

CHAPTER 187

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 21-1103

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Cutter and McLachlan, Kipp, Young, Amabile, Bacon, Bennett, Bird, Caraveo, Duran, Esgar, Froelich, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jodeh, Kennedy, McCormick, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Sirota, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Woodrow, Garnett, Boesenecker, Exum, Lontine, Snyder; also SENATOR(S) Pettersen and Coram, Bridges, Buckner, Danielson, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Jaquez Lewis, Moreno, Priola, Story, Winter.

AN ACT

CONCERNING IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEDIA LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CREATED PURSUANT TO HOUSE BILL 19-1110.

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

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Freedom of speech is a right that must not be infringed. In order to protect and reinforce this important right, the functioning of our democracy requires that Coloradans possess the ability to understand context, think critically about the information they are presented, and be free from indoctrination.

(b) The growth of social media platforms and their integration into the media diet of Coloradans has created an opportunity for the rapid and widespread dissemination of misinformation; and

(c) While the increase of misinformation has created significant divisions in our society, Coloradans maintain more in common than not. Our ability to unite and collaborate toward successful solutions for the benefit of all Coloradans depends upon our ability to collectively identify and critically examine facts.

(2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that equipping the youth of Colorado with the critical thinking skills necessary to analyze the information, claims, and sources presented to them through media will empower them to make

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more informed decisions, serve to strengthen our democracy, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of our state.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-145, **repeal** (5); and **add** (6) and (7) as follows:

22-2-145. Media literacy - committee - report - strategic plan - resource bank - definition - rules. (5) ~~This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2021.~~

(6) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN AN ONLINE RESOURCE BANK OF MATERIALS AND RESOURCES PERTAINING TO MEDIA LITERACY. AT A MINIMUM, THE RESOURCE BANK MUST INCLUDE THE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES RECOMMENDED IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE THE ONLINE RESOURCE BANK ON OR BEFORE THE DATE WHEN REVISIONS ARE ADOPTED TO INCLUDE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS RELATING TO MEDIA LITERACY WITHIN THE READING, WRITING, OR CIVICS STANDARDS, WHICHEVER REVISIONS OCCUR FIRST, PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (2.6).

(b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMULGATE RULES, IF NECESSARY, TO IMPLEMENT A PROCEDURE THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY PROVIDE COMMENT ON A MATERIAL OR RESOURCE WITHIN THE RESOURCE BANK, INCLUDING A COMMENT RECOMMENDING THE REMOVAL OR INCLUSION OF A MATERIAL OR RESOURCE WITHIN THE RESOURCE BANK.

(c) UPON THE REQUEST OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL, OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL, OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, WITH IMPLEMENTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, BEST PRACTICES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO MEDIA LITERACY.

(7) A SCHOOL DISTRICT, DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL, OR BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES IS NOT REQUIRED TO ADOPT OR IMPLEMENT ANY MATERIAL OR RESOURCE FROM THE RESOURCE BANK INTO ITS CURRICULUM.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1005, **add** (2.6) as follows:

22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions. (2.6) (a) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REVISIONS TO THE READING, WRITING, AND CIVICS STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT AN ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENT SHOULD ACQUIRE RELATING TO MEDIA LITERACY. THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS RELATING TO MEDIA LITERACY MUST GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE MEDIA LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-2-145 (2)(a)(I).

(b) THE INITIAL ADOPTED REVISIONS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (2.6)(a) OF THIS SECTION, AND SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS AND ADOPTIONS OF ANY APPROPRIATE

REVISIONS, MUST OCCUR PURSUANT TO THE STANDARD SCHEDULE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 4. 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.

Approved: May 27, 2021