

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 23-0475.01 Alana Rosen x2606

HOUSE BILL 23-1241

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger,

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE STATEWIDE**
102 **K-12 EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM IN ORDER TO**
103 **ADDRESS RESOURCE INEQUITIES CONTRIBUTING TO STUDENT**
104 **PERFORMANCE.**

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 accountability, accreditation, student performance, and resource inequity task force (task force) to study academic opportunities, inequities, promising practices in schools, and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

improvements to the accountability and accreditation system.

The bill requires the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives, the president and minority leader of the senate, the governor, and the department of education (department) to appoint members to the task force no later than July 1, 2023. The task force consists of 25 members, including members who represent statewide education organizations, the department, the state board of education (state board), school district board of education members, superintendents, principals, and teachers.

The bill requires the department to enter into a contract with a facilitator to guide the work of the task force no later than August 15, 2023. The facilitator shall draft an interim report and final report.

The task force is required to submit an interim report by March 1, 2024, and a final report by November 15, 2024, reflecting its findings and recommendations to the education committees of the house of representatives and senate, the governor, the state board, the commissioner of education, and the department.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 21 to article
3 2 of title 2 as follows:

4 **PART 21**
5 **ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCREDITATION,**
6 **STUDENT PERFORMANCE, AND RESOURCE INEQUITY**
7 **TASK FORCE**

8 **2-2-2101. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 21, UNLESS THE
9 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

10 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
11 CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-115.

12 (2) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN
13 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL BASED ON THE
14 GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE
15 SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA, AND THE
16 TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SIX THOUSAND

1 FIVE HUNDRED OR FEWER STUDENTS.

2 (3) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
3 CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE
4 STATE CONSTITUTION.

5 (4) "STATEWIDE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND
6 ACCREDITATION SYSTEM" MEANS THE SYSTEM FOR ACCREDITING SCHOOLS
7 AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS DESCRIBED IN ARTICLE 11 OF TITLE 22 AND AS
8 IMPLEMENTED BY RULES ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD.

9 (5) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCREDITATION,
10 STUDENT PERFORMANCE, AND RESOURCE INEQUITY TASK FORCE CREATED
11 IN SECTION 2-2-2102.

12 (6) "URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
13 THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER A RURAL OR SMALL RURAL SCHOOL
14 DISTRICT.

15 **2-2-2102. Accountability, accreditation, student performance,**
16 **and resource inequity task force - appointments - meetings.**

17 (1) THERE IS CREATED THE ACCOUNTABILITY, ACCREDITATION, STUDENT
18 PERFORMANCE, AND RESOURCE INEQUITY TASK FORCE TO STUDY
19 ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES, INEQUITIES, PROMISING PRACTICES IN
20 SCHOOLS, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND
21 ACCREDITATION SYSTEM.

22 (2) THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS MUST BE APPOINTED ON OR BEFORE
23 JULY 1, 2023. FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE TASK FORCE
24 MEMBERS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
25 OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON, AND THE
26 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON. THE
27 TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF TWENTY-SIX MEMBERS, AND TASK FORCE

1 MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

2 (a) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL
3 APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

4 (I) ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO HAS EXPERTISE
5 WITH THE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM;

6 (II) ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO HAS EXPERIENCE
7 AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS;

8

9 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE PARENT
10 ORGANIZATION THAT FOCUSES ON EDUCATION POLICY;

11 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF
12 TEACHERS; AND

13 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION
14 SPECIALIZING IN EQUITY AND INCLUSION;

15 (b) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT THE
16 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

17 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO SERVES AS A MEMBER OF THE STATE
18 BOARD;

19 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
20 EDUCATION;

21 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT
22 FOCUSES ON EDUCATION POLICY;

23 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
24 TEACHER WITH EXPERIENCE TEACHING IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS;

25 AND

26 (V) ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO HAS
27 EXPERIENCE AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT IN COLORADO

1 PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHO REPRESENTS AN URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT;

2 (c) THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MINORITY LEADER SHALL
3 APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

4 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
5 EDUCATION FROM A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT;

6 (II) ONE TEACHER WHO TEACHES MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH
7 EXPERIENCE TEACHING IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS;

8 (III) ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO HAS
9 EXPERIENCE AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT IN COLORADO
10 PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND

11 (IV) ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE WHO OVERSEES THE LOCAL
12 ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATEWIDE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND
13 ACCREDITATION SYSTEM;

14 (d) THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER SHALL APPOINT THE
15 FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

16 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE STATE
17 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE CREATED PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE
18 30.5 OF TITLE 22;

19 (II) ONE TEACHER WHO TEACHES IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT;

20 (III) ONE SUPERINTENDENT WHO REPRESENTS A RURAL SCHOOL
21 DISTRICT WHO HAS EXPERIENCE AS A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
22 IN COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND

23 (IV) ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE OF AN URBAN SCHOOL
24 DISTRICT WHO OVERSEES THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATEWIDE
25 EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCREDITATION SYSTEM;

26 (e) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

27 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE;

1 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT
2 REPRESENTS CHARTER SCHOOLS;

3 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A REGIONAL OR STATEWIDE
4 ORGANIZATION THAT FOCUSES ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
5 DEVELOPMENT;

6 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS AN EXPERT IN ENGLISH
7 LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION;

8 (V) ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE OF A RURAL SCHOOL
9 DISTRICT WITH EXPERIENCE OVERSEEING THE STATEWIDE EDUCATION
10 ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCREDITATION SYSTEM;

11 (VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A REGIONAL OR STATEWIDE
12 ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS EDUCATORS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH
13 EXPERIENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION; AND

14 (VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERIENCE AS A CHARTER
15 SCHOOL NETWORK LEADER, FORMED PURSUANT TO SECTION
16 22-30.5-104.7.

