

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

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 20-0034.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 20-052

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coram and Zenzinger,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Wilson,

Senate Committees

Education
Finance
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE SMART SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**
102 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

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 the smart school bus safety pilot program (pilot program) in the department of public safety (department) to increase the safety of students and the security of school buses. The department is required to enter into an agreement with an organization to administer the pilot program (program administrator). The program administrator must notify school districts of the program; develop and maintain a website,

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.

online service, online application, or mobile application, or a combination thereof, to provide secure parental notification, at no cost to parents, relating to school bus and student status; recruit school bus drivers; inform and educate the public about school bus transportation safety; and develop funding sources for school transportation safety.

The department awards 3-year grants to school districts for the provision of hardware and software that will allow the bus to communicate directly with first responders by voice communication and by using a silent duress alarm; the maintenance of that equipment; training; and providing secure parental notification, at no cost to parents, relating to school bus and student status. The program administrator must provide support for grant recipients.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 25 to article
3 33.5 of title 24 as follows:

4 PART 25

5 SMART SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

6 PILOT PROGRAM

7 **24-33.5-2501. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 25 IS
8 THE "SMART SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PILOT PROGRAM ACT".

9 **24-33.5-2502. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 25, UNLESS THE
10 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

11 (1) "CHARITABLE PURPOSE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH
12 IN SECTION 6-16-103 (2).

13 (2) "CONSULTANT" MEANS THE ORGANIZATION SELECTED BY THE
14 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2505 TO CONSULT WITH AND
15 SUPPORT GRANT RECIPIENTS.

16 (3) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE PROGRAM TO AWARD GRANTS
17 PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2504.

18 (4) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE SMART SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
19 PILOT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2503.

1 (5) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN
2 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DETERMINES IS RURAL
3 BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE
4 DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE,
5 URBANIZED AREA.

6 (6) "SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZED
7 AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO LAW. "SCHOOL DISTRICT" INCLUDES A
8 CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART
9 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22 OR A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY
10 THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
11 30.5 OF TITLE 22 THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF
12 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE CHARTER SCHOOL.

13 (7) "SILENT DURESS ALARM" MEANS A SILENT ALARM THAT SENDS
14 A DISTRESS CALL AND THE LAST-KNOWN GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
15 COORDINATES OF THE SCHOOL BUS TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND EMERGENCY
16 RESPONSE PERSONNEL.

17 **24-33.5-2503. Smart school bus safety pilot program - creation**
18 **- department duties - rules.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT
19 THE SMART SCHOOL BUS SAFETY PILOT PROGRAM TO:

20 (a) INCREASE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND THE SECURITY OF
21 SCHOOL BUSES;

22 (b) PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH GRANTS PURSUANT TO
23 SECTION 24-33.5-2504 TO EQUIP THEIR SCHOOL BUSES WITH HARDWARE
24 AND SOFTWARE THAT ENABLE THE BUSES TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY
25 WITH FIRST RESPONDERS BY CELLULAR, SATELLITE, OR ANY OTHER
26 AVAILABLE MEANS OF VOICE COMMUNICATION AND BY USING A SILENT
27 DURESS ALARM;

1 (c) PROVIDE NOTIFICATIONS TO PARENTS ABOUT SCHOOL BUS
2 STATUS AND STUDENT SAFETY;

3 (d) INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT SCHOOL
4 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY; AND

5 (e) IMPROVE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING, INCLUDING TRAINING
6 RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

7 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

8 (a) AWARD PILOT PROGRAM GRANTS, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION
9 24-33.5-2504; AND

10 (b) SELECT AN ORGANIZATION TO SERVE AS A CONSULTANT, AS
11 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2505.

12 (3) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 24, THE EXECUTIVE
13 DIRECTOR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY FOR THE
14 ADMINISTRATION OF THIS PART 25. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES MUST
15 INCLUDE:

16 (a) PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE GRANT PROGRAM,
17 INCLUDING:

18 (I) AN APPLICATION PROCESS, INCLUDING DEADLINES;

19 (II) THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDING A GRANT TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT
20 AND DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD; AND

21 (III) A PROCESS FOR ACHIEVING A BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF
22 GRANT MONEY TO RURAL, URBAN, AND SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS;

23 AND

24 (b) PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING A CONSULTANT, INCLUDING:

25 (I) AN APPLICATION PROCESS, INCLUDING DEADLINES;

26 (II) A PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTING PILOT PROGRAM MONEY TO THE
27 CONSULTANT; AND

1 (III) PROCEDURES FOR VERIFYING THE CONSULTANT'S CONTINUED
2 ELIGIBILITY TO SERVE AS THE CONSULTANT.

