

KRDO.com

State Looking To Get Into Bail Bonds Business

Bail Bonds Industry Says Proposed Law Would Put Them Out Of Business

[TAK LANDROCK](#)

KRDO NewsChannel 13

[Facebook](#)

POSTED: 10:37 pm MDT April 21, 2011

UPDATED: 11:52 am MDT April 22, 2011



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. -- State lawmakers are one step closer to getting the state into the bail bond industry. A state Senate bill would allow pre-trial services to offer bonds to defendants who are in jail.

Senate Bill 11-186, sponsored by Democratic Sen. John Morse, of Colorado Springs, is getting support from many in the law enforcement community.

"This is about giving those in jail another option," said Morse, who is a former police chief.

Under the proposed law, those defendants who can't get bonded out by a private bail company would be able to get one through the courts. After a bond is set, the person accused of a crime can post up to 15 percent of the bail needed. Half of the money would go to fees to pay for the service, the other half be returned to the defendant after the trial, if they are found not guilty. If they are found guilty, anything left over after restitution is returned to the criminal.

Morse believes this will help free up overcrowded jails and save taxpayers money. "Anyone who stays in jail costs about \$60 to \$63 dollars a day." He said it would also allow the pre-trial services to monitor criminals to make sure they appear in court, currently El Paso County doesn't have pre-trial services. It was eliminated because of budget cuts. The fees from this could bring it back.

He said the monitoring systems, like ankle bracelets would be one option. If a defendant jumps bail, police or a fugitive unit will look for them.

The bail bonds industry is fighting the bill. Bobby Brown, owner of Bobby Brown's Bail Bonds, said if this becomes law it will put many bail bonds companies out of business and cost hundreds their jobs.

"I don't know if we've had enough damn government takeover in the last two years and we haven't learned," said Brown.

Brown, who is a former member of law enforcement, said bail bonds companies make sure defendants go to court when they are scheduled by holding family members or friends accountable for the entire bond.

Brown estimates he posed \$15 million in bonds in 2010. He said less than a handful jumped bail and didn't show up for court. "We are going to make sure there is a family member or somebody that is going to lose something if they don't go to court," said Brown. If he collects a bond, he keeps the money, minus any fee required by the state.

He thinks the state is just looking to make extra money, but Morse disagrees. "Colorado doesn't care about getting paid. Colorado cares about public safety. We want to make sure those that should be in jail, stay in jail," said Morse.

-
- **Sign-Up** For Breaking News Alerts: [Click here](#)
 - **Mobile:** [Get KRDO Headlines on the go](#)
 - **Facebook:** Find us on [Facebook](#)
 - **Twitter:** Follow us on [Twitter](#)
 - **Have a News Tip?:** [Send here](#)
-

[Report a typo, inaccuracy](#)

Copyright 2011 [KRDO.com](#). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.