

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 19-0684.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 19-1194**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lontine and Larson,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Priola and Fields,**

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE DISCIPLINE OF PRESCHOOL THROUGH SECOND**  
102                    **GRADE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLICLY FUNDED EDUCATION**  
103                    **PROGRAMS.**

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**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 allows a state-funded, community-based preschool program, school district, or charter school (enrolling entity) to impose an out-of-school suspension or expel a student enrolled in preschool, kindergarten, or first or second grade only under specified circumstances. If the enrolling entity imposes an out-of-school suspension, the length of

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

the suspension must be limited to the time required to resolve the safety threat, but no more than 3 school days. The state board of education (state board) cannot waive the provisions concerning suspension and expulsion of young students for school districts or charter schools. Each school district and charter school must ensure that its school discipline code reflects the requirements specified in the bill. The state board must annually review the data concerning suspensions and expulsions of students in preschool, kindergarten, and first and second grade.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds that:

4 (a) Children in preschool and early elementary years are at a  
5 critical stage of development, and a child's early experiences in school  
6 have a dramatic impact on the child's health and future success in school;

7 (b) The practice of out-of-school suspension or expulsion of a  
8 young child may have profound consequences for the child, as these  
9 exclusionary measures come at a time when the child is supposed to be  
10 forming positive associations with school and building positive  
11 relationships with teachers and peers; and

12 (c) Research indicates that young children who are suspended or  
13 expelled from school are several times more likely to experience  
14 disciplinary action later in their academic careers, drop out or disengage  
15 from high school, report feeling disconnected from school, and be  
16 incarcerated later in life.

17 (2) The general assembly therefore declares that the standards for  
18 suspension and expulsion of young children should be developmentally  
19 appropriate, and implementing inclusive discipline practices, rather than  
20 out-of-school suspension and expulsion, is an important step in  
21 supporting a positive school experience for young children in preschool

1 and early elementary programs that will result in greater long-term  
2 success for the child.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-33-106.1 as  
4 follows:

5 **22-33-106.1. Suspension - expulsion - preschool through**  
6 **second grade - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE  
7 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8 (a) "CHARTER SCHOOL" MEANS A CHARTER SCHOOL THAT IS  
9 AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO  
10 PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22 OR AN INSTITUTE CHARTER  
11 SCHOOL THAT IS AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE  
12 PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22.

13 (b) "ENROLLING ENTITY" MEANS:

14 (I) A COMMUNITY-BASED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES  
15 STUDENTS WHO ARE FUNDED THROUGH THE "COLORADO PRESCHOOL  
16 PROGRAM ACT", ARTICLE 28 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR STUDENTS WHO ARE  
17 FUNDED WITH STATE OR FEDERAL MONEY TO EDUCATE CHILDREN WITH  
18 DISABILITIES;

19 (II) A SCHOOL DISTRICT; OR

20 (III) A CHARTER SCHOOL.

21 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE 33 TO THE  
22 CONTRARY, AN ENROLLING ENTITY MAY IMPOSE AN OUT-OF-SCHOOL  
23 SUSPENSION OR EXPEL A STUDENT ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL,  
24 KINDERGARTEN, FIRST GRADE, OR SECOND GRADE ONLY IF:

25 (a) THE STUDENT ENGAGES IN CONDUCT ON SCHOOL GROUNDS  
26 THAT:

27 (I) INVOLVES THE POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON WITHOUT

1 THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL OR ENROLLING ENTITY, IF  
2 DIFFERENT;

3 (II) INVOLVES THE USE, POSSESSION, OR SALE OF A DRUG OR  
4 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 18-18-102 (5); OR

5 (III) ENDANGERS THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF OTHERS;

6 (b) FAILURE TO REMOVE THE STUDENT FROM THE SCHOOL  
7 BUILDING WOULD CREATE A SAFETY THREAT THAT CANNOT OTHERWISE BE  
8 ADDRESSED; AND

9 (c) THE ENROLLING ENTITY DETERMINES, ON A CASE-BY-CASE  
10 BASIS, THAT BEFORE SUSPENDING OR EXPELLING THE STUDENT, IT HAS  
11 EMPLOYED THE ALTERNATIVE BEHAVIORAL AND DISCIPLINARY  
12 INTERVENTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THE ENROLLING ENTITY AND  
13 APPROPRIATE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE ENROLLING ENTITY SHALL  
14 DOCUMENT THE ALTERNATIVE BEHAVIORAL AND DISCIPLINARY  
15 INTERVENTIONS THAT IT EMPLOYED.

