

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0224.01 Michael Dohr x4347

HOUSE BILL 24-1320

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Velasco,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Mullica,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY SCHOOL STAFF**
102 **SAFETY ISSUES.**

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 educator safety task force (task force) within the office of school safety (office) in the department of public safety (department).

The task force consists of the director of the office, teachers, education support professionals, a school support professional, school administrators, a representative of an organization representing students

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.*

and families from disproportionately impacted communities, a representative of a statewide organization that represents students with disabilities, an individual who works for a nonprofit that focuses on school safety, and a restorative justice professional.

The task force shall meet at least 4 times in 2024 and at least 3 times in 2025 and may hold meetings with remote participation.

On or before June 30, 2025, the bill requires the task force to review, investigate, and make recommendations to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, the governor, the state board, the commissioner of education, and the department concerning:

- Any issue relating to the safety and well-being of public school staff, including laws or regulations that affect the safety and well-being of public school staff;
- The effects of the declining number of special education professionals on student behaviors, as well as the impact of widespread staff shortages and the effects of class size and caseloads on disruptive learning environments;
- Incidents of aggressive student behaviors toward educators to inform solutions;
- The work and recommendations of existing education task forces;
- The impact of insufficient funding and the lack of wraparound services on disruptive learning environments; and
- The role resource inequality may play in staff safety issues.

The task force shall make recommendations for administrative and statutory changes that are necessary to facilitate school staff safety solutions.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-2704 as
3 follows:

4 **24-33.5-2704. Educator safety task force - created - report -**
5 **definitions - repeal.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL
6 SAFETY THE EDUCATOR SAFETY TASK FORCE.

7 (2) (a) (I) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING
8 MEMBERS:

1 (A) THE DIRECTOR, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, WHO IS THE
2 CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE;

3 (B) THREE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE LICENSED
4 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22 AND EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL
5 DISTRICT IN THIS STATE, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ON
6 THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS TEACHERS.

7 (C) TWO EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS, ONE OF WHOM
8 FOCUSES ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING, APPOINTED BY THE
9 PRESIDENT OF SENATE ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT
10 REPRESENTS EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS;

11 (D) ONE SCHOOL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WHO IS LICENSED
12 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22, WHO FOCUSES ON ADDRESSING
13 MENTAL HEALTH AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF
14 THE SENATE ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT
15 REPRESENTS EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS;

16 (E) TWO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, WHO ARE EMPLOYED EITHER
17 AT THE SCHOOL OR DISTRICT