



HB19-1295

Transitioning the Public Trustee Role to County Treasurers

Consolidating the Public Trustee Function into the County Treasurer's Office Would Save Taxpayer Dollars, Increase Efficiency

Sponsors: Reps. Rich and Becker, Sens. Scott and Story

Currently in 52 of the 64 counties in Colorado, the county treasurer serves as the public trustee – the person responsible for administering the state's foreclosure system and the filing and release of deeds of trust. In Denver and Broomfield, state statute allows the elected boards in those jurisdictions to decide how the public trustee office shall be handled. In the remaining ten largest counties (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo and Weld), the public trustee is appointed by the Governor and serves independently, maintaining a separate office and staff, which is funded out of release and foreclosure fees.

Having a stand-alone office for a public trustee is expensive and in at least one jurisdiction the public trustee office has run out of money and had to be funded by the county to stay open.

HB19-1295 would phase-out the currently-appointed public trustees in the ten largest counties in July of 2020 and move the public trustee function into the county treasurer's office - just like the other 52 counties in the state. By consolidating these offices, the bill will save thousands of dollars and make the system more efficient and accountable to the citizens.

The bill requires the county treasurer to prepare a transition plan for how the work of the public trustee will be folded into his/her office in 2020, including any anticipated staffing and budgetary needs to carry out the public trustee function.

Please Support HB19-1295

Contact:

Eric Bergman 303.861.4076 // ebergman@ccionline.org