3 (4) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
4 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
5 PURPOSES OF THIS PART 25.

6 **24-33.5-2504. Pilot program grants - report.** (1) (a) SUBJECT
7 TO AVAILABLE MONEY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO
8 SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM BY
9 PROVIDING THOSE DISTRICTS WITH FUNDING NECESSARY TO EQUIP SCHOOL
10 BUSES WITH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE, FOR EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE,
11 AND FOR ANY RELEVANT TRAINING TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS
12 AND THE SECURITY OF SCHOOL BUSES.

13 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE
14 PILOT PROGRAM AND ANY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINES. THE
15 DEPARTMENT MAY COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
16 CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTIFICATION.

17 (2) IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS
18 SECTION, A SCHOOL DISTRICT MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE
19 DEPARTMENT. THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
20 INFORMATION:

21 (a) A SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED
22 BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ITS STUDENTS;

23 (b) A DESCRIPTION OF ANY SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AND SECURITY
24 CHALLENGES FACED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT;

25 (c) HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL USE A GRANT AWARD IN
26 FURTHERANCE OF THE GOALS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM;

27 (d) ANY MEASURABLE GOALS THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPECTS

1 TO ACHIEVE WITH GRANT MONEY; AND
2 (e) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
3 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT
4 SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS SELECTED FROM THOSE
5 SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.
6 (b) GRANTS AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ARE
7 THREE-YEAR GRANTS THAT COVER THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR
8 THROUGH THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
9 APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTE GRANT
10 MONEY TO GRANT RECIPIENTS.
11 (4) A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT RECEIVES A GRANT AWARD SHALL
12 RECEIVE SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSULTANT AND
13 SHALL USE A GRANT AWARD FOR THE FOLLOWING:
14 (a) THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR EACH
15 SCHOOL BUS TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH FIRST RESPONDERS BY
16 CELLULAR, SATELLITE, OR ANY OTHER AVAILABLE MEANS OF VOICE
17 COMMUNICATION AND BY USING A SILENT DURESS ALARM;
18 (b) TRAINING, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE,
19 TELECOMMUNICATION, AND DATA-RELATED COSTS RELATED TO ANY
20 EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY;
21 (c) THE OPERATION AND USE OF AN INTERNET WEBSITE, ONLINE
22 SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION, OR A
23 COMBINATION THEREOF, THAT INCLUDES DATA PRIVACY AND INTEGRITY
24 AND DEVICE IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY PROTECTIONS, TO PROVIDE SECURE
25 AND VERIFIABLE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION, AT NO COST TO PARENTS,
26 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS AND STUDENT STATUS;
27 (d) SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING AND THE PROVISION OF

1 BACKGROUND CHECKS WHEN NECESSARY FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS TO
2 OPERATE EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY;

3 (e) ADVANCED SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING, INCLUDING
4 TRAINING RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL
5 NEEDS;

6 (f) THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO USE ANY EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED
7 WITH GRANT MONEY; AND

8 (g) OBTAINING CREDENTIALS OR OTHER PERMISSIONS, INCLUDING
9 DIGITAL IDENTITIES, NECESSARY FOR BUS DRIVERS OR OTHER PERSONNEL
10 TO PROPERLY OPERATE EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY.

11 (5) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JUNE
12 30 THEREAFTER, A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT RECEIVES A GRANT PURSUANT
13 TO THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT. AT A
14 MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

15 (a) THE NUMBER OF BUSES EQUIPPED WITH EQUIPMENT NECESSARY
16 TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING BY
17 USING A SILENT DURESS ALARM;

18 (b) WHETHER ANY SUCH EQUIPMENT WAS USED IN AN EMERGENCY
19 SITUATION, INCLUDING A SITUATION THAT REQUIRED ASSISTANCE FROM
20 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL;

21 (c) ANY SCHOOL BUS MAINTENANCE OR OPERATION DECISIONS
22 MADE BASED ON INFORMATION LEARNED FROM EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED
23 WITH GRANT MONEY;

24 (d) WHETHER THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ACHIEVED ANY OF THE GOALS
25 DESCRIBED IN ITS GRANT APPLICATION; AND

26 (e) ANY OTHER USE OF GRANT MONEY.

