

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0352.02 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 23-1223

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bacon and English,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH SHARED**
102 **GUIDANCE FOR ENTITIES TO UTILIZE IN PRIORITIZING GRANT**
103 **MONEY TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPACT TO REDUCE NEGATIVE**
104 **OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH.**

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 task force (task force) to establish shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for entities to utilize in prioritizing new and existing grant money to achieve maximum impact to reduce youth

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors. The task force shall identify target communities with the highest rates of youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors. The task force shall create shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for governmental and community-based organizations to prioritize the use of new and existing grant money, as well as help community-based organizations reduce youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors in the target communities by using the shared goals, objectives, and guidelines when working in intervention, prevention, and tracking statistics.

Membership in the task force is outlined.

The task force shall make a preliminary "SMART Act" report in January 2024 followed by a final report in January 2025.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25-1-137** as
3 follows:

4 **25-1-137. Task force to establish shared goals, objectives, and**
5 **guidelines for entities to achieve maximum impact to reduce youth**
6 **violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors - creation -**
7 **membership - reporting - definitions.** (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31,
8 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH
9 SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENTAL
10 AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM
11 IMPACT IN REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK
12 FACTORS FOR TARGET COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH
13 VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS.

14 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IS TO BRING TOGETHER
15 DIVERSE GROUPS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES
16 AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO:

17 (a) IDENTIFY TARGET COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WHERE
18 DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH LEVELS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND
19 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS EXIST. THE TARGET COMMUNITIES MAY

1 INCLUDE ANY ZIP CODE OR CONTIGUOUS ZIP CODES WITH THE TOP FIVE
2 RATES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS,
3 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, AVERAGE
4 EDUCATION LEVEL, INCOME LEVEL, EMPLOYMENT LEVELS, CRIME
5 STATISTICS, AND HOUSING AND FOOD INSECURITY.

6 (b) ESTABLISH CLEAR AND SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND
7 GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE, ALIGN, AND POOL AGENCY RESOURCES,
8 INCLUDING NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY, TO GUIDE INTERVENTION,
9 PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM
10 IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK
11 FACTORS; AND

12 (c) ESTABLISH CLEAR SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND
13 GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING AND NEW
14 GRANT MONEY ACROSS MULTIPLE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO GUIDE
15 INTERVENTION, PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE
16 MAXIMUM IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND
17 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS. THIS INCLUDES CREATING:

18 (I) A PROCESS FOR STREAMLINING GRANT APPLICATIONS ACROSS
19 AGENCIES;

20 (II) A COMMON APPLICATION FORM;

21 (III) A CLEARINGHOUSE OF RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS; AND

22 (IV) A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE SUPPORT
23 FOR THE FIVE AGENCIES OF THE TASK FORCE.

24 (3) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, AT
25 A MINIMUM:

26 (a) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
27 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. ONE REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE

1 EXPERIENCE IN SUBSTANCE USE AND BE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE
2 DIRECTOR. THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE FROM THE OFFICE OF
3 GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE
4 OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

5 (b) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY
6 CHILDHOOD, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
7 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD;

8 (c) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
9 EDUCATION, ONE WITH EXPERTISE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ONE
10 WITH EXPERTISE IN POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS, BOTH APPOINTED BY
11 THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION;

12 (d) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
13 ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND
14 APPOINTED BY THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER. ONE
15 REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN SUBSTANCE USE AND DRUG
16 PREVENTION AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH
17 MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

18 (e) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
19 IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE
20 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND

21 (f) FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY-BASED
22 ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS CURRENT AGENCY GRANTEEES, WORKING IN
23 THE TARGET COMMUNITIES, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE TASK FORCE PURSUANT
24 TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND APPOINTED BY THE TASK
25 FORCE.

26 (4) THE TASK FORCE MUST HAVE A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE TO
27 SUPPORT WORK OF THE TASK FORCE.

1 (5) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE ON A
2 VOLUNTARY BASIS WITHOUT COMPENSATION, EXCEPT FOR THE
3 REPRESENTATIVES FROM NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, WHO MAY
4 RECEIVE A PER DIEM STIPEND. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO
5 COMPENSATION FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE
6 PERFORMANCE OF THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS' DUTIES.

7 (6) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL PRESENT ITS PRELIMINARY
8 FINDINGS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES TO THE JUDICIARY
9 COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE AND
10 TO THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
11 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND
12 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR
13 COMMITTEES, DURING THE DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" HEARINGS HELD
14 IN JANUARY 2024.

15 (b) IN JANUARY 2025, THE TASK FORCE SHALL PRESENT ITS FINAL
16 REPORT THAT ESTABLISHES CLEAR AND SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND
17 GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE, ALIGN, AND POOL AGENCY RESOURCES,
18 INCLUDING NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY, THAT WOULD GUIDE
19 INTERVENTION, PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE
20 MAXIMUM IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND
21 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS IN PRIORITY COMMUNITIES. THE TASK FORCE
22 SHALL MAKE ITS PRESENTATION TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE
23 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE AND TO THE PUBLIC AND
24 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF
26 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, DURING THE
27 DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" HEARINGS HELD IN JANUARY 2025.

1 (7) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
2 REQUIRES:

3 (a) "COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION" MEANS A PERSON,
4 PRIVATE NONPROFIT AGENCY, CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, OR OTHER
5 NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY.

6 (b) "GOVERNMENTAL UNIT" MEANS ANY COUNTY, CITY AND
7 COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, OR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

8 (c) "TARGET COMMUNITIES" MEANS THE COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED
9 BY THE TASK FORCE AS PART OF THE TASK FORCE'S DUTIES PURSUANT TO
10 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (d) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE TASK FORCE CREATED IN
12 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION TO ESTABLISH SHARED GOALS,
13 OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES FOR ENTITIES TO UTILIZE IN PRIORITIZING
14 NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY TO ENSURE ACHIEVING A MAXIMUM
15 IMPACT IN REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK
16 FACTORS FOR TARGET COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH
17 VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS.

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.