



HB-1335

Sponsored by Representative Pabon and Senator Steadman

The Unlawful Sale of Public Services and Appointments Bill, HB-1335, is designed to protect Coloradans from scams attempting to sell goods available free to the public for a profit. Colorado residents should be protected from predatory businesses that would capitalize by making a profit off of the needs of our growing population. It is very important we establish safeguards to make sure public appointments are not sold for profit if the intention is to make them available to the public free of charge.

What is the problem?

- A black market for SB-251 appointments has developed because there is a lack of supply for an overly high demand for SB-251 Licenses
- With only 3 offices open statewide to process SB-251 licenses, there is a long wait and appointment backlog. It currently takes months if not years to book an SB-251 appointment
- People who buy an appointment act out of desperation to be able to participate in our laws. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Pabon, will create consequences for those who sell what should be a free public good.
- The way the system works now creates barriers to people accessing a service and participating in this public safety program

The Unlawful Sale of Public Services Bill will accomplish the following:

- Creates a new deceptive trade practice under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act for knowingly selling a public good available to the public for free
- Makes a first offense for the selling of free public goods and services a class 1 misdemeanor.
- Prohibits the bundling of free public services with other products to stop businesses from using public goods as a hook to then charge for other services.

The Unlawful Sale of Public Services Bill is good for Colorado because:

- It protects free access to Colorado's public goods to ensure that they are available and open to everyone.
- It ensures equal access to public goods. Placing a free market price on public goods has the inevitable consequence of creating unfair competition that preys on or excludes low-income families in Colorado. By ensuring public goods are available to the community for free we will ensure all Coloradans have equal access to our state's public resources.
- It will help to stop the practice of selling SB-251 Appointments which will reduce the backlog and allow for more Colorado residents to become licensed and insured through the SB-251 Program.