

**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. 20-0250.01 Shelby Ross x4510

**HOUSE BILL 20-1270**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Michaelson Jenet,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Fields,**

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**House Committees**

Public Health Care & Human Services

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE CONSENT OF ONE PARENT FOR A LICENSED**  
102              **PROFESSIONAL PERSON TO TREAT A MINOR FOR A BEHAVIORAL**  
103              **HEALTH DISORDER.**

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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 authorizes a physician or a mental health professional (professional) to evaluate or treat a minor patient (minor) for a behavioral health disorder with the consent of only one parent or legal guardian of the minor if both parents have legal decision-making authority over the minor. The professional shall act in the best interest of the minor and

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.

provide services for a behavioral health disorder only in accordance with the professional's own advice or recommendation. The bill defines a minor as a person who is under 15 years of age.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-240-146 as  
3 follows:

4           **12-240-146. Treatment of a minor's behavioral health disorder**  
5 **- best interest of minor - consent of one parent - definition.** (1) IN ALL  
6 CASES INVOLVING A MINOR PATIENT, A PHYSICIAN SHALL ACT IN THE BEST  
7 INTEREST OF THE MINOR AND PROVIDE SERVICES FOR A BEHAVIORAL  
8 HEALTH DISORDER ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PHYSICIAN'S OWN  
9 ADVICE OR RECOMMENDATION. IN ORDER TO EVALUATE OR TREAT A  
10 MINOR PATIENT FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDER, A PHYSICIAN  
11 NEEDS TO OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF ONLY ONE PARENT OR LEGAL  
12 GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR IF BOTH PARENTS HAVE LEGAL  
13 DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY OVER THE MINOR.

14           (2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY WHEN PARENTAL CONSENT IS  
15 NOT REQUIRED TO TREAT A MINOR FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDER  
16 OR WHEN THERE IS AN EXISTING COURT ORDER PROVIDING THAT THE  
17 PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS HAVE JOINT DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY  
18 CONCERNING THE MEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DECISIONS FOR THE  
19 MINOR.

20           (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "MINOR" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS  
21 UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

22           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-245-203.7 as  
23 follows:

24           **12-245-203.7. Treatment of a minor's behavioral health**

1 **disorder - best interest of minor - consent of one parent - definition.**

2 (1) IN ALL CASES INVOLVING A MINOR PATIENT, A MENTAL HEALTH  
3 PROFESSIONAL LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 3, 4, 5, 6, OR 8 OF THIS  
4 ARTICLE 245 SHALL ACT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MINOR AND  
5 PROVIDE SERVICES FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDER ONLY IN  
6 ACCORDANCE WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'S OWN ADVICE OR  
7 RECOMMENDATION. IN ORDER TO EVALUATE OR TREAT A MINOR PATIENT  
8 FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDER, A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
9 NEEDS TO OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF ONLY ONE PARENT OR LEGAL  
10 GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR IF BOTH PARENTS HAVE LEGAL  
11 DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY OVER THE MINOR.

12 (2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY WHEN PARENTAL CONSENT IS  
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14 OR WHEN THERE IS AN EXISTING COURT ORDER PROVIDING THAT THE  
15 PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS HAVE JOINT DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY  
16 CONCERNING THE MEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DECISIONS FOR THE  
17 MINOR.

18 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "MINOR" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS  
19 UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

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