A BILL FOR AN ACT

Concerning extension of the deadline by which teachers must complete training in teaching reading.

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.)

Existing law requires school districts, charter schools, and boards of cooperative services to demonstrate that, by the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, the kindergarten-through-third-grade teachers they employ have completed evidence-based training in teaching reading. The bill extends the deadline for completing the training until the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1208, amend (6)(a) introductory portion and (6)(d) as follows:

22-7-1208. Local education providers - procedures - plans - training. (6) (a) By the beginning of the 2021-22 school year 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR and continuing for each school year thereafter, each local education provider that receives per-pupil intervention money or a grant through the early literacy grant program in any budget year starting with the 2019-20 budget year shall ensure that each teacher employed to teach kindergarten or any of grades one through three successfully completes or has successfully completed evidence-based training in teaching reading. To comply with this subsection (6)(a), a local education provider must submit evidence, as described in subsection (6)(b) of this section, that each teacher employed to teach kindergarten or any of grades one through three has successfully completed evidence-based training in teaching reading that is:

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6)(a) of this section, a local education provider that is not in compliance with the requirements of this subsection (6) as of the beginning of the 2021-22 school year 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR or for a subsequent school year may request a one-year extension from the department based on a demonstration of good cause for inability to comply.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1210.5, amend (3)(b)(II) as follows:

22-7-1210.5. Per-pupil intervention money - uses - distribution - monitoring - repeal. (3) (b) To receive per-pupil intervention money
in a budget year, a local education provider must meet the following requirements:

(II) For the 2021-22 budget year 2022-23 BUDGET YEAR and budget years thereafter, the local education provider must submit evidence that it is in compliance with the teacher training requirements specified in section 22-7-1208 (6);

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