

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0704.01 Owen Hatch x2698

HOUSE BILL 26-1264

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

English,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING INITIATIVES PROMOTING SAFER SCHOOLS.

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 requires public schools to provide information to staff, students, and parents or guardians about the safe2tell program. School districts and charter schools are required to create written policy regarding safety reports and other policies related to student safety.

The department of public safety is required to create a model message relating to the safe storage of firearms, preventing youth access to firearms, cybersecurity, and online safety. A school district shall annually distribute the model message to families.

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.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the "Student
3 Safety and Mental Wellness in Schools Act".

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-1-151 as
5 follows:

6 **22-1-151. School safety planning and reporting - definitions.**

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

9 (a) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFERRAL" MEANS A FORMAL PROCESS
10 BY WHICH A STAFF MEMBER OR SCHOOL-BASED TEAM CONNECTS A
11 STUDENT TO APPROPRIATE MENTAL HEALTH OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
12 SERVICES, INCLUDING COUNSELING, CRISIS INTERVENTION, SUBSTANCE USE
13 SUPPORT, OR COMMUNITY-BASED CARE, WHEN CONCERNS ARISE
14 REGARDING THE STUDENT'S EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING, SAFETY, OR ABILITY
15 TO FUNCTION SUCCESSFULLY IN A SCHOOL SETTING.

16 (b) "CHARTER SCHOOL" MEANS A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED
17 BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS
18 TITLE 22 AND A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
19 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE
20 22.

21 (c) "EVIDENCE-INFORMED PROCESS" MEANS A PROCESS GUIDED BY
22 RESEARCH-SUPPORTED PRACTICES, PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, AND
23 STATEWIDE GUIDANCE, INCLUDING SAFE2TELL PROTOCOLS.

24 (d) "PUBLIC SCHOOL" MEANS A SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
25 A CHARTER SCHOOL.

26 (e) "SAFE2TELL REPORT" MEANS A REPORT MADE THROUGH THE

1 SAFE2TELL PROGRAM CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-31-606
2 REGARDING CONCERNS RELATED TO STUDENT SAFETY, THREATS,
3 SELF-HARM, BULLYING, WEAPONS, OR OTHER BEHAVIOR THAT MAY POSE
4 A RISK TO INDIVIDUALS OR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES.

5 (f) "SUPPORT AND RE-ENTRY PLAN" MEANS AN INDIVIDUALIZED,
6 TRAUMA-INFORMED PLAN DEVELOPED BY A SCHOOL-BASED OR
7 MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STUDENT AND,
8 WHEN APPROPRIATE, THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN THAT
9 IDENTIFIES SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS, ACCOMMODATIONS, BEHAVIORAL
10 HEALTH SUPPORTS, AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS
11 SAFETY CONCERNS, PROMOTE MENTAL WELLNESS, AND SUPPORT THE
12 STUDENT'S ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL SUCCESS.

13 (g) "THREAT ASSESSMENT" MEANS A STRUCTURED,
14 EVIDENCE-INFORMED PROCESS CONDUCTED BY A TRAINED SCHOOL-BASED
15 OR MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM TO IDENTIFY, EVALUATE, AND RESPOND TO
16 BEHAVIORS OR COMMUNICATIONS THAT MAY INDICATE A RISK OF HARM TO
17 THE STUDENT OR OTHERS, WITH THE PRIMARY GOAL OF EARLY
18 INTERVENTION, CONNECTION TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORTS, AND
19 PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE RATHER THAN DISCIPLINARY PUNISHMENT.

20 (2) (a) A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE STUDENTS,
21 PARENTS OR GUARDIANS, AND STAFF WITH INFORMATION ON ANONYMOUS
22 REPORTING THROUGH THE SAFE2TELL PROGRAM CREATED PURSUANT TO
23 SECTION 24-31-606, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON HOW TO SUBMIT
24 SAFE2TELL REPORTS AND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A SAFE2TELL REPORT IS
25 MADE.

26 (b) A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY COMPLY WITH THIS SUBSECTION (2)
27 THROUGH A SCHOOL'S OR SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EXISTING HANDBOOK,

1 ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION, STAFF ONBOARDING, OR AFFILIATED
2 WEBSITE.

