

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 21-0069.01 Conrad Imel x2313

HOUSE BILL 21-1122

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Froelich and Larson,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker,

House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO IMPROVE FIRST**
102 **RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS 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 establishes the commission on improving first responder interactions with persons with disabilities (commission) in the attorney general's office. The commission is comprised of 10 members, including 2 persons with a disability, 2 parents of a child with a disability, 2 first responders, 2 representatives from advocacy organizations, the vice-chairperson of the peace officer standards and training board

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.

(P.O.S.T. board), and a member of the P.O.S.T. board's curriculum subject matter expert committee.

After reviewing the existing Colorado peace officer training and existing available curriculum, the commission must recommend to the P.O.S.T. board a curriculum for peace officer training concerning interactions with persons with disabilities. Subject to available appropriations, the P.O.S.T. board must implement the recommended curriculum by July 1, 2022. The commission is required to review implementation of the curriculum and may recommend changes that the P.O.S.T. board may adopt.

The commission is repealed on December 31, 2023, but prior to its repeal the attorney general may recommend continuation of the commission.

The bill requires the fire service training and certification advisory board to advise the director of the division of fire prevention and control on whether to include the commission's curriculum or similar curriculum in the fire service education and training program. The Colorado department of public health and environment is required to consider including the commission's curriculum in training for personnel who routinely respond to emergencies.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 10 to article 31 of title 24 as follows:

PART 10

**COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER
INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

24-31-1001. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS PART 10, UNLESS THE
CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(1) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST
RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CREATED IN
SECTION 24-31-1002.

(2) "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS A PEACE OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER, OR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER.

(3) "PERSON WITH A DISABILITY" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET

1 FORTH IN SECTION 18-6.5-102 (11).

2 (4) "P.O.S.T. BOARD" MEANS THE PEACE OFFICERS STANDARDS
3 AND TRAINING BOARD CREATED IN SECTION 24-31-302.

4 **24-31-1002. Commission - membership - duties.** (1) THERE IS
5 CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF
6 THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING
7 FIRST RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

8 (2) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TWELVE MEMBERS, APPOINTED
9 BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AS FOLLOWS:

10 (a) TWO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY;

11 (b) TWO PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY;

12

13 (c) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM ORGANIZATIONS THAT
14 ADVOCATE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE RECOMMENDED BY
15 THE ORGANIZATION;

16 (d) A PERSON WHO MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN
17 SUBSECTION (2)(a), (2)(b), OR (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION AND WHO
18 REPRESENTS A DISABILITY COMMUNITY THAT IS NOT REPRESENTED BY THE
19 PERSONS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a), (2)(b), OR (2)(c)
20 OF THIS SECTION;

21 (e) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF
22 CURRENT AND FORMER PEACE OFFICERS;

23 (f) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF CHIEFS
24 OF POLICE;

25 (g) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF
26 COUNTY SHERIFFS;

27 (h) ONE MEMBER OF THE P.O.S.T. BOARD; AND

1 (i) A MEMBER OF THE P.O.S.T. BOARD'S CURRICULUM SUBJECT
2 MATTER EXPERT COMMITTEE.

3 (3) (a) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS TO
4 THE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2021.

5 (b) IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO
6 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL
7 ENSURE, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF
8 THE COMMISSION IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND
9 GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE AND OF ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE
10 STATE, INCLUDING RURAL AREAS.

11 (4) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SERVE WITHOUT
12 COMPENSATION BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW SHALL REIMBURSE
13 MEMBERS FOR ALL ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE
14 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

15 (5) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE A STAFF
16 MEMBER TO COORDINATE AND SUPPORT THE COMMISSION AND HELP
17 IMPLEMENT THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

18 (6) (a) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE SHALL CONVENE THE
19 FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15, 2021.
20 AT THE FIRST MEETING, COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL SELECT FROM
21 AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP A PERSON TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE
22 COMMISSION.

23 (b) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET UPON THE CALL OF THE CHAIR
24 AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 10, BUT
25 MUST MEET AT LEAST ONCE PER QUARTER.

26 **24-31-1003. Study of training concerning interactions with**
27 **persons with disabilities - report.** (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL, IN

1 COLLABORATION WITH THE P.O.S.T. BOARD, EVALUATE EXISTING
2 TRAINING FOR PEACE OFFICERS CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS
3 WITH DISABILITIES. THE COMMISSION SHALL EXAMINE:

4 (a) WHETHER THE TRAINING IS INCLUDED AS A PART OF BASIC
5 TRAINING OR ANY OTHER TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE P.O.S.T.
6 BOARD AND PROVIDED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY;

7 (b) (I) IF THE TRAINING IS REQUIRED, THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF
8 TRAINING REQUIRED; OR

9 (II) IF THE TRAINING IS OPTIONAL, THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF
10 TRAINING OFFERED; AND

11 (c) THE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF
12 INSTRUCTORS WHO PROVIDE THE TRAINING.

13 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW EXISTING TRAINING
14 CURRICULA CONCERNING FIRST RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS
15 WITH DISABILITIES OFFERED BY ORGANIZATIONS IN COLORADO AND OTHER
16 STATES. THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW MUST INCLUDE IDENTIFYING EXISTING
17 CURRICULA OFFERED BY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND
18 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, EVALUATING WHETHER ANY
19 IDENTIFIED EXISTING AND AVAILABLE CURRICULA IS ADEQUATE TO TRAIN
20 PEACE OFFICERS IN COLORADO, AND WHETHER ANY EXISTING CURRICULA
21 COULD BE MODIFIED TO PROPERLY TRAIN PEACE OFFICERS IN COLORADO.

