

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0397.02 Michael Dohr x4347

SENATE BILL 20-023

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Gardner and Gonzales, Fields, Lundeen

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Van Winkle, Beckman, Sirota

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING CREATING A MULTI-AGENCY WORKING GROUP TO
102 ADDRESS SCHOOL SAFETY.

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/>.)

School Safety Committee. The bill creates the Colorado interagency working group on school safety. The working group consists of 14 voting members, including 4 legislative members. The mission of the working group is to enhance school safety through the cost-effective use of public resources. The working group shall:

! Study and implement recommendations of the state

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.

auditor's report regarding school safety released September 2019;

- ! Study the use of lockdown drills, including their effectiveness and any harm they do to the participating students;
- ! Identify school safety best practices and then rank the effectiveness of the best practices;
- ! Identify actions to improve transparency, reduce duplication, improve services, and improve communication;
- ! Create minimum school safety standards;
- ! Provide school risk assessments and training;
- ! Develop standardized language for describing threats to schools and the procedures to be followed in investigating a threat;
- ! Create a list of approved school safety resource vendors and tools;
- ! Recommend minimum standards or procedural guidelines for behavioral threat assessment tools;
- ! Report on a monthly basis aggregated behavioral and risk assessment data;
- ! Create an annual report of findings and recommendations, including evidence-based analysis and data; and
- ! Study and evaluate the implemented changes.

The working group may contract with a consultant to optimize the alignment and effectiveness of the school safety efforts in Colorado and identify evidence-based best practices. The general assembly may appropriate money to the working group for a consultant, and the working group can accept gifts, grants, and donations.

The bill repeals the working group on September 1, 2023.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 17 to title
3 22 as follows:

4 **ARTICLE 17**

5 **Colorado Interagency Working Group on School Safety**

6 **22-17-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
7 FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

8 (a) ENSURING THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND OTHER

1 EMPLOYEES WHILE AT SCHOOL IS A PARAMOUNT CONCERN FOR THE
2 CITIZENS OF COLORADO;

3 (b) IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL
4 SAFETY PROGRAMS AND FUNDING IS CRITICAL TO PROVIDING SAFE
5 SCHOOLS; AND

6 (c) MAINTAINING SCHOOL SAFETY THROUGH THE MOST
7 COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF LIMITED STATE RESOURCES IS IN THE INTEREST OF
8 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

9 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT A
10 WORKING GROUP COMPRISED OF STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY OFFICIALS
11 MUST BE FORMED TO INCREASE COORDINATION OF SCHOOL SAFETY
12 PROGRAMS ACROSS STATE GOVERNMENT AND ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE
13 GOVERNOR, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE
14 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ON THEIR ACTIVITIES.

15 **22-17-102. Colorado interagency working group on school**
16 **safety - creation - membership - operation - immunity.** (1) (a) THERE
17 IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE COLORADO
18 INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL SAFETY, REFERRED TO IN THIS
19 ARTICLE 17 AS THE "WORKING GROUP". THE WORKING GROUP HAS THE
20 POWERS AND DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE 17.

21 (b) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL EXERCISE ITS POWERS AND
22 PERFORM ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS IF THE SAME WERE TRANSFERRED
23 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY A **TYPE 2** TRANSFER, AS SUCH
24 TRANSFER IS DEFINED IN THE "ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION ACT OF
25 1968", ARTICLE 1 OF TITLE 24.

26 (2) THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF FOURTEEN VOTING
27 MEMBERS, AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 (a) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE,
2 WHO SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP;
- 3 (b) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
4 SAFETY, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;
- 5 (c) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
6 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;
- 7 (d) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
8 SERVICES, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;
- 9 (e) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, WHO
10 SHALL SERVE AS THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP;
- 11 (f) THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER;
- 12 (g) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:
- 13 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO SERVES AN URBAN
14 OR SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT;
- 15 (II) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO SERVES A RURAL
16 SCHOOL DISTRICT;
- 17 (III) A CHIEF OF POLICE; AND
- 18 (IV) A COUNTY SHERIFF; AND
- 19 (h) THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS:
- 20 (I) A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY
21 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
- 22 (II) A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY
23 THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
- 24 (III) A MEMBER OF THE SENATE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF
25 THE SENATE; AND
- 26 (IV) A MEMBER OF THE SENATE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY
27 LEADER OF THE SENATE.

1 (3) THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP SERVE WITHOUT
2 COMPENSATION BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY ACTUAL AND
3 NECESSARY TRAVEL EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR
4 DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 17.

5 (4) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE PER
6 QUARTER TO REVIEW INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR MAKING
7 RECOMMENDATIONS.

