

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0034.01 Conrad Imel x2313

SENATE BILL 20-052

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Coram,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

Education
Finance

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE SMART SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
102 PILOT PROGRAM.

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 creates the smart school bus safety pilot program (pilot program) in the department of public safety (department) to increase the safety of students and the security of school buses. The department is required to enter into an agreement with an organization to administer the pilot program (program administrator). The program administrator must notify school districts of the program; develop and maintain a website,

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.

1 BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE
2 DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE,
3 URBANIZED AREA.

4 (5) "SILENT DURESS ALARM" MEANS A SILENT ALARM THAT SENDS
5 A DISTRESS CALL AND THE LAST-KNOWN GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
6 COORDINATES OF THE SCHOOL BUS TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND EMERGENCY
7 RESPONSE PERSONNEL.

8 **24-33.5-2503. Smart school bus safety pilot program - creation**
9 **- program administrator - use of money - department duties - rules.**

10 (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE SMART SCHOOL BUS
11 SAFETY PILOT PROGRAM TO:

12 (a) INCREASE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND THE SECURITY OF
13 SCHOOL BUSES;

14 (b) PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH GRANTS PURSUANT TO
15 SECTION 24-33.5-2504 TO EQUIP THEIR SCHOOL BUSES WITH HARDWARE
16 AND SOFTWARE THAT ENABLE THE BUSES TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY
17 WITH FIRST RESPONDERS BY CELLULAR, SATELLITE, OR ANY OTHER
18 AVAILABLE MEANS OF VOICE COMMUNICATION AND BY USING A SILENT
19 DURESS ALARM;

20 (c) PROVIDE NOTIFICATIONS TO PARENTS ABOUT SCHOOL BUS
21 STATUS AND STUDENT SAFETY;

22 (d) INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT SCHOOL
23 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY; AND

24 (e) IMPROVE DRIVER TRAINING RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR
25 STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

26 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH
27 A PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM IN

1 ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT RULES. THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
2 MUST BE A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION ORGANIZED IN ANY STATE. AT
3 LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE OF THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS
4 ASSIGNED TO WORK ON THE PILOT PROGRAM MUST HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN
5 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOL BUS SAFETY, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
6 SECURITY, CHILD SAFETY CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT, AND CONDUCTING
7 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS THAT SUPPORT SAFETY-RELATED INITIATIVES.

8 (b) THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR SHALL USE PILOT PROGRAM
9 MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

10 (I) NOTIFYING SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM AND
11 ASSOCIATED GRANT PROGRAM;

12 (II) ASSISTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH COMPLETING AN
13 APPLICATION FOR A GRANT AWARDED PURSUANT TO SECTION
14 24-33.5-2504;

15 (III) SUPPORTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AWARDED GRANTS PURSUANT
16 TO SECTION 24-33.5-2504;

17 (IV) DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING AN INTERNET WEBSITE,
18 ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION, OR A
19 COMBINATION THEREOF, THAT INCLUDES DATA PRIVACY AND INTEGRITY
20 AND DEVICE IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY PROTECTIONS, TO PROVIDE SECURE
21 AND VERIFIABLE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION, AT NO COST TO PARENTS,
22 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS AND STUDENT STATUS;

23 (V) RECRUITING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS;

24 (VI) DEVELOPING, AND MAKING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, SCHOOL
25 BUS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL
26 MATERIALS; AND

27 (VII) DEVELOPING PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FUNDING AND

1 STUDYING THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW FUNDING SOURCES, INCLUDING
2 SEEKING GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PILOT
3 PROGRAM FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER
4 NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

5 (3) (a) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 24, THE EXECUTIVE
6 DIRECTOR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY FOR THE
7 ADMINISTRATION OF THIS PART 25, INCLUDING RULES TO IMPLEMENT THE
8 GRANT PROGRAM THAT MUST INCLUDE:

9 (I) AN APPLICATION PROCESS, INCLUDING DEADLINES AND
10 PROVISIONS TO ENSURE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY SUBMIT A
11 SIMPLIFIED GRANT APPLICATION DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

12 (II) THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDING A GRANT TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT
13 AND DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD, INCLUDING A PROCESS
14 FOR ACHIEVING A BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT MONEY TO RURAL,
15 URBAN, AND SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

16 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE
17 PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION
18 DEADLINES. THE DEPARTMENT MAY COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT
19 OF EDUCATION CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTIFICATION.

