

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

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

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, Sirota

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATING A MULTI-AGENCY WORKING GROUP TO**
102 **ADDRESS SCHOOL SAFETY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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:

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.

- ! Study and implement recommendations of the state 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 25 to title**
 3 **24 as follows:**

4 **ARTICLE 25**

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

6 **24-25-101. Legislative declaration. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
 7 **FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:**

1 (a) ENSURING THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND OTHER
2 EMPLOYEES WHILE AT SCHOOL IS A PARAMOUNT CONCERN FOR THE
3 CITIZENS OF COLORADO;

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

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

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

16 **24-25-102. Colorado interagency working group on school**
17 **safety - creation - membership - operation - immunity.** (1) THERE IS
18 HEREBY CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE COLORADO INTERAGENCY
19 WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL SAFETY, REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE 25 AS
20 THE "WORKING GROUP". THE WORKING GROUP HAS THE POWERS AND
21 DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE 25.

22 (2) THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF ELEVEN MEMBERS, AS
23 FOLLOWS:

24 (a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
25 SAFETY, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIR OF THE
26 WORKING GROUP;

27 (b) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE,

1 WHO SHALL SERVE AS THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP:
2 (c) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
3 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;
4 (d) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
5 SERVICES, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE;
6 (e) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, WHO
7 SHALL SERVE AS THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP;
8 (f) THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER;
9 (g) THE STATE ARCHITECT OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE; AND
10 (h) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:
11 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO SERVES AN URBAN
12 OR SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT;
13 (II) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO SERVES A RURAL
14 SCHOOL DISTRICT;
15 (III) A CHIEF OF POLICE; AND
16 (IV) A COUNTY SHERIFF.
17 (3) THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP SERVE WITHOUT
18 COMPENSATION BUT THE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY BE
19 REIMBURSED FOR ANY ACTUAL AND NECESSARY TRAVEL EXPENSES
20 INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS
21 ARTICLE 25.
22 (4) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE PER
23 QUARTER TO REVIEW INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR MAKING
24 RECOMMENDATIONS.
25 (5) THE WORKING GROUP MAY CONTRACT WITH A CONSULTANT TO
26 OPTIMIZE THE ALIGNMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY
27 EFFORTS IN COLORADO AND IDENTIFY EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.

1 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE WORKING
2 GROUP FOR A CONSULTANT IF REQUESTED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

3 (6) MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP, EMPLOYEES, AND
4 CONSULTANTS ARE IMMUNE FROM SUIT IN ANY CIVIL ACTION BASED UPON
5 ANY OFFICIAL ACT PERFORMED IN GOOD FAITH PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE
6 25.

7 **24-25-103. Duties of the working group - mission.** (1) THE
8 MISSION OF THE WORKING GROUP IS TO ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY
9 THROUGH THE COST-EFFECTIVE USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES. THE WORK OF
10 THE WORKING GROUP WILL FOCUS ON EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.

11 (2) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL:

12 (a) STUDY AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE
13 AUDITOR'S REPORT REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY RELEASED SEPTEMBER
14 2019;

15 (b) CONSIDER PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND RECOMMEND
16 REORGANIZATION IF NECESSARY;

17 (c) IDENTIFY SHARED METRICS TO EXAMINE PROGRAM
18 EFFECTIVENESS;

19 (d) FACILITATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND
20 COMMUNICATION;

21 (e) INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF STATE
22 GRANTS AND RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITHOUT
23 A GRANT WRITER, WHICH INCLUDES IMPROVING OUTREACH AND MAY
24 INCLUDE DEVELOPING COMMON GRANT APPLICATIONS;

25 (f) FACILITATE AND ADDRESS DATA SHARING, INCLUDING
26 ALLOWABLE DATA SHARING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, WHEN APPROPRIATE
27 AND ALLOWABLE UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW; AND

1 (g) ADDRESS SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM CHALLENGES IN A
2 COORDINATED WAY.

3 (3) THE WORKING GROUP MAY USE AVAILABLE RESOURCES,
4 MODALITIES, AND NONMEMBERS FROM INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE
5 COMMUNITY TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SUBJECT MATTERS.

6 (4) THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER SERVES AS THE
7 CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ALL MATERIALS PRODUCED BY THE WORKING GROUP.

8 (5) THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
9 PUBLIC SAFETY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
10 SHALL PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR DATA COLLECTION, RESEARCH, ANALYSIS,
11 AND PUBLICATION OF THE WORKING GROUP'S FINDINGS AND REPORTS.

12 **24-25-104. Colorado working group on school safety cash fund**
13 **- created - gifts, grants, and donations.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF
14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE WORKING GROUP ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT
15 GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS, INCLUDING IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM
16 PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 25. ALL
17 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC MONEY RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR
18 DONATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR BY THE WORKING
19 GROUP MUST BE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL
20 CREDIT THE SAME TO THE COLORADO WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL SAFETY
21 CASH FUND, WHICH FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY AND
22 REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE 25 AS THE "CASH FUND". THE STATE
23 TREASURER SHALL INVEST ANY MONEY IN THE CASH FUND NOT EXPENDED
24 FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 25 AS PROVIDED IN SECTION
25 24-36-113. ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE INVESTMENT
26 AND DEPOSIT OF MONEY IN THE CASH FUND MUST BE CREDITED TO THE
27 CASH FUND. ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY REMAINING

1 IN THE CASH FUND AT THE END OF ANY FISCAL YEAR REMAINS IN THE CASH
2 FUND AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL
3 FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND.

4 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS NOT REQUIRED TO
5 SOLICIT GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM ANY SOURCE FOR THE
6 PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE 25.

7 **22-25-105. Repeal of article.** THIS ARTICLE 25 IS REPEALED,
8 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022. BEFORE THE REPEAL, THE DEPARTMENT
9 OF REGULATORY AGENCIES SHALL REVIEW THE WORKING GROUP AS
10 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 2-3-1203.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **add**
12 (13)(a)(VI) as follows:

13 **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative**
14 **declaration - definition - repeal.** (13) (a) The following statutory
15 authorizations for the designated advisory committees are scheduled for
16 repeal on September 1, 2022:

17 (VI) THE COLORADO INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON SCHOOL
18 SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 24-25-102.

19 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2020-21 state fiscal
20 year, \$96,776 is appropriated to the department of public safety. This
21 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the
22 department may use this appropriation as follows:

23 (a) \$48,448 for use by the division of criminal justice for DCJ
24 administrative services, which amount is based on an assumption that the
25 division will require an additional 0.5 FTE; and

26 (b) \$48,328 for use by the executive director's office for school
27 safety resource center program costs.

1 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
2 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
3 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.