3 (3) (a) EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL
4 ADOPT OR UPDATE A WRITTEN POLICY DESCRIBING PROCEDURES FOR:

5 (I) RECEIVING AND TRIAGING SAFETY REPORTS;

6 (II) CONDUCTING A THREAT ASSESSMENT USING AN
7 EVIDENCE-INFORMED PROCESS;

8 (III) REFERRING STUDENTS TO A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFERRAL
9 OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORTS WHEN APPROPRIATE;

10 (IV) COORDINATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT WHEN REQUIRED BY
11 LAW; AND

12 (V) DEVELOPING A SUPPORT AND RE-ENTRY PLAN WHEN A
13 STUDENT RETURNS FOLLOWING A SAFETY-RELATED INCIDENT.

14 (b) A SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL MAY SATISFY THIS
15 SUBSECTION (3) BY ADOPTING MODEL POLICIES OR GUIDANCE ISSUED BY
16 THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION
17 24-33.5-1803 OR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

18 (4) (a) A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S SCHOOL
19 SAFETY PLAN MUST INCLUDE A STUDENT WELLNESS RESPONSE PATHWAY
20 IDENTIFYING:

21 (I) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFERRAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE WITHIN
22 EXISTING SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY RESOURCES;

23 (II) CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES AND FAMILY NOTIFICATION
24 PRACTICES CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL PRIVACY LAWS; AND

25 (III) RE-ENTRY AND STABILIZATION SUPPORT FOR IMPACTED
26 STUDENTS AND STAFF FOLLOWING A TRAUMATIC EVENT.

27 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (4) DOES NOT REQUIRE THE HIRING OF NEW

1 PERSONNEL OR THE CREATION OF NEW PROGRAMS.

2 (5) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IN COORDINATION WITH
3 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE
4 CENTER, SHALL:

5 (a) MAKE A MODEL MESSAGE REGARDING:

6 (I) SAFE FIREARM STORAGE;

7 (II) YOUTH ACCESS TO FIREARMS PREVENTION;

8 (III) CYBERSECURITY; AND

9 (IV) ONLINE SAFETY, INCLUDING AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE AND
10 HOW TO SEEK HELP REGARDING:

11 (A) ONLINE HARASSMENT;

12 (B) CYBERBULLYING; AND

13 (C) DIGITAL THREATS; AND

14 (b) MAKE THE MODEL MESSAGE AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO ALL
15 PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN
16 THE STATE.

17 (6) (a) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2026, AND BY JULY 1 OF EACH
18 YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL
19 CERTIFY COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION IN
20 A FORMAT NOT TO EXCEED ONE PAGE OF TEXT. A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL
21 CERTIFY COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION IN A FORMAT
22 NOT TO EXCEED ONE PAGE OF TEXT.

23 (b) A SCHOOL DISTRICT AND A CHARTER SCHOOL MAY PUBLICLY
24 POST CERTIFICATION ON THE DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S WEBSITE
25 OR SUBMIT CERTIFICATION THROUGH AN EXISTING STATE REPORTING
26 MECHANISM. A SCHOOL DISTRICT AND A CHARTER SCHOOL IS NOT
27 REQUIRED TO INCUR NEW EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT THE SAFETY PLAN OR

1 STUDENT WELLNESS RESPONSE PATHWAY.

2 (7) (a) (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT AND A CHARTER SCHOOL SHALL
3 IMPLEMENT SUBSECTIONS (3), (4), AND (6) OF THIS SECTION USING
4 EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

5 (II) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
6 CHARTER SCHOOL TO INCUR ANY NEW EXPENDITURES.

7 (b) A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL IMPLEMENT SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS
8 SECTION USING EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER AVAILABLE
9 RESOURCES.

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-123 as
11 follows:

12 **24-33.5-123. Safe firearm storage and youth access prevention**
13 **- messaging.**

14 (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT
15 OF EDUCATION AND THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER, SHALL,
16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-1-151 (5), CREATE A MODEL MESSAGE
17 REGARDING SAFE FIREARM STORAGE AND YOUTH ACCESS PREVENTION AND
18 MAKE THE MODEL MESSAGE AVAILABLE TO ALL PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND
19 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS AT NO COST.

20 (2) IN DEVELOPING AND DISTRIBUTING THE MODEL MESSAGE AND
21 RELATED GUIDANCE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCORPORATE
22 TRAUMA-INFORMED AND PREVENTION-FOCUSED PRACTICES THAT
23 PROMOTE STUDENT WELL-BEING, EARLY INTERVENTION, AND SAFE
24 REPORTING.

25 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
26 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for

- 1 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
- 2 institutions.