20 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE MONEY TO THE PROGRAM
21 ADMINISTRATOR NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS PART 25.

22 (d) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
23 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
24 PURPOSES OF THIS PART 25.

25 **24-33.5-2504. Pilot program grants - report.** (1) SUBJECT TO
26 AVAILABLE MONEY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO SCHOOL
27 DISTRICTS TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM BY PROVIDING

1 THOSE DISTRICTS WITH FUNDING NECESSARY TO EQUIP SCHOOL BUSES
2 WITH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE, FOR EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, AND
3 FOR ANY RELEVANT TRAINING TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND
4 THE SECURITY OF SCHOOL BUSES.

5 (2) A GRANT AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST PROVIDE
6 FUNDING FOR THREE YEARS.

7 (3) A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT RECEIVES A GRANT SHALL CONSULT
8 WITH AND RECEIVE SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
9 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AND SHALL USE A GRANT AWARD FOR THE
10 FOLLOWING:

11 (a) THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR EACH
12 SCHOOL BUS TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH FIRST RESPONDERS BY
13 CELLULAR, SATELLITE, OR ANY OTHER AVAILABLE MEANS OF VOICE
14 COMMUNICATION AND BY USING A SILENT DURESS ALARM;

15 (b) TRAINING, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE,
16 TELECOMMUNICATION, AND DATA-RELATED COSTS RELATED TO ANY
17 EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY;

18 (c) THE OPERATION AND USE OF AN INTERNET WEBSITE, ONLINE
19 SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION, OR A
20 COMBINATION THEREOF, THAT INCLUDES DATA PRIVACY AND INTEGRITY
21 AND DEVICE IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY PROTECTIONS, TO PROVIDE SECURE
22 AND VERIFIABLE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION, AT NO COST TO PARENTS,
23 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS AND STUDENT STATUS;

24 (d) SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING AND THE PROVISION OF
25 BACKGROUND CHECKS NECESSARY FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS TO OPERATE
26 EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY;

27 (e) ADVANCED SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING RELATED TO

1 TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS;

2 (f) THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO USE ANY EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED
3 WITH GRANT MONEY TO IMPROVE SCHOOL BUS MAINTENANCE; AND

4 (g) OBTAINING CREDENTIALS OR OTHER PERMISSIONS, INCLUDING
5 DIGITAL IDENTITIES, NECESSARY FOR BUS DRIVERS OR OTHER PERSONNEL
6 TO PROPERLY OPERATE EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY.

7 (4) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JUNE
8 30 THEREAFTER, A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT RECEIVES A GRANT PURSUANT
9 TO THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE PROGRAM
10 ADMINISTRATOR. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE
11 FOLLOWING:

12 (a) THE NUMBER OF BUSES EQUIPPED WITH EQUIPMENT NECESSARY
13 TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING BY
14 USING A SILENT DURESS ALARM;

15 (b) WHETHER ANY SUCH EQUIPMENT WAS USED IN AN EMERGENCY
16 SITUATION;

17 (c) ANY SCHOOL BUS MAINTENANCE OR OPERATION DECISIONS
18 MADE BASED ON INFORMATION LEARNED FROM EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED
19 WITH GRANT MONEY; AND

20 (d) ANY OTHER USE OF GRANT MONEY.

21 **24-33.5-2505. Pilot program funding.** IN STATE FISCAL YEARS
22 2020-21, 2021-22, AND 2022-23, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
23 APPROPRIATE SIX MILLION DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT
24 THE PILOT PROGRAM.

25 **24-33.5-2506. Reporting.** (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30,
26 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH SEPTEMBER 30 THEREAFTER, THE
27 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT

1 CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE REPORT MUST
2 INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE USE OF PILOT PROGRAM MONEY, A
3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR'S
4 DUTIES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2503 (2)(b), AND THE
5 INFORMATION REPORTED TO THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR BY A SCHOOL
6 DISTRICT PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2504.

7 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE
8 DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PILOT PROGRAM
9 IN ITS ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO ITS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF
10 REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203.

11 **24-33.5-2507. Repeal.** THIS PART 25 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
12 JULY 31, 2024.

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