

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0663.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 20-1312

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Titone,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd and Hisey,

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House Committees  
Education

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
102 EDUCATOR LICENSURE.

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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 creates a requirement that of the 90 hours of professional development training currently required for educator licensure renewal during the term of the educator's license, at least 10 of those hours must include some form of behavioral health training that is culturally responsive and trauma- and evidence-informed.

The bill requires teacher preparation programs to include in

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.

program graduation requirements that each teacher candidate in an initial educator licensure program complete at least 10 hours of behavioral health training that is culturally responsive and trauma- and evidence-informed.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-110, **amend**  
3 (3)(b) and (3)(c)(XI) as follows:

4 **22-60.5-110. Renewal of licenses - rules.** (3) (b) (I) A  
5 professional licensee shall complete such ongoing professional  
6 development within the period of time for which ~~such~~ THE professional  
7 license is valid. ~~Such~~ A LICENSEE WHO HAS LESS THAN THREE YEARS LEFT  
8 IN THE LICENSEE'S RENEWAL PERIOD AS OF JUNE 30, 2020, HAS UNTIL THE  
9 END OF THE NEXT APPLICABLE RENEWAL PERIOD TO COMPLETE THE  
10 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b). A LICENSEE MAY SUBMIT  
11 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED WITHIN FIVE YEARS  
12 PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2020, TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
13 SUBSECTION (3)(b). Professional development ~~may include, but need not~~  
14 ~~be limited to, in-service education programs, including programs~~  
15 ~~concerning juvenile mental health issues and the awareness and~~  
16 ~~prevention of youth suicide and~~ SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST TEN HOURS OF  
17 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING THAT IS CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND  
18 TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING MAY  
19 INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGIES AND  
20 MAY INCLUDE PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

- 21 (A) MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SPECIFIC FOR YOUTH AND TEENS;  
22 (B) STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MODULES CONCERNING HOW  
23 TO PREVENT TEEN SUICIDE;

1 (C) INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK FOR POSITIVE  
2 BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS AND MENTAL HEALTH;

3 (D) TRAINING APPROVED OR PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
4 WHERE THE TEACHER IS EMPLOYED;

5 (E) TRAINING CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL  
6 CONCERNS OR DISABILITIES;

7 (F) TRAINING MODULES CONCERNING CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS;

8 (G) TRAINING RESOURCES CONCERNING TEACHER AND STUDENT  
9 ADAPTATION RESPONSES; AND

10 (H) ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR TRAINING THAT MEETS THE  
11 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION (3).

12 (II) ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MAY INCLUDE training  
13 in preventing, identifying, and responding to child sexual abuse and  
14 assault; college or university credit from an accepted institution of higher  
15 education or a community, technical, or local district college; educational  
16 travel that meets the requirements specified in subsection (3)(d) of this  
17 section; involvement in school reform; service as a mentor teacher for  
18 teacher candidates participating in clinical practice, as defined in section  
19 23-78-103; internships; and ongoing professional development training  
20 and experiences.

21 (III) The state board of education, by rule, may establish minimum  
22 criteria for professional development; except that such criteria ~~shall~~ MUST  
23 not:

24 (A) Specify any particular type of professional development  
25 activity as a requirement or partial requirement for license renewal,  
26 EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION;

27 (B) Require completion of more than six credit hours or more

1 than ninety total clock hours of activities during the term of any  
2 professional license;

3 ~~(HH)~~ (C) Prescribe a schedule for completion of professional  
4 development activity during the term of any professional license; or

5 ~~(HV)~~ (D) Require prior approval or supervision of professional  
6 development activities.

7 (IV) NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b) PROHIBITS A LICENSEE  
8 FROM APPLYING A SINGLE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE OR  
9 ACTIVITY TO ONE OR MORE CONTENT OR HOURLY REQUIREMENTS  
10 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR BY RULE OF THE STATE  
11 BOARD OF EDUCATION.

12 (c) In selecting professional development activities for the  
13 renewal of a professional license pursuant to this section, each licensee  
14 shall choose those activities that will aid the licensee in meeting the  
15 standards for a professional educator including but not limited to the  
16 following goals:

17 ~~(XI) Awareness of warning signs of dangerous behavior in youth~~  
18 ~~and situations that present a threat to the health and safety of students and~~  
19 Knowledge of the community resources available to enhance the health  
20 and safety of students and the school community, YOUTH MENTAL  
21 HEALTH, SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, RECOGNITION OF  
22 SIGNS OF POOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE, AND SUPPORT OF  
23 STUDENTS USING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND  
24 EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES, AS WELL AS WHEN TO REFER A STUDENT  
25 FOR OUTSIDE HELP.

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-121, **add**  
27 (2)(d.5) as follows:

1           **23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of educator**  
2 **preparation programs - review.** (2) The commission shall adopt  
3 policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs  
4 offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in  
5 cooperation with the state board of education in developing the  
6 requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the  
7 requirements must ensure that each educator preparation program  
8 complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based  
9 model, and includes:

10           (d.5) A REQUIREMENT THAT EACH TEACHER CANDIDATE IN AN  
11 INITIAL LICENSURE PROGRAM COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER OR  
12 QUARTER-LENGTH COURSE IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING AS  
13 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-60.5-110 (3)(b)(I) AND (3)(c)(XI);

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