LLS NO. 20-0397.02 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 20-023

SENATE SPONSORSHIP
Gardner and Gonzales, Fields, Lundeen

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP
Michaelson Jenet and Van Winkle, Beckman, Sirota

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING CREATING A MULTI-AGENCY WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS SCHOOL SAFETY.

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/.)

School Safety Committee. The bill creates the Colorado interagency working group on school safety. The working group consists of 14 voting members, including 4 legislative members. The mission of the working group is to enhance school safety through the cost-effective use of public resources. The working group shall:

- Study and implement recommendations of the state

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.
Study the use of lockdown drills, including their effectiveness and any harm they do to the participating students;

Identify school safety best practices and then rank the effectiveness of the best practices;

Identify actions to improve transparency, reduce duplication, improve services, and improve communication;

Create minimum school safety standards;

Provide school risk assessments and training;

Develop standardized language for describing threats to schools and the procedures to be followed in investigating a threat;

Create a list of approved school safety resource vendors and tools;

Recommend minimum standards or procedural guidelines for behavioral threat assessment tools;

Report on a monthly basis aggregated behavioral and risk assessment data;

Create an annual report of findings and recommendations, including evidence-based analysis and data; and

Study and evaluate the implemented changes.

The working group may contract with a consultant to optimize the alignment and effectiveness of the school safety efforts in Colorado and identify evidence-based best practices. The general assembly may appropriate money to the working group for a consultant, and the working group can accept gifts, grants, and donations.

The bill repeals the working group on September 1, 2023.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add article 17 to title 22 as follows:

ARTICLE 17

Colorado Interagency Working Group on School Safety

22-17-101. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Ensuring the safety of students, teachers, and other
EMPLOYEES WHILE AT SCHOOL IS A PARAMOUNT CONCERN FOR THE
CITIZENS OF COLORADO;

(b) IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL
SAFETY PROGRAMS AND FUNDING IS CRITICAL TO PROVIDING SAFE
SCHOOLS; AND

(c) MAINTAINING SCHOOL SAFETY THROUGH THE MOST
COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF LIMITED STATE RESOURCES IS IN THE INTEREST OF
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

(2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT A
WORKING GROUP COMPRISED OF STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY OFFICIALS
MUST BE FORMED TO INCREASE COORDINATION OF SCHOOL SAFETY
PROGRAMS ACROSS STATE GOVERNMENT AND ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE
GOVERNOR, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ON THEIR ACTIVITIES.

22-17-102. Colorado interagency working group on school
safety - creation - membership - operation - immunity. (1) (a) THERE
IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE COLORADO
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL SAFETY, REFERRED TO IN THIS
ARTICLE 17 AS THE "WORKING GROUP". THE WORKING GROUP HAS THE
POWERS AND DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE 17.

(b) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL EXERCISE ITS POWERS AND
PERFORM ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS IF THE SAME WERE TRANSFERRED
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY A TYPE 2 TRANSFER, AS SUCH
TRANSFER IS DEFINED IN THE "ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION ACT OF
1968", ARTICLE 1 OF TITLE 24.

(2) THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF FOURTEEN VOTING
MEMBERS, AS FOLLOWS:
(a) The commissioner of education, or his or her designee,
who shall serve as the chair of the working group;
(b) The executive director of the department of public
safety, or his or her designee;
(c) The executive director of the department of public
health and environment, or his or her designee;
(d) The executive director of the department of human
services, or his or her designee;
(e) The attorney general, or his or her designee, who
shall serve as the vice-chair of the working group;
(f) The director of the school safety resource center;
(g) The following members appointed by the governor:
(I) A school district superintendent who serves an urban
or suburban school district;
(II) A school district superintendent who serves a rural
school district;
(III) A chief of police; and
(IV) A county sheriff; and
(h) The following legislative members:
(I) A member of the house of representatives appointed by
the speaker of the house of representatives;
(II) A member of the house of representatives appointed by
the minority leader of the house of representatives;
(III) A member of the senate appointed by the president of
the senate; and
(IV) A member of the senate appointed by the minority
leader of the senate.
(3) The members of the working group serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for any actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this article 17.

(4) The working group shall meet at least once per quarter to review information necessary for making recommendations.

(5) The working group may contract with a consultant to optimize the alignment and effectiveness of the school safety efforts in Colorado and identify evidence-based best practices. The general assembly may appropriate money to the working group for a consultant if requested by the working group.

(6) Members of the working group, employees, and consultants are immune from suit in any civil action based upon any official act performed in good faith pursuant to this article 17.

22-17-103. Duties of the working group - mission. (1) The mission of the working group is to enhance school safety through the cost-effective use of public resources. The work of the working group will focus on evidence-based best practices.

(2) The working group shall:

(a) Study and implement recommendations of the state auditor's report regarding school safety released September 2019;

(b) Study the use of lockdown drills, including their effectiveness and any harm they do to the participating students;
(c) Identify evidence-based school safety best practices and then rank the effectiveness of the best practices;
(d) Identify actions to improve transparency, reduce duplication, improve services, and improve communication;
(e) Create minimum school safety standards;
(f) Provide school risk assessments and training;
(g) Develop standardized language for describing threats to schools and the procedures to be followed in investigating a threat;
(h) Create a list of approved school safety resource vendors and tools;
(i) Recommend minimum standards or procedural guidelines for behavioral threat assessment tools;
(j) Report on a monthly basis aggregated behavioral and risk assessment data;
(k) Create an annual report of findings and recommendations, including evidence-based analysis and data;
(l) Study and evaluate the outcomes of the implemented changes.

(3) The working group may use available resources, modalities, and nonmembers from interested members of the community to focus on specific subject matters.

(4) The school safety resource center serves as the clearinghouse for all materials produced by the working group.

(5) The division of criminal justice in the department of public safety, in consultation with the department of education,
SHALL PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR DATA COLLECTION, RESEARCH, ANALYSIS, AND PUBLICATION OF THE WORKING GROUP'S FINDINGS AND REPORTS.

22-17-104. Colorado working group on school safety cash fund - created - gifts, grants, and donations. (1) The Department of Education and the Working Group are authorized to accept gifts, grants, or donations, including in-kind donations from private or public sources, for the purposes of this Article 17. All private and public money received through gifts, grants, or donations by the Department of Education or by the Working Group must be transmitted to the State Treasurer, who shall credit the same to the Colorado Working Group on School Safety Cash Fund, which fund is created in the State Treasury and referred to in this Article 17 as the "cash fund". The State Treasurer shall invest any money in the Cash Fund not expended for the purposes of this Article 17 as provided in Section 24-36-113. All interest and income derived from the investment and deposit of money in the Cash Fund must be credited to the Cash Fund. Any unexpended and unencumbered money remaining in the Cash Fund at the end of any fiscal year remains in the Cash Fund and shall not be credited or transferred to the General Fund or any other fund.

(2) The Department of Education is not required to solicit gifts, grants, or donations from any source for the purposes of this Article 17.

22-17-105. Repeal of article. This Article 17 is repealed, effective September 1, 2023. Before the repeal, the Department of Regulatory Agencies shall review the Working Group as described in Section 2-3-1203.
SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, add (14)(a)(XII) as follows:

2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative declaration - definition - repeal. (14) (a) The following statutory authorizations for the designated advisory committees are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2023:

(XII) THE COLORADO INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 22-17-102.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.