

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 19-1008.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 19-215

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lontine,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS**
102 **CONFERENCE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.**

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 creates parents encouraging parents conferences for parents of children with disabilities who are enrolled in public schools in Colorado. The department of education shall provide for the conferences and related lodging and food for attendees. The bill requires a specified conference curriculum.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-20-120 as
3 follows:

4 **22-20-120. Parents encouraging parents conference -**
5 **legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND
6 DECLARES THAT:

7 (a) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES OFTEN SUPPORT
8 THEIR CHILDREN UNTIL THEIR DEATH;

9 (b) THERE ARE NO RESOURCES THAT ADEQUATELY PREPARE
10 PARENTS FOR THE TASK OF SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES;

11 (c) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES STRUGGLE TO
12 OBTAIN TIME AWAY FROM CARING FOR THEIR CHILD IN ORDER TO GAIN
13 PERSONAL INSIGHT AND SUPPORT FROM EACH OTHER WHILE LEARNING OF
14 EDUCATIONAL, LEGAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES;

15 (d) BOTH PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS PLAY CRITICAL
16 INTERACTIVE ROLES IN A CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS AND IN
17 DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS;

18 (e) THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS CONFERENCE UNIQUELY
19 MOTIVATES INTERPERSONAL AND INTRAPERSONAL INSIGHT THAT IS
20 CRITICAL FOR SUCCESSFUL PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS;

21 (f) THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM WAS FOUNDED
22 IN 1978 AND HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF
23 FAMILIES; AND

24 (g) PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM EVALUATIONS
25 HAVE SHOWN THAT PARTICIPATING PARENTS FEEL LESS ISOLATED THAN
26 BEFORE PARTICIPATION AND FEEL MORE HOPEFUL AND EMPOWERED TO

1 ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION AND LIFE PLANS.

2 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS
3 NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM
4 FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

5 (3) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS, OR SUBJECT TO STATE
6 APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE UP TO FOUR PARENTS
7 ENCOURAGING PARENTS CONFERENCES, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS
8 "CONFERENCE", PER YEAR. EACH CONFERENCE MUST BE LIMITED TO ONE
9 HUNDRED TWENTY PARENT PARTICIPANTS AND PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK
10 WITH CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY. THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS WHO
11 ATTEND THE CONFERENCE MUST NOT EXCEED TWENTY PERCENT OF THE
12 PARENTS WHO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. THE PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH
13 A DISABILITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS A COUPLE.
14 ALTERNATIVELY, A PARENT IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND WITH A SUPPORT
15 PERSON.

16 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND FACILITATE AN
17 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE.
18 AT A MINIMUM, A PERSON IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE IF HE OR
19 SHE IS THE PARENT OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.

20 (5) A CONFERENCE MUST BE PROVIDED OVER TWO AND ONE-HALF
21 DAYS AND TWO NIGHTS.

22 (6) A CONFERENCE SHALL BE HELD AT A HOTEL EQUIPPED TO MEET
23 REGIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT NEEDS, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO
24 MOUNTAIN VENUES DURING TOURIST OFF-SEASONS.

25 (7) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE LODGING AND FOOD DURING
26 SESSIONS CONTAINING CURRICULUM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS
27 SECTION TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY AND THEIR SUPPORT

1 PERSONS WHO ATTEND A CONFERENCE. LODGING MUST BE PROVIDED
2 REGARDLESS OF THE PARENT'S PRIMARY RESIDENCE IN RELATION TO THE
3 HOTEL LOCATION.

4 (8) THE CONFERENCE CURRICULUM MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM,
5 BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

6 (a) A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE STAGES OF GRIEVING;

7 (b) A PRESENTATION REGARDING SPECIAL EDUCATION IN
8 COLORADO THAT PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN
9 COLORADO AND THE PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN
10 SCHOOLS;

11 (c) A PRESENTATION BY A NONPROFIT GROUP THAT PROTECTS AND
12 PROMOTES THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
13 REGARDING A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY'S LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE
14 FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C.
15 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, OR OTHER RELATED FEDERAL OR STATE LAWS;

16 (d) A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE USE OF PEOPLE FIRST
17 LANGUAGE;

18 (e) PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL WORK SESSIONS ON FAMILY AND
19 SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES;

20 (f) PARTICIPATION IN INTERACTIVE TOPICAL SESSIONS;

21 (g) PRESENTATIONS REGARDING HOW PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH
22 A DISABILITY CAN ADVOCATE FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND BE
23 SELF-SUFFICIENT; AND

24 (h) PEER PARENT SUPPORT AT WORKING MEALS AND DURING
25 BREAKS.

26 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.