8 (5) THE WORKING GROUP MAY CONTRACT WITH A CONSULTANT TO
9 OPTIMIZE THE ALIGNMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY
10 EFFORTS IN COLORADO AND IDENTIFY EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.
11 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE WORKING
12 GROUP FOR A CONSULTANT IF REQUESTED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

13 (6) MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP, EMPLOYEES, AND
14 CONSULTANTS ARE IMMUNE FROM SUIT IN ANY CIVIL ACTION BASED UPON
15 ANY OFFICIAL ACT PERFORMED IN GOOD FAITH PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE
16 17.

17 **22-17-103. Duties of the working group - mission.** (1) THE
18 MISSION OF THE WORKING GROUP IS TO ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY
19 THROUGH THE COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES. THE WORK OF
20 THE WORKING GROUP WILL FOCUS ON EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.

21 (2) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL:

22 (a) STUDY AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE
23 AUDITOR'S REPORT REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY RELEASED SEPTEMBER
24 2019;

25 (b) STUDY THE USE OF LOCKDOWN DRILLS, INCLUDING THEIR
26 EFFECTIVENESS AND ANY HARM THEY DO TO THE PARTICIPATING
27 STUDENTS;

- 1 (c) IDENTIFY EVIDENCE-BASED SCHOOL SAFETY BEST PRACTICES
2 AND THEN RANK THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BEST PRACTICES;
- 3 (d) IDENTIFY ACTIONS TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY, REDUCE
4 DUPLICATION, IMPROVE SERVICES, AND IMPROVE COMMUNICATION;
- 5 (e) CREATE MINIMUM SCHOOL SAFETY STANDARDS;
- 6 (f) PROVIDE SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENTS AND TRAINING;
- 7 (g) DEVELOP STANDARDIZED LANGUAGE FOR DESCRIBING THREATS
8 TO SCHOOLS AND THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN INVESTIGATING A
9 THREAT;
- 10 (h) CREATE A LIST OF APPROVED SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE
11 VENDORS AND TOOLS;
- 12 (i) RECOMMEND MINIMUM STANDARDS OR PROCEDURAL
13 GUIDELINES FOR BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TOOLS;
- 14 (j) REPORT ON A MONTHLY BASIS AGGREGATED BEHAVIORAL AND
15 RISK ASSESSMENT DATA;
- 16 (k) CREATE AN ANNUAL REPORT OF FINDINGS AND
17 RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING EVIDENCE-BASED ANALYSIS AND DATA;
18 AND
- 19 (l) STUDY AND EVALUATE THE OUTCOMES OF THE IMPLEMENTED
20 CHANGES.
- 21 (3) THE WORKING GROUP MAY USE AVAILABLE RESOURCES,
22 MODALITIES, AND NONMEMBERS FROM INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE
23 COMMUNITY TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTERS.
- 24 (4) THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER SERVES AS THE
25 CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ALL MATERIALS PRODUCED BY THE WORKING GROUP.
- 26 (5) THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
27 PUBLIC SAFETY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

1 SHALL PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR DATA COLLECTION, RESEARCH, ANALYSIS,
2 AND PUBLICATION OF THE WORKING GROUP'S FINDINGS AND REPORTS.

3 **22-17-104. Colorado working group on school safety cash fund**
4 **- created - gifts, grants, and donations.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF
5 EDUCATION AND THE WORKING GROUP ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT GIFTS,
6 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS, INCLUDING IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE
7 OR PUBLIC SOURCES, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 17. ALL PRIVATE
8 AND PUBLIC MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS
9 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR BY THE WORKING GROUP MUST BE
10 TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE SAME
11 TO THE COLORADO WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL SAFETY CASH FUND,
12 WHICH FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY AND REFERRED TO IN
13 THIS ARTICLE 17 AS THE "CASH FUND". THE STATE TREASURER SHALL
14 INVEST ANY MONEY IN THE CASH FUND NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES
15 OF THIS ARTICLE 17 AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 24-36-113. ALL INTEREST
16 AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEY IN
17 THE CASH FUND MUST BE CREDITED TO THE CASH FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED
18 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY REMAINING IN THE CASH FUND AT THE END
19 OF ANY FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE CASH FUND AND SHALL NOT BE
20 CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

21 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS NOT REQUIRED TO SOLICIT
22 GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM ANY SOURCE FOR THE PURPOSES OF
23 THIS ARTICLE 17.

24 **22-17-105. Repeal of article.** THIS ARTICLE 17 IS REPEALED,
25 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023. BEFORE THE REPEAL, THE DEPARTMENT
26 OF REGULATORY AGENCIES SHALL REVIEW THE WORKING GROUP AS
27 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 2-3-1203.

1 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **add**
2 (14)(a)(XII) as follows:

3 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative**
4 **declaration - definition - repeal.** (14) (a) The following statutory
5 authorizations for the designated advisory committees are scheduled for
6 repeal on September 1, 2023:

7 (XII) THE COLORADO INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL
8 SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 22-17-102.

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