

**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. 23-0604.03 Michael Dohr x4347

**HOUSE BILL 23-1258**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Sharbini and Garcia,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

Judiciary  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE COSTS**  
102 **ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG CRIMES.**

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**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 evaluating the costs associated with enforcement of and incarceration for drug crimes task force (task force). The task force has the following duties:

- Consider and determine state and local government costs associated with the investigation of drug crimes and the enforcement of drug laws;

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.

- Consider and determine the costs incurred by the judicial department in adjudicating drug crimes and supervising defendants convicted of drug crimes;
- Consider and determine state and local government costs associated with confining and incarcerating individuals accused of and convicted of drug crimes and the state costs associated with parole supervision for those convicted of drug crimes;
- Determine the total state and local government costs associated with enforcing drug laws, investigating and punishing drug crimes, and rehabilitating those convicted of drug crimes; and
- Make recommendations to the general assembly regarding how money saved by reducing drug crimes or sentencing for drug crimes could be spent to reduce substance use and dependence in Colorado.

The task force shall create a report of its findings by December 31, 2023, and shall present the report to the judiciary committees of the house of representatives and senate by January 30, 2024.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-1.5-120 as  
3 follows:

4           **25-1.5-120. Evaluating the costs associated with enforcement**  
5 **of drug laws and incarceration for drug crimes task force -**  
6 **definitions - duties - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE  
7 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8           (a) "DRUG CRIMES" MEANS THE CRIMES DESCRIBED IN PART 4 OF  
9 ARTICLE 18 OF TITLE 18.

10           (b) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE EVALUATING THE COSTS  
11 ASSOCIATED WITH ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG LAWS AND INCARCERATION  
12 FOR DRUG CRIMES TASK FORCE CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS  
13 SECTION.

14           (2) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE EVALUATING THE

1 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG LAWS AND  
2 INCARCERATION FOR DRUG CRIMES TASK FORCE TO STUDY STATE AND  
3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ENFORCING DRUG LAWS,  
4 INVESTIGATING AND PUNISHING DRUG CRIMES, AND REHABILITATING  
5 THOSE CONVICTED OF DRUG CRIMES.

6 (3) THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS MUST BE APPOINTED ON OR BEFORE  
7 JANUARY 15, 2024. THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF SEVEN MEMBERS AS  
8 FOLLOWS:

9 (a) A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES,  
10 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND  
11 WHO IS CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE;

12 (b) A MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE MAJORITY  
13 LEADER OF THE SENATE AND WHO IS THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE;

14 (c) A PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT WHO WORKS FOR A NONPROFIT,  
15 APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
16 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT;

17 (d) A REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, APPOINTED BY  
18 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COLORADO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS'  
19 COUNCIL;

20 (e) A REPRESENTATIVE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, APPOINTED BY A  
21 STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING CHIEFS OF POLICE;

22 (f) AN EXPERT ON HOUSING AND THE UNHOUSED WHO WORKS FOR  
23 A NONPROFIT, APPOINTED BY THE STATE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING IN THE  
24 DIVISION OF HOUSING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS; AND

25 (g) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT  
26 WORKS ON DRUG POLICY, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
27 REPRESENTATIVES.

1 (4) (a) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024, THE CHAIR OF THE TASK  
2 FORCE SHALL CALL THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE. DURING THE  
3 FIRST MEETING, THE TASK FORCE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO  
4 ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS  
5 REMOTELY, DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF TASK  
6 FORCE MEETINGS, AND CREATE A PLAN FOR ENGAGEMENT OF  
7 STAKEHOLDERS AND EXPERTS TO SUPPORT AND INFORM THE TASK FORCE'S  
8 WORK.

9 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWO TIMES BETWEEN  
10 MARCH 1, 2024, AND MAY 1, 2024.

11 (c) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SECTION 2-2-326, THE  
12 TASK FORCE MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION BUT MUST  
13 RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED TO  
14 PARTICIPATE IN TASK FORCE MEETINGS.

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

19 (e) UPON REQUEST OF THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE, THE  
20 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE TASK FORCE WITH STAFF ASSISTANCE,  
21 MEETING SPACE, OR AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY  
22 RESOURCES, AS NECESSARY, FOR THE TASK FORCE TO MEET THE DUTIES  
23 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

24 (5) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIDER THE STUDY  
25 CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23-20-145 AND MAKE  
26 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING HOW MONEY  
27 SAVED BY A REDUCTION IN DRUG CRIMES OR SENTENCING FOR DRUG

1 CRIMES COULD BE SPENT TO REDUCE SUBSTANCE USE AND DEPENDENCE IN  
2 COLORADO.

3 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSULT WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND  
4 EXPERTS AS NEEDED TO INFORM DISCUSSIONS AND TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS  
5 NECESSARY TO FINALIZE ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

6 (6) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2024, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT  
7 A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
8 REGARDING ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION TO THE  
9 JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE  
10 SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

11 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 23-20-145 as  
13 follows:

14 **23-20-145. Actuarial cost study of the costs associated with**  
15 **enforcement of drug laws and incarceration for drug crimes - repeal.**

16 (1) BEGINNING BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF  
17 PUBLIC HEALTH SHALL CONDUCT AN ACTUARIAL COST STUDY EVALUATING  
18 THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG LAWS AND  
19 INCARCERATION IN THE STATE.

20 (2) THE ACTUARIAL COST STUDY MUST:

21 (a) CONSIDER AND DETERMINE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
22 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG  
23 CRIMES;

24 (b) CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE  
25 JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT TO ADJUDICATE DRUG CRIMES AND TO SUPERVISE  
26 DEFENDANTS CONVICTED OF DRUG CRIMES;

27 (c) CONSIDER AND DETERMINE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CONFINEMENT AND INCARCERATION OF  
2 INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF AND CONVICTED OF DRUG CRIMES AND THE  
3 STATE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PAROLE SUPERVISION FOR THOSE  
4 CONVICTED OF DRUG CRIMES;

5 (d) DETERMINE THE TOTAL STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COSTS  
6 ASSOCIATED WITH ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG LAWS; INVESTIGATION OF AND  
7 PUNISHMENT FOR DRUG CRIMES, INCLUDING COSTS FOR TREATMENT  
8 RECOVERY SERVICES, IF NEEDED, RELATED TO DRUG USE; AND  
9 REHABILITATION OF THOSE CONVICTED OF DRUG CRIMES.

10 (3) THE COLORADO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SHALL PROVIDE  
11 THE ACTUARIAL COST STUDY TO THE EVALUATING THE COSTS ASSOCIATED  
12 WITH ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG LAWS AND INCARCERATION FOR DRUG  
13 CRIMES TASK FORCE CREATED IN SECTION 25-1.5-120 BY FEBRUARY 15,  
14 2024.

15 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

16 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
17 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
18 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
19 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
20 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
21 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
22 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
23 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.