



**Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice**  
**Policy Regarding Member**  
**Roles and Responsibilities for Legislative Recommendations**

The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was established by HB07-1358 as a broad and diverse partnership of stakeholders from the criminal justice system. There are 29 members and one ex-officio member that are charged with identifying problems, issues, and to offer solutions to improve the criminal justice system. Proposing legislation is one of the methods used by the Commission to effect positive changes.

In recognition of the diversity of the Commission and realizing the depth of research and vetting that is accomplished, the following policy relating to members' responsibilities and actions relative to legislative matters is enacted to promote a collaborative atmosphere among members of the Commission and to protect, maintain and enhance the integrity and credibility of the CCJJ legislative process. Members understand that accepting an appointment on the Commission carries with it the responsibility to work constructively to find common ground that is in the best interests of the state and its citizens.

To aid in maintaining consistency, a point of contact person will be designated for each legislative issue that receives Commission endorsement, and this person will serve as the communication connection to the Commission. Because the Commission's endorsements have undergone significant discussion before receiving approval, it is important that the issues retain their content throughout the legislative process. The value of adhering to the substance of the Commission's recommendations should be considered by each legislator who agrees to sponsor a CCJJ bill and by each member of the Commission who participates in the legislative process.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **I. Commission Members**

- a. After a vote by the Commission to approve a recommendation and to propose legislation pursuant to CCJJ rules, members are encouraged to either actively support the proposal or remain silent. Members agree not to actively oppose the recommendation or related legislation.
- b. If a recommendation does not receive the required majority to be approved, then the CCJJ shall have officially taken no position and members are free to act independently on the matter. Issues that are not voted on by the Commission as a whole are also not deemed an official action, whether or not the issue has been addressed by a task force or working group.



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**Roles and Responsibilities (continued)**

**II. Legislators, including non-Commission members who are bill sponsors**

- a. Any legislator who sponsors a bill that arises from a CCJJ approved recommendation is encouraged to make every effort to maintain the substance of the bill in a manner consistent with the original recommendation. The sponsor commits to opposing substantive changes to the bill. If the sponsor learns of proposals that would substantively change the bill, the sponsor will promptly contact the CCJJ point of contact and work in concert with the CCJJ to maintain the integrity of the recommendation.
- b. Commission member legislators are encouraged to refrain from actively working to defeat or substantively change a bill derived from a CCJJ approved recommendation. This policy does not infringe on a legislator's responsibility to cast votes in the legislature or its committees according to his/her beliefs.
- c. Commission member legislators are encouraged to refrain from sponsoring bills that are contrary to an official vote of the CCJJ on a recommendation.

**III. Task Force Members (other than Commission members)**

Members of a task force or working group are encouraged to abide by the policy set forth in I. above for Commission members. If a non-CCJJ task force member takes a position contrary to one officially adopted by CCJJ, or promotes an issue that has not been the subject of official action by CCJJ, the task force member is required to refrain from identifying him/herself in any way as speaking on behalf of CCJJ or the task force. If a member of a task force or working group fails to abide by these policies, the Chair of the task force will consider whether the non-compliance should result in the member's removal from the CCJJ task force or working group.