisement hearing for A
10	PERSON IN CUSTODY BEFORE ANY COURT OR ANY PERSON DESIGNATED BY
11	THE COURT TO MODIFY OR REDUCE BOND, THE COURT SHALL CONDUCT OR
12	SET A BOND HEARING IF THE CASE IS SUBJECT TO PART 3 OF ARTICLE 4.1 OF
13	TITLE 24.
14	SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 16-4-109, amend (1)
15	as follows:
16	16-4-109. Reduction or increase of monetary conditions of
17	bond - change in type of bond or conditions of bond - definitions.
18	(1) Upon application by the district attorney or the defendant, the court
19	before which the proceeding is pending may increase or decrease the
20	financial conditions of bond, may require additional security for a bond
21	may dispense with security theretofore provided, or may alter any other
22	condition of the bond. If the defendant applies to decrease the
23	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS OF BOND OR MODIFY BOND CONDITIONS, THE
24	COURT SHALL SET THE APPLICATION FOR HEARING IF THE CASE IS SUBJECT
25	TO PART 3 OF ARTICLE 4.1 OF TITLE 24.
26	SECTION 7. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-301, amend
27	(1)(f) and (1)(h)(IV) as follows:

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18-1.3-301. Authority to place offenders in community
corrections programs. (1) (f) The probation department of the judicial
district in which Where the offender was sentenced to a community
corrections program is located shall have HAS jurisdiction over all
offenders sentenced directly to a community corrections program,
REGARDLESS OF WHERE THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM IS
LOCATED. Such probation department shall initiate arrest warrants,
process reports or other official documents regarding offenders at the
direction of the court, coordinate with community corrections boards and
community corrections programs, review offender supervision and
treatment, authorize offender transfers between residential and
nonresidential phases of placement, PROVIDE VICTIM NOTIFICATIONS
PURSUANT TO PART 3 OF ARTICLE 4.1 OF TITLE 24, and carry out such other
duties as the court directs.
(h) (IV) If victim notification is required UNLESS THE VICTIM HAS
OPTED OUT OF VICTIM NOTIFICATIONS FROM COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS,
the probation officer FOR THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT shall provide
victim notification pursuant to part 3 of article 4.1 of title 24, C.R.S.
NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING AN OFFENDER'S REQUEST FOR EARLY
TERMINATION OF A DIRECT SENTENCE TO COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS, IF
THE OFFENDER'S CRIME FALLS UNDER SECTION 24-4.1-302 (1), IN A
MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE EARLY TERMINATION NOTIFICATION
REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-4.1-303 (13.5)(a)(III).
SECTION 8. Effective date. This act takes effect upon passage;
except that section 24-4.1-302 (1)(00), Colorado Revised Statutes, as
enacted in section 2 of this act, takes effect March 1, 2022.

SECTION 9. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds,

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- determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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