

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

**BILLPAPER**

LLS NO. 21-0240.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**SENATE BILL**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Story,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Woodrow and Larson,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAMS.**

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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 authorizes a school district, a board of cooperative services, an institution of higher education, a nonprofit organization, a charter school, the state charter school institute, a nonpublic school, or any combination thereof to create an alternative principal program (program). The program must meet statutory requirements and is subject to approval and periodic reapproval by the state board of education. A person who completes an approved program while employed by a school district, board of cooperative services, or charter school may qualify for

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.

an initial or professional principal license.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-102, **amend**  
3 (10) as follows:

4 **22-60.5-102. Definitions.** As used in this article 60.5, unless the  
5 context otherwise requires:

6 (10) "Designated agency" means a school district or districts, a  
7 board of cooperative services, an accepted institution of higher education,  
8 a nonprofit organization, a charter school, the institute, a nonpublic  
9 school, or any combination thereof, that is responsible for the  
10 organization, management, and operation of an approved alternative  
11 teacher program OR AN APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-111, **amend**  
13 (14)(a), (14)(b) introductory portion, (14)(b)(I), (14)(d), and (14)(e)(II)  
14 as follows:

15 **22-60.5-111. Authorization - types - applicants' qualifications**  
16 **- rules.** (14) **Principal authorization.** (a) The department may issue a  
17 principal authorization to a person who does not hold a principal license  
18 but who holds an earned baccalaureate or higher degree from an accepted  
19 institution of higher education and who will be employed pursuant to the  
20 provisions of section 22-60.5-305.5 by a school district, charter school,  
21 or nonpublic school ~~under~~ WHILE COMPLETING an individualized  
22 alternative principal program ~~if the program is approved~~ OR AN  
23 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
24 22-60.5-305.5. IF THE PERSON IS COMPLETING AN INDIVIDUALIZED  
25 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, THE PROGRAM MUST BE APPROVED by

1 the state board of education as provided in this subsection (14). A school  
2 district OR CHARTER SCHOOL may employ a person who holds a principal  
3 authorization to perform the duties of a principal or a vice-principal in a  
4 school, so long as the person who holds the authorization is under the  
5 supervision of a professional principal licensee.

6 (b) To receive a principal authorization, a person, in collaboration  
7 with a school district, charter school, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR the institute,  
8 ~~or nonpublic school~~, shall submit to the department of education  
9 documentation that includes:

10 (I) (A) IF THE PERSON IS COMPLETING AN INDIVIDUALIZED  
11 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, the course work, practicums, and  
12 other educational requirements, identified by the person and the  
13 collaborating school district, charter school, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, OR ~~the~~  
14 institute, ~~or nonpublic school~~ that will comprise the person's  
15 individualized alternative principal program and that the person will  
16 complete while ~~he or she~~ THE PERSON is employed under the principal  
17 authorization; ~~and~~ OR

18 (B) IF THE PERSON IS COMPLETING AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL  
19 PROGRAM, EVIDENCE THAT THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM IN  
20 WHICH THE PERSON IS ENROLLED IS APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
21 22-60.5-305.5; AND

22 (d) If the state board of education determines ~~the~~ A PERSON HAS  
23 SUBMITTED THE DOCUMENTATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (14)(b) OF  
24 THIS SECTION AND THE PERSON'S individualized alternative principal  
25 program meets the requirements specified in ~~paragraph (c) of this~~  
26 ~~subsection (14)~~ SUBSECTION (14)(c) OF THIS SECTION, the state board of  
27 education shall approve the individualized alternative principal program

1 and the department of education shall issue the principal authorization to  
2 the ~~applicant~~ PERSON. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS THAT A PERSON HAS  
3 SUBMITTED THE DOCUMENTATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (14)(b) OF  
4 THIS SECTION AND THE PERSON IS ENROLLED AND PARTICIPATING IN AN  
5 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM APPROVED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
6 22-60.5-305.5, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE THE PRINCIPAL  
7 AUTHORIZATION TO THE PERSON. A principal authorization ~~shall be~~ IS  
8 valid for three years and may not be renewed.

9 (e) (II) If a person who is employed under a principal  
10 authorization successfully completes an induction program and completes  
11 the individualized alternative principal program OR ALTERNATIVE  
12 PRINCIPAL PROGRAM while employed under the principal authorization,  
13 the department of education may issue a professional principal license to  
14 the person upon application.

15 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-305.5,  
16 **amend** (1), (2), and (5); and **add** (6) as follows:

17 **22-60.5-305.5. Alternative principal preparation programs -**  
18 **requirements - rules - legislative declaration.** (1) (a) The general  
19 assembly finds that there is a shortage of persons in the state who are  
20 licensed as principals and are available for employment by school  
21 districts. The general assembly further finds that persons who have  
22 achieved success in careers outside of education and who are interested  
23 in employment as school principals may provide a new source of  
24 leadership talent for school districts as they seek to hire school principals.  
25 Therefore, the general assembly concludes that it is in the interest of the  
26 state to authorize school districts to design and implement individualized  
27 alternative principal programs to enable persons from outside the

1 education community to develop the skills and experiences necessary to  
2 successfully lead a public school and to qualify ultimately for licensure  
3 as principals.

4 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT IT IS IN THE  
5 BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE TO ALLOW DESIGNATED AGENCIES TO  
6 CREATE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE THE  
7 PREPARATION NECESSARY TO ENABLE PRINCIPALS TO MEET THE QUALITY  
8 STANDARDS FOR PRINCIPALS AND QUALIFY FOR A PROFESSIONAL PRINCIPAL  
9 LICENSE.

