

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

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 24-0897.01 Anna Petrini x5497

**HOUSE BILL 24-1285**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bradfield and Hamrick,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Marchman and Gardner,**

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING PREVENTING BULLYING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BASED ON**  
102 **STUDENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.**

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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>.)*

Current law identifies bullying behaviors that are subject to school district and charter school discipline policies and reporting requirements. The bill adds a pattern of bullying based on weight, height, or body size to the prohibited bullying behaviors.

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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.*

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
March 22, 2024

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) Bullying is a pervasive threat to the well-being of youth;

5 (b) According to research from the University of Connecticut,  
6 youth report that one of the most common forms of bullying in schools  
7 centers on the weight of victims;

8 (c) Youth from Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color  
9 as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth are more likely to  
10 suffer from weight-based bullying;

11 (d) Weight-based bullying stigmatizes body size, contributing to  
12 a wide variety of negative outcomes. These outcomes include disordered  
13 eating, depression, diminished academic achievement, and reduced  
14 participation in the school community.

15 (e) It is imperative that all students feel safe, welcomed, and  
16 connected in the school environment, regardless of their weight, height,  
17 or body size; and

18 (f) Current Colorado law fails to adequately defend students from  
19 the dangers of bullying based on weight, height, or body size.

20 (2) The general assembly finds, therefore, that action must be  
21 taken to protect students from the lethal effects of weight stigma and  
22 bullying based on weight, height, or body size.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-109.1, **amend**  
24 (1)(b) as follows:

25 **22-32-109.1. Board of education - specific powers and duties**  
26 **- safe school plan - conduct and discipline code - safe school reporting**  
27 **requirements - school response framework - school resource officers**

1 - **definitions.** (1) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context  
2 otherwise requires:

3 (b) "Bullying" means any written or oral expression, or physical  
4 or electronic act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce,  
5 intimidate, or cause any physical, mental, or emotional harm to any  
6 student. Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason,  
7 including, but not limited to, any ~~such~~ BULLYING behavior that is directed  
8 toward a student on the basis of the student's academic performance; ~~or~~  
9 ANY BULLYING BEHAVIOR THAT IS DIRECTED TOWARD A STUDENT against  
10 whom federal and state laws prohibit discrimination upon any of the bases  
11 described in section 22-32-109 (1)(II)(I)(A); OR A PATTERN OF BULLYING  
12 BEHAVIOR THAT IS DIRECTED TOWARD A STUDENT ON THE BASIS OF THE  
13 STUDENT'S WEIGHT, HEIGHT, OR BODY SIZE. This definition is not intended  
14 to infringe upon any right guaranteed to any person by the first  
15 amendment to the United States constitution or to prevent the expression  
16 of any religious, political, or philosophical views.

17 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
18 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
19 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
20 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
21 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
22 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
23 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
24 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
25 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.