

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0301.02 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 22-057

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cooke,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Weissman,

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Senate Committees  
Judiciary

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME  
102 WHO SUFFER BRAIN INJURIES AS A RESULT.

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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 the victims of a violent crime brain injury task force (task force). The purpose of the task force is to develop a plan for the creation and implementation of a pilot program that would identify and screen victims of violent crimes for symptoms of possible brain injury. The bill describes the necessary elements of the plan, the membership for the task force, and reporting requirements.

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.

The task force is repealed, effective June 30, 2026.

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

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) Assault often leads to traumatic brain injury in victims. These  
5 injuries are often sustained in physical attacks, including robbery, rape,  
6 domestic violence, and child abuse.

7           (b) Not only is assault the leading cause of traumatic brain injury  
8 in Americans between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four, but it is also  
9 the leading cause of brain injury-related death for infants, toddlers, and  
10 preschoolers;

11           (c) In ongoing research for a study on women's health, researchers  
12 from the university of Denver have interviewed sixty-five women seeking  
13 services after intimate partner violence. Ninety-one percent reported  
14 being struck in the head, and eighty-one percent had alterations in  
15 consciousness that are consistent with a traumatic brain injury.

16           (d) Strangulation is common in intimate partner violence and is  
17 one of the most dangerous forms of violence. Victims of strangulation  
18 can experience coma, seizures, and death. Those who survive often have  
19 permanent hypoxic-ischemic brain injuries.

20           (e) Additionally, brain injury is linked with emotional and  
21 behavioral changes, including increased agitation, depression, and  
22 irritability, which are common among people who have been abused by  
23 intimate partners. These effects also make participating as a victim in a  
24 criminal case more challenging.

25           (f) Brain injury can affect a person's ability for self-regulation,

1 planning, organization, judgment, reasoning, and problem solving -  
2 abilities commonly referred to as executive functions. Executive  
3 functions are essential to navigating service systems, which means that a  
4 person with a brain injury may have more difficulty accessing services  
5 and resources. For example, research in Colorado found that more severe  
6 intimate partner abuse was linked with worse executive function  
7 performance and, in turn, greater difficulty getting basic needs met, such  
8 as food and housing, a year later.

9 (g) A victim with impaired executive functions from brain injury  
10 often has difficulty accessing medical services because of inability or  
11 difficulty in thinking clearly;

12 (h) The number of violent crime victims who experience brain  
13 injuries as part of their victimization is inadequately understood. Unless  
14 victims of violent crimes receive timely screening, they are less likely to  
15 seek and receive proper treatment for brain injuries, the consequences of  
16 which can include greater risk of mental health and substance abuse  
17 disorders and suicidal ideation.

18 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is in the best  
19 interests of the state to increase awareness of brain injuries among  
20 criminal justice professionals and to expand screening for these types of  
21 injuries among victims of violent crimes. It is the intent of the general  
22 assembly to support research and planning necessary to create a pilot  
23 program, possibly followed by a statewide program, to identify victims  
24 of violent crime who have suffered brain injuries and to connect those  
25 victims with suitable and timely treatment and support.

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 5 to article  
27 4.1 of title 24 as follows:

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PART 5

BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES  
IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

**24-4.1-501. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 5, UNLESS THE  
CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(1) "ENTITY" MEANS A STATE ORGANIZATION OR OTHER  
ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD CONTRACT WITH THE STATE TO RUN A PILOT  
PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-4.1-502.

(2) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAMS IN THE  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

(3) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE VICTIMS OF A VIOLENT CRIME  
BRAIN INJURY PILOT PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-4.1-502.

(4) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE VICTIMS OF A VIOLENT CRIME BRAIN  
INJURY TASK FORCE CREATED IN SECTION 24-4.1-502.

(5) "VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME" OR "VICTIM" MEANS A PERSON  
WHO WAS THE VICTIM OF A CRIME IN WHICH PHYSICAL FORCE WAS USED  
AGAINST THAT PERSON. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THAT THIS DEFINITION OF THE TERM "VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME" OR  
"VICTIM" ONLY APPLIES TO THIS PART 5 AND DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY  
OTHER PROVISION OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THAT REFER  
TO THE TERM "VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME" OR "VICTIM".