16 (3) IF AN ENROLLING ENTITY IMPOSES AN OUT-OF-SCHOOL  
17 SUSPENSION ON A STUDENT WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN  
18 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE DURATION  
19 OF THE STUDENT'S EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL, THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL  
20 SUSPENSION TIME IS LIMITED TO THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT THE  
21 ENROLLING ENTITY REQUIRES TO RESOLVE THE SAFETY THREAT; EXCEPT  
22 THAT THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION MUST NOT EXCEED THREE SCHOOL  
23 DAYS.

24 (4) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PREVENT AN ENROLLING ENTITY FROM  
25 REQUIRING A STUDENT'S PARENT TO WITHDRAW THE STUDENT FROM  
26 ENROLLMENT FOR REASONS UNRELATED TO STUDENT DISCIPLINE.

27 (5) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, IF AN ENROLLING ENTITY

1 REQUESTS THAT A PARENT REMOVE A CHILD FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS  
2 FROM THE SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME DURING A SCHOOL  
3 DAY, THE REQUEST CONSTITUTES A SUSPENSION AND IS SUBJECT TO THE  
4 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

5 (6) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW THE DATA  
6 CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE SUSPENDED OR  
7 EXPELLED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND THE REASONS FOR THE  
8 SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-117, **amend**  
10 (1)(b)(VI) and (1)(b)(VII); and **add** (1)(b)(VIII) as follows:

11 **22-2-117. Additional power - state board - waiver of**  
12 **requirements - rules.** (1) (b) The state board shall not waive any of the  
13 requirements specified in any of the following statutory provisions:

14 (VI) The requirement to post on the internet the statutes for which  
15 waivers are granted as provided in section 22-44-305; ~~or~~

16 (VII) Any provisions of section 22-1-130, relating to notification  
17 to parents of alleged criminal conduct by school district employees; OR

18 (VIII) SECTION 22-33-106.1, CONCERNING SUSPENSION AND  
19 EXPULSION OF STUDENTS IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH SECOND GRADE.

20 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-104, **amend**  
21 (6)(c)(VI) and (6)(c)(VII); and **add** (6)(c)(VIII) as follows:

22 **22-30.5-104. Charter school - requirements - authority - rules.**

23 (6) (c) A school district, on behalf of a charter school, may apply to the  
24 state board for a waiver of a state statute or state rule that is not an  
25 automatic waiver. Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection (6)  
26 to the contrary, the state board may not waive any statute or rule relating  
27 to:

1 (VI) The requirement to post on the internet the statutes for which  
2 waivers are granted as provided in section 22-44-305; ~~or~~

3 (VII) Any provisions of section 22-1-130, relating to notification  
4 to parents of alleged criminal conduct by charter school employees; OR

5 (VIII) SECTION 22-33-106.1, CONCERNING SUSPENSION AND  
6 EXPULSION OF STUDENTS IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH SECOND GRADE.

7 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-106, **amend**  
8 (1)(p) as follows:

9 **22-30.5-106. Charter application - contents.** (1) The charter  
10 school application is a proposed agreement upon which the charter  
11 applicant and the chartering local board of education negotiate a charter  
12 contract. At a minimum, each charter school application includes:

13 (p) Policies regarding student discipline, expulsion, and  
14 suspension that are consistent with the intent and purpose of ~~section~~  
15 SECTIONS 22-33-106 AND 22-33-106.1, provide adequately for the safety  
16 of students and staff, and provide a level of due process for students that,  
17 at a minimum, complies with the requirements of the federal "Individuals  
18 with Disabilities Education Act", 20 U.S.C. sec. 1400 et seq.;

19 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-505, **amend**  
20 (9) as follows:

21 **22-30.5-505. State charter school institute - institute board -**  
22 **appointment - powers and duties - rules.** (9) The institute shall ensure  
23 that each institute charter school addresses the expulsion, suspension, and  
24 education of expelled or suspended students in a manner consistent with  
25 the intents and purposes of sections 22-33-105, 22-33-106, **22-33-106.1,**  
26 and 22-33-203.