27 24-33.5-2505. Pilot program consultant - report. (1) ON OR

1 BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT AN
2 ORGANIZATION TO SERVE AS A CONSULTANT THAT SUPPORTS SCHOOL
3 DISTRICTS AWARDED GRANTS PURSUANT TO THIS PART 25.

4 (2) THE CONSULTANT MAY BE A NONPROFIT OR FOR-PROFIT
5 ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATES WITH A CHARITABLE PURPOSE AND MUST
6 HAVE EXPERIENCE IN EVIDENCE-BASED SCHOOL BUS SAFETY AND SURFACE
7 TRANSPORTATION SECURITY, CHILD SAFETY CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT,
8 AND CONDUCTING FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS THAT SUPPORT
9 SAFETY-RELATED INITIATIVES.

10 (3) IN ORDER TO BE SELECTED AS THE CONSULTANT, AN
11 ORGANIZATION MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT. AN
12 APPLICATION MUST:

13 (a) DEMONSTRATE THAT THE APPLICANT HAS THE EXPERIENCE
14 REQUIRED OF THE CONSULTANT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS
15 SECTION;

16 (b) DESCRIBE ANY PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGNS CONDUCTED BY
17 THE APPLICANT WITH THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT ENTITIES OR MEDIA
18 ORGANIZATIONS;

19 (c) DEMONSTRATE THE APPLICANT'S ABILITY TO OBTAIN
20 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS AND OTHER FUNDING THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS,
21 AND DONATIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE SCHOOL
22 DISTRICTS WITH SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THIS PART 25 IN ADDITION TO
23 SUCH SERVICES FUNDED WITH STATE MONEY; AND

24 (d) INCLUDE ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE
25 DEPARTMENT.

26 (4) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT ONE ORGANIZATION THAT
27 MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION TO

1 SERVE AS THE CONSULTANT.

2 (b) THE ORGANIZATION SELECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
3 CONTINUE TO SERVE AS THE CONSULTANT AS LONG AS THE ORGANIZATION
4 MEETS THE CRITERIA DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION
5 AND DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION.

6 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY DISTRIBUTE ONE MILLION
7 DOLLARS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE
8 DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2506 TO THE CONSULTANT.

9 (5) THE CONSULTANT SHALL USE PILOT PROGRAM MONEY FOR THE
10 FOLLOWING:

11 (I) SUPPORTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AWARDED GRANTS PURSUANT
12 TO SECTION 24-33.5-2504;

13 (II) DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING AN INTERNET WEBSITE,
14 ONLINE APPLICATION, AND MOBILE APPLICATION, THAT INCLUDES DATA
15 PRIVACY AND INTEGRITY AND DEVICE IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY
16 PROTECTIONS, TO PROVIDE SECURE AND VERIFIABLE PARENTAL
17 NOTIFICATION, AT NO COST TO PARENTS, RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS AND
18 STUDENT STATUS;

19 (III) RECRUITING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS;

20 (IV) DEVELOPING, AND MAKING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, SCHOOL
21 BUS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL
22 MATERIALS; AND

23 (V) DEVELOPING PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FUNDING AND
24 STUDYING THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW FUNDING SOURCES, INCLUDING
25 SEEKING GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PILOT
26 PROGRAM FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER
27 NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

1 (6) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JUNE
2 30 THEREAFTER, THE CONSULTANT SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
3 DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE
4 REPORT MUST INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, DOCUMENTATION OF THE
5 CONSULTANT'S USE OF PILOT PROGRAM MONEY AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE
6 CONSULTANT'S DUTIES PERFORMED AS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO
7 SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.

8 **24-33.5-2506. Pilot program funding.** IN STATE FISCAL YEARS
9 2020-21, 2021-22, AND 2022-23, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
10 APPROPRIATE TWO MILLION DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE
11 PURPOSES OF THIS PART 25.

12 **24-33.5-2507. Department report.** NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION
13 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION
14 ABOUT THE PILOT PROGRAM IN ITS ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO ITS
15 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203.

16 **24-33.5-2508. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 25 IS REPEALED,
17 EFFECTIVE JULY 31, 2024.

18 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
19 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.