**24-4.1-502. Victims of a violent crime brain injury task force  
- established - duties - membership - report - repeal.** (1) ON OR  
BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2022, THE OFFICE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAMS SHALL  
ESTABLISH THE VICTIMS OF A VIOLENT CRIME BRAIN INJURY TASK FORCE.  
THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IS TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE  
CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PILOT PROGRAM FOR

1 IDENTIFICATION AND SCREENING OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES FOR  
2 SYMPTOMS OF POSSIBLE BRAIN INJURY. AT A MINIMUM, THE PLAN MUST  
3 INCLUDE:

4 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF THE TYPE OF ENTITY OR ENTITIES BEST  
5 SUITED TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM;

6 (b) A PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE ENTITY OR ENTITIES THAT  
7 WOULD RUN A PILOT PROGRAM;

8 (c) IDENTIFICATION OF THE STAFF POSITION OR POSITIONS IN THE  
9 ENTITY THAT ULTIMATELY PARTICIPATES IN A PILOT PROGRAM THAT WILL  
10 BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING VICTIMS WITH POSSIBLE BRAIN INJURIES,  
11 AND THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCH POSITIONS;

12 (d) PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING AND SCREENING INDIVIDUAL  
13 VICTIMS FOR POSSIBLE BRAIN INJURIES;

14 (e) PROCEDURES FOR SCHEDULING OR REFERRING EACH VICTIM  
15 WHO SCREENS POSITIVE FOR BRAIN INJURIES FOR A NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL  
16 ASSESSMENT;

17 (f) IDENTIFICATION OF KEY STATISTICS TO COLLECT, AS  
18 DETERMINED BY THE TASK FORCE;

19 (g) EXPLANATION OF NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT A PILOT  
20 PROGRAM, INCLUDING AN APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE  
21 FINAL PARTICIPATING ENTITY;

22 (h) GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING A CONTRACTOR IF THE DESIGN  
23 INCLUDES CONTRACT SERVICES;

24 (i) PROCEDURES FOR EVALUATING THE SUCCESS OF THE PILOT  
25 PROGRAM, ONCE ESTABLISHED; AND

26 (j) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING IF THE PILOT PROGRAM, IF  
27 ESTABLISHED, SHOULD BE EXPANDED STATEWIDE.

1           (2) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2022, THE OFFICE SHALL APPOINT  
2 THE FOLLOWING PERSONS TO SERVE ON THE TASK FORCE:

3           (a) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE;

4           (b) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ENTITY THAT HAS EXPRESSED AN  
5 INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A PILOT PROGRAM;

6           (c) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION  
7 REPRESENTING DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE  
8 COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL;

9           (d) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS A LEGAL ADVOCACY GROUP;

10          (e) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR  
11 VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME;

12          (f) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS VICTIM ADVOCATES IN LAW  
13 ENFORCEMENT OR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM;

14          (g) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS COMMUNITY-BASED VICTIM  
15 ADVOCATES;

16          (h) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS THE BRAIN INJURY TRAUMA UNIT  
17 OF A MEDICAL FACILITY;

18          (i) TWO VICTIMS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED BRAIN INJURIES AS A  
19 RESULT OF A VIOLENT CRIME;

20          (j) TWO RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK IN AREAS THAT  
21 INCLUDE BRAIN INJURY;

22          (k) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION  
23 REPRESENTING CHIEFS OF POLICE;

24          (l) A PERSON WHO REPRESENTS A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION  
25 REPRESENTING COUNTY SHERIFFS; AND

26          (m) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
27 SERVICES.

1           (3) IN SELECTING MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE, PREFERENCE  
2 MUST BE GIVEN TO PERSONS WHO HAVE SERVED ON THE BRAIN INJURY  
3 SUPPORT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TASK FORCE, CREATED IN  
4 SECTION 26-1-312.

5           (4) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE ON A  
6 VOLUNTARY BASIS WITHOUT COMPENSATION, BUT ARE ENTITLED TO  
7 COMPENSATION FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE  
8 PERFORMANCE OF THE TASK FORCE MEMBER'S DUTIES.

9           (5) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2023, THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
10 COMPLETE ITS FINAL PLAN AND SUBMIT IT TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES  
11 OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE HEALTH AND  
12 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
13 AND HUMAN SERVICES AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE  
14 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

15           (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2026.

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