10 (2) (a) A school district or charter school may employ as a  
11 principal or a vice-principal a person who holds a principal authorization  
12 issued pursuant to section 22-60.5-111 (14). A person who is employed  
13 by a school district OR CHARTER SCHOOL under a principal authorization  
14 may perform the duties of a principal or a vice-principal in a school so  
15 long as the person is under the supervision of a professional principal  
16 licensee. A person who holds a principal authorization issued pursuant to  
17 section 22-60.5-111 (14) may participate in an individualized alternative  
18 principal program offered by a nonpublic school.

19 (b) IF A PERSON IS PURSUING AN INDIVIDUALIZED ALTERNATIVE  
20 PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, the school district, charter school, nonpublic school,  
21 or ~~the~~ institute shall collaborate with the person in designing ~~an~~ THE  
22 individualized alternative principal program, which the person ~~shall~~ MUST  
23 complete while employed under the authorization. The school district,  
24 charter school, nonpublic school, or ~~the~~ institute may work with a  
25 governmental, nonprofit, or for-profit entity in designing and  
26 implementing the individualized alternative principal program. The  
27 individualized alternative principal program is subject to approval by the

1 state board of education as provided in section 22-60.5-111 (14) and in  
2 accordance with rules adopted by the state board of education.

3 (c) IF A PERSON IS ENROLLED IN AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL  
4 PROGRAM APPROVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
5 EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL WORK WITH  
6 THE DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT PROVIDES THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL  
7 PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT, WHILE THE PERSON HOLDS A PRINCIPAL  
8 AUTHORIZATION AND IS EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER  
9 SCHOOL, THE PERSON COMPLETES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
10 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM.

11 (5) A school district OR CHARTER SCHOOL may employ a person  
12 who holds a principal authorization for three years. After that time, the  
13 school district OR CHARTER SCHOOL may employ the person as a principal  
14 only if ~~he or she~~ THE PERSON receives an initial or professional principal  
15 license pursuant to section 22-60.5-301. The school district OR CHARTER  
16 SCHOOL may choose to provide an induction program, as described in  
17 section 22-60.5-304, for the person while ~~he or she is~~ employed under a  
18 principal authorization. The induction program, if provided, ~~shall~~ MUST  
19 be in addition to the individualized alternative principal program ~~to be~~  
20 ~~completed by~~ OR THE APPROVED ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM THAT  
21 the person COMPLETES while ~~he or she is~~ employed under a principal  
22 authorization.

23 (6) (a) A DESIGNATED AGENCY IS AUTHORIZED TO IMPLEMENT AN  
24 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE STATE  
25 BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION AND RULES  
26 ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD. AT A MINIMUM, AN ALTERNATIVE  
27 PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST:

1 (I) PROVIDE THE INFORMATION, EXPERIENCE, AND TRAINING TO  
2 ENABLE THE PERSON WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL  
3 PROGRAM TO DEVELOP SKILLS AND OBTAIN EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING  
4 THAT ARE COMPARABLE TO THOSE POSSESSED BY A PERSON WHO  
5 QUALIFIES FOR AN INITIAL PRINCIPAL LICENSE, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION  
6 22-60.5-301 (1)(a);

7 (II) PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TRAINING THAT INCLUDES AN  
8 OVERVIEW OF TITLE II OF THE FEDERAL "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES  
9 ACT OF 1990", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 12101 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS  
10 IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; SECTION 504 OF THE FEDERAL  
11 "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 701 ET SEQ., AS  
12 AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; THE FEDERAL  
13 "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400  
14 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS;  
15 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND CHILD FIND. THE  
16 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST ALSO TEACH EFFECTIVE SPECIAL  
17 EDUCATION CLASSROOM PRACTICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
18 INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

19 (III) REQUIRE A PERSON WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE ALTERNATIVE  
20 PRINCIPAL PROGRAM TO SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATE PROFESSIONAL  
21 COMPETENCIES IN AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE, AS SPECIFIED BY RULE OF THE  
22 STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-60.5-303; AND

23 (IV) INCLUDE SUPERVISION BY MENTOR PRINCIPALS,  
24 PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS, AND A PROGRAM OF PLANNED INSTRUCTION  
25 AND ACTIVITIES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO ENABLE THE PERSON ENROLLED  
26 IN THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM TO MEET THE QUALITY  
27 STANDARDS FOR PRINCIPALS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO

1 SECTION 22-2-109 (6).

2 (b) A DESIGNATED AGENCY THAT SEEKS APPROVAL OF AN  
3 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE  
4 BOARD RULES, SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT EVIDENCE THAT THE  
5 PROGRAM MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF  
6 THIS SECTION AND ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY STATE  
7 BOARD RULE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW EACH REQUEST FOR  
8 APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM. IF THE DEPARTMENT  
9 FINDS THAT THE ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MEETS THE  
10 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND THE  
11 RULES OF THE STATE BOARD, THE STATE BOARD SHALL APPROVE THE  
12 ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM. THE STATE BOARD, BY RULE, SHALL  
13 ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE PURSUANT TO WHICH A DESIGNATED AGENCY  
14 THAT OPERATES AN ALTERNATIVE PRINCIPAL PROGRAM MUST  
15 PERIODICALLY SEEK REAPPROVAL.

16 **SECTION 4. 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.