17 (f) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPOINT ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM
18 THE DEPARTMENT WHO FOCUSES ON THE STATEWIDE EDUCATION
19 ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCREDITATION SYSTEM.

20 (3) (a) NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT
21 SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A FACILITATOR TO GUIDE THE WORK
22 OF THE TASK FORCE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT A NEUTRAL
23 FACILITATOR WHO IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION
24 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. FOR THE DURATION OF
25 THE TASK FORCE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AS
26 NECESSARY FOR THE TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES DESCRIBED IN
27 SECTION 2-2-2103.

1 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A
2 THIRD PARTY TO DRAFT THE INTERIM REPORT DESCRIBED IN SECTION
3 2-2-2103 (3) AND THE FINAL REPORT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 2-2-2103 (4).

4 (4) (a) THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON SHALL
5 CONVENE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE NO LATER THAN
6 SEPTEMBER 1, 2023. THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES
7 IN 2023 AND AT LEAST SIX TIMES IN 2024 TO COMPLETE THE DUTIES
8 SPECIFIED IN SECTION 2-2-2103. THE TASK FORCE SHALL ESTABLISH
9 PROCEDURES TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN
10 THE MEETINGS REMOTELY.

11 (b) THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
12 COMPENSATION BUT MUST RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR REASONABLE
13 TRAVEL EXPENSES TO ATTEND TASK FORCE MEETINGS.

14 (c) IF A VACANCY OCCURS ON THE TASK FORCE FOR ANY REASON,
15 THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT A PERSON WHO
16 MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE VACANT POSITION TO FILL THE
17 VACANCY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURS.

18 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION AND STAFF
19 SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE UPON THE REQUEST OF THE TASK FORCE
20 CHAIRPERSON TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY FOR THE TASK FORCE TO
21 COMPLETE THE DUTIES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 2-2-2103. THE
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPILE, ANALYZE, AND PROVIDE TO THE TASK
23 FORCE THE DATA NECESSARY FOR THE TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER THE
24 ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 2-2-2103.

25 **2-2-2103. Accountability, accreditation, student performance,**
26 **and resource inequity task force - duties - report.** (1) (a) IN
27 COMPLETING THE STUDY REQUIRED IN THIS PART 21, THE TASK FORCE, AT

1 A MINIMUM, SHALL CONSIDER:

2 (I) ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES OR INEQUITIES THAT MAY IMPACT
3 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAPS;

4 (II) IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND
5 ACCREDITATION SYSTEM TO EXPAND AND INCENTIVIZE ACADEMIC
6 OPPORTUNITIES AND ADDRESS INEQUITIES;

7 (III) PROMISING PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS;

8 AND

9 (IV) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION OR RULES, AS
10 NECESSARY.

11 (b) TO SUPPORT THE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE SET
12 FORTH IN SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE TASK FORCE MAY
13 REVIEW:

14 (I) THE RESULTS OF THE STATEWIDE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY
15 SYSTEMS AUDIT REPORT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 2-3-127;

16 (II) THE LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS DESCRIBED IN PART 7
17 OF ARTICLE 11 OF TITLE 22;

18 (III) THE RESULTS OF THE LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM GRANT
19 PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 22-11-703;

20 (IV) THE ANNUAL REPORT AND EVALUATION FROM THE HIGH
21 SCHOOL INNOVATIVE LEARNING PILOT PROGRAM CREATED IN ARTICLE 35.6
22 OF TITLE 22;

23 (V) THE RESULTS OF THE SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION GRANT
24 PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 22-13-103;

25 (VI) THE INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS FROM THE SECONDARY,
26 POSTSECONDARY, AND WORK-BASED LEARNING INTEGRATION TASK FORCE
27 CREATED IN PART 2 OF ARTICLE 35.3 OF TITLE 22;

1 (VII) PROMISING PRACTICES FROM OTHER STATES AS IDENTIFIED
2 BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS; AND

3 (VIII) LEADING INDICATORS OR INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES THAT
4 COULD BE ADDED TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.

5 (2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSULT WITH ADDITIONAL
6 STAKEHOLDERS AS NEEDED TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS NECESSARY TO
7 FINALIZE ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

8 (3) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024, THE TASK FORCE SHALL
9 SUBMIT AN INTERIM REPORT, INCLUDING ITS INITIAL FINDINGS AND
10 RECOMMENDATIONS ON ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
11 SECTION, TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES;
13 THE GOVERNOR; THE STATE BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION;
14 AND THE DEPARTMENT.

15 (4) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15, 2024, THE TASK FORCE SHALL
16 SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING ITS FINDINGS AND
17 RECOMMENDATIONS ON ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS
18 SECTION, TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES;
20 THE GOVERNOR; THE STATE BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION;
21 AND THE DEPARTMENT.

22 (5) ANY MONEY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATES TO THE
23 DEPARTMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART 21 IS AVAILABLE
24 TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024.

25 **2-2-2104. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 21 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
26 DECEMBER 31, 2026.

27 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.