27 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-507, **amend**

1 (7)(b)(VI) and (7)(b)(VII); and **add** (7)(b)(VIII) as follows:

2 **22-30.5-507. Institute charter school - requirements -**

3 **authority - rules.** (7) (b) An institute charter school may apply to the

4 state board, through the institute, for a waiver of state statutes and state

5 rules that are not automatic waivers. The state board may waive state

6 statutory requirements or rules promulgated by the state board; except that

7 the state board may not waive any statute or rule relating to:

8 (VI) The requirement to post on the internet the statutes for which

9 waivers are granted as provided in section 22-44-305; ~~or~~

10 (VII) Any provisions of section 22-1-130, relating to notification

11 to parents of alleged criminal conduct by institute charter school

12 employees; OR

13 (VIII) SECTION 22-33-106.1, CONCERNING SUSPENSION AND

14 EXPULSION OF STUDENTS IN PRESCHOOL THROUGH SECOND GRADE.

15 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-509, **amend**

16 (1)(p) as follows:

17 **22-30.5-509. Institute charter school application - contents.**

18 (1) The institute charter school application is a proposed agreement upon

19 which the institute charter applicant and the institute negotiate a charter

20 contract. At a minimum, each institute charter school application

21 includes:

22 (p) Policies regarding student discipline, expulsion, and

23 suspension that are consistent with the intent and purpose of ~~section~~

24 SECTIONS 22-33-106 AND 22-33-106.1, provide adequately for the safety

25 of students and staff, and provide a level of due process for students that,

26 at a minimum, complies with the requirements of the federal "Individuals

27 with Disabilities Education Act", 20 U.S.C. sec. 1400 et seq.;

1           **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-109.1, **amend**  
2 (2)(a)(I) introductory portion, (2)(a)(I)(E), (2)(a)(II) introductory portion,  
3 (2)(a)(II)(C), and (2)(a)(II)(D); and **add** (2)(a)(II)(E) as follows:

4           **22-32-109.1. Board of education - specific powers and duties**  
5 **- safe school plan - conduct and discipline code - safe school reporting**  
6 **requirements - school response framework - school resource officers**  
7 **- definitions - repeal. (2) Safe school plan.** In order to provide a

8 learning environment that is safe, conducive to the learning process, and  
9 free from unnecessary disruption, each school district board of education  
10 or institute charter school board for a charter school authorized by the  
11 charter school institute shall, following consultation with the school  
12 district accountability committee and school accountability committees,  
13 parents, teachers, administrators, students, student councils where  
14 available, and, where appropriate, the community at large, adopt and  
15 implement a safe school plan, or review and revise, as necessary in  
16 response to any relevant data collected by the school district, any existing  
17 plans or policies already in effect. In addition to the aforementioned  
18 parties, each school district board of education, in adopting and  
19 implementing its safe school plan, may consult with victims' advocacy  
20 organizations, school psychologists, local law enforcement, and  
21 community partners. The plan, at a minimum, must include the following:

22           **(a) Conduct and discipline code.** (I) A concisely written conduct  
23 and discipline code that shall be enforced uniformly, fairly, and  
24 consistently for all students. Copies of the code shall be provided to each  
25 student upon enrollment at the PRESCHOOL, elementary, middle, and high  
26 school levels and shall be posted or kept on file at each public school in  
27 the school district. The school district shall take reasonable measures to



1 ensure that each student of each public school in the school district is  
2 familiar with the code. The code shall include, but need not be limited to:

3 (E) General policies and procedures for determining the  
4 circumstances under and the manner in which disciplinary actions,  
5 including suspension and expulsion, shall be imposed in accordance with  
6 the provisions of sections 22-33-105, ~~and~~ 22-33-106, AND 22-33-106.1;

7 (II) In creating and enforcing a school conduct and discipline code  
8 pursuant to ~~subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I)  
9 OF THIS SECTION, each school district board of education, on and after  
10 August 1, 2013, shall:

11 (C) Ensure that the implementation of the code complies with all  
12 state and federal laws concerning the education of students with  
13 disabilities, as defined in section 22-20-103 (5); ~~and~~

14 (D) Ensure that, in implementing the code, each school of the  
15 school district shows due consideration of the impact of certain violations  
16 of the code upon victims of such violations, in accordance with the  
17 provisions of Title IX of the United States Code and other state and  
18 federal laws; AND

19 (E) ENSURE THAT, IN IMPLEMENTING THE CODE, EACH SCHOOL OF  
20 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION  
21 22-33-106.1.

22 **SECTION 10. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
23 takes effect July 1, 2020; except that, if a referendum petition is filed  
24 pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this  
25 act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act,  
26 item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people

1 at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case,  
2 will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon  
3 by the governor.