

**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. 20-0663.01 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 20-1312

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Michaelson Jenet and Titone,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd and Hisey,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR**
102 **EDUCATOR LICENSURE.**

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 a requirement that of the 90 hours of professional development training currently required for educator licensure renewal during the term of the educator's license, at least 10 of those hours must include some form of behavioral health training that is culturally responsive and trauma- and evidence-informed.

The bill requires teacher preparation programs to include in

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.

program graduation requirements that each teacher candidate in an initial educator licensure program complete at least 10 hours of behavioral health training that is culturally responsive and trauma- and evidence-informed.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-110, **amend**
3 (3)(b) introductory portion, (3)(b)(I), (3)(b.5), (3)(c)(X), and (3)(c)(XI);
4 and **add** (3)(c)(XII) and (3)(f) as follows:

5 **22-60.5-110. Renewal of licenses - rules.** (3) (b) A professional
6 licensee shall complete such ongoing professional development within the
7 period of time for which such professional license is valid. Such
8 professional development may include, but need not be limited to,
9 in-service education programs, including ~~programs concerning juvenile~~
10 ~~mental health issues and the awareness and prevention of youth suicide~~
11 ~~and~~ training in preventing, identifying, and responding to child sexual
12 abuse and assault; BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING THAT IS CULTURALLY
13 RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED; INCREASING
14 AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF
15 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT
16 LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS; college
17 or university credit from an accepted institution of higher education or a
18 community, technical, or local district college; educational travel that
19 meets the requirements specified in subsection (3)(d) of this section;
20 involvement in school reform; service as a mentor teacher for teacher
21 candidates participating in clinical practice, as defined in section
22 23-78-103; internships; and ongoing professional development training
23 and experiences. The state board of education, by rule, may establish

1 minimum criteria for professional development; except that such criteria
2 shall not:

3 (I) Specify any particular type of professional development
4 activity as a requirement or partial requirement for license renewal,
5 EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (3)(f) OF THIS SECTION;

6 (b.5) In adopting minimum criteria for professional development
7 activities, the state board, by rule, may require all or a portion of the
8 professional development activities to be related to increasing the license
9 holder's competence in his or her existing or potential endorsement area;
10 ~~or to increasing the professional licensee's skills and competence in~~
11 ~~delivery of instruction in his or her existing or potential endorsement area;~~
12 ~~or in the teaching of literacy; INCREASING AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE~~
13 ~~OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONCERNS, RESPONSES, AND STRATEGIES; OR~~
14 ~~INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO~~
15 ~~EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING~~
16 ~~BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING~~
17 ~~ENVIRONMENTS.~~

18 (c) In selecting professional development activities for the
19 renewal of a professional license pursuant to this section, each licensee
20 shall choose those activities that will aid the licensee in meeting the
21 standards for a professional educator, including but not limited to the
22 following goals:

23 (X) Effective organization and management of human and
24 financial resources to create a safe and effective working and learning
25 environment; ~~and~~

26 (XI) Awareness of warning signs of dangerous behavior in youth
27 and situations that present a threat to the health and safety of students, ~~and~~

1 knowledge of the community resources available to enhance the health
2 and safety of students and the school community, YOUTH MENTAL
3 HEALTH, SAFE DE-ESCALATION OF CRISIS SITUATIONS, RECOGNITION OF
4 SIGNS OF POOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE, AND SUPPORT OF
5 STUDENTS USING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND
6 EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES; AND

7 (XII) AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO
8 EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CLASSROOM, INCLUDING
9 BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING
10 ENVIRONMENTS, AND RELATING TO STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL
11 CONCERNS OR BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES.

12 (f) (I) IN SELECTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR
13 RENEWAL OF A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSE, IN ADDITION TO THE
14 OTHER REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION, THE PROFESSIONAL
15 TEACHER LICENSEE SHALL COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF TEN CLOCK HOURS OF
16 THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE TERM OF
17 ANY PROFESSIONAL LICENSE RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING
18 THAT IS CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND
19 EVIDENCE-INFORMED.

20 (II) THE TEN CLOCK HOURS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
21 (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE OBTAINED THROUGH ANY COMBINATION
22 OF COURSES RELATED TO SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION, SO LONG
23 AS AT LEAST ONE OF THE REQUIRED CLOCK HOURS IS RELATED TO
24 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING THAT IS CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND
25 TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED AND ONE OF THE REQUIRED CLOCK
26 HOURS IS RELATED TO INCREASING AWARENESS OF LAWS AND PRACTICES
27 RELATING TO EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE

1 CLASSROOM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILD FIND AND INCLUSIVE
2 LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

3 (III) A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSEE WHO HAS LESS THAN
4 THREE YEARS LEFT IN THE LICENSE RENEWAL PERIOD ON JUNE 30, 2020,
5 HAS UNTIL THE END OF THE NEXT APPLICABLE RENEWAL PERIOD TO
6 COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF
7 THIS SECTION AND MAY SUBMIT CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES COMPLETED
8 WITHIN FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 2020, TO SATISFY THE
9 REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION.

10 (IV) NOTHING IN SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION PROHIBITS
11 A PROFESSIONAL TEACHER LICENSEE FROM APPLYING A SINGLE
12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE OR ACTIVITY TO ONE OR MORE
13 CONTENT OR HOURLY REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS
14 SECTION OR BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

15 (V) THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO
16 SUBSECTION (3)(f)(I) OF THIS SECTION MAY INCLUDE PROGRAMS SUCH AS:

17 (A) MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID SPECIFIC FOR YOUTH AND TEENS;

18 (B) STAFF DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MODULES CONCERNING HOW
19 TO PREVENT TEEN SUICIDE;

20 (C) INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK FOR POSITIVE
21 BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS AND MENTAL HEALTH;

22 (D) TRAINING APPROVED OR PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
23 WHERE THE TEACHER IS EMPLOYED;

24 (E) TRAINING CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL
25 CONCERNS OR DISABILITIES;

26 (F) TRAINING MODULES CONCERNING CHILD TRAUMATIC STRESS;

27 AND

1 (G) ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR TRAINING THAT MEETS THE
2 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION (3)(f).

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-1-121, add
4 (2)(d.5) as follows:

5 **23-1-121. Commission directive - approval of educator**
6 **preparation programs - review.** (2) The commission shall adopt
7 policies establishing the requirements for educator preparation programs
8 offered by institutions of higher education. The department shall work in
9 cooperation with the state board of education in developing the
10 requirements for educator preparation programs. At a minimum, the
11 requirements must ensure that each educator preparation program
12 complies with section 23-1-125, is designed on a performance-based
13 model, and includes:

14 (d.5) A REQUIREMENT THAT EACH TEACHER CANDIDATE IN AN
15 INITIAL LICENSURE PROGRAM COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER OR
16 QUARTER-LENGTH COURSE IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING USING
17 CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA- AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED
18 PRACTICES;

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