22 **24-31-1004. Recommend training curriculum for peace**
23 **officers.** (1) (a) ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28, 2022, AND AFTER
24 COMPLETING THE STUDY DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-1003, THE
25 COMMISSION SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE P.O.S.T. BOARD THE
26 CURRICULUM FOR PEACE OFFICER TRAINING CONCERNING INTERACTIONS
27 WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE USED IN BASIC TRAINING AND

1 OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE P.O.S.T. BOARD AND THAT
2 MAY BE OFFERED TO FIRST RESPONDERS THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TAKE
3 P.O.S.T. BOARD APPROVED TRAINING.

4 (b) THE RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM MUST INCLUDE AN INITIAL
5 TRAINING CURRICULUM THAT CAN BE OFFERED AS PART OF BASIC LAW
6 ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND AN ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING
7 CURRICULUM.

8 (2) IN RECOMMENDING A CURRICULUM PURSUANT TO THIS
9 SECTION, THE COMMISSION MUST:

10 (a) RECOMMEND A CURRICULUM THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE
11 STANDARDS OF THE EXISTING CURRICULUM OFFERED TO FIRST
12 RESPONDERS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN ITS STUDY OF THE
13 EXISTING CURRICULUM;

14 (b) CONSIDER EXISTING BASIC TRAINING AND ANNUAL IN-SERVICE
15 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PEACE OFFICERS TO ENSURE THAT THE
16 RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM CAN BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY AND
17 WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DUPLICATION OF EXISTING TRAINING
18 REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PEACE
19 OFFICERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT
20 TRAINING ACADEMIES;

21 (c) STUDY THE EXISTING TRAINING REQUIREMENT CONCERNING
22 ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF AT-RISK ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND
23 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-313.5 AND
24 CONSIDER RECOMMENDING A CURRICULUM THAT MAY SATISFY THE
25 EXISTING REQUIREMENT; AND

26 (d) CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF ANY AUDIT THAT EXAMINED FIRST
27 RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN

1 COLORADO.

2 (3) (a) AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRICULUM AS
3 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-317, THE COMMISSION SHALL EXAMINE ANY
4 CHALLENGES FACED BY THE P.O.S.T. BOARD, LAW ENFORCEMENT
5 AGENCIES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMIES WITH
6 IMPLEMENTING THE CURRICULUM, INCLUDING RESOURCE AVAILABILITY;
7 PERIODICALLY ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRICULUM; AND
8 DETERMINE WHETHER ANY CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO THE
9 CURRICULUM.

10 (b) IF, AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRICULUM, THE
11 COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT THE CURRICULUM SHOULD BE CHANGED,
12 IT MAY RECOMMEND CHANGES TO THE P.O.S.T. BOARD. THE P.O.S.T.
13 BOARD MAY ADOPT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES.

14 (4) THE COMMISSION MAY IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND AN
15 EXISTING TRAINING CURRICULUM APPROPRIATE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS
16 WHO ARE NOT PEACE OFFICERS.

17 **24-31-1005. Report.** IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT BEFORE THE HOUSE
18 AND SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203,
19 THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE
20 COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES. IN ITS REPORT DURING THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE
21 SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION
22 CONCERNING WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE COMMISSION.

23 **24-31-1006. Funding.** NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-31-310
24 (3), THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE
25 GENERAL FUND TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 10.

26 **24-31-1007. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 10 IS REPEALED,
27 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2023.

1 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-31-303, **add** (1)(s)
2 as follows:

3 **24-31-303. Duties - powers of the P.O.S.T. board.** (1) The
4 P.O.S.T. board has the following duties:

5 (s) TO COLLABORATE WITH THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST
6 RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, IN THE
7 MANNER DESCRIBED IN PART 10 OF THIS ARTICLE 31.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-31-315, **amend**
9 (1) as follows:

10 **24-31-315. Annual in-service training requirements.**

11 (1) (a) The annual in-service training programs ~~shall~~ **MUST** include
12 proper restraint and holds training, a two-hour anti-bias training program,
13 and, in alternating years, either a two-hour community policing and
14 community partnerships training program or a two-hour situation
15 de-escalation training program. The programs and curriculum ~~shall be~~
16 ~~available by July 1, 2016, and~~ may include interactive web-based training.
17 Each certified peace officer shall satisfactorily complete the training by
18 July 1, 2017, and shall satisfactorily complete the training at least once
19 every five years thereafter.

20 (b) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, BEGINNING JULY 1,
21 2022, THE ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS MUST INCLUDE THE
22 IN-SERVICE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH
23 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON
24 IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH
25 DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-31-1004.

26 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-31-317 as
27 follows:

1 **24-31-317. Training requirements concerning peace officer**
2 **interactions with persons with disabilities.** (1) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE
3 APPROPRIATIONS, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, THE BASIC ACADEMY
4 CURRICULUM MUST INCLUDE THE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING
5 CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
6 RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER
7 INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION
8 24-31-1004.

9 (2) THE ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS MUST INCLUDE
10 THE IN-SERVICE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING CONCERNING INTERACTIONS
11 WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-315
12 (1)(b).

13 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1205, **add**
14 (6) as follows:

15 **24-33.5-1205. Duties of the director and the advisory board.**

16 (6) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL REVIEW THE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING
17 CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
18 RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER
19 INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION
20 24-31-1004 AND ADVISE THE DIRECTOR ON WHETHER TO INCLUDE THAT
21 CURRICULUM OR SIMILAR CURRICULUM IN THE FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION
22 AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

23 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-201, **add** (3)
24 as follows:

25 **25-3.5-201. Training programs.** (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
26 CONSIDER INCLUDING IN THE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR
27 PERSONNEL WHO RESPOND ROUTINELY TO EMERGENCIES THE TRAINING

1 CURRICULUM CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH
2 DISABILITIES RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST
3 RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT
4 TO SECTION 24-31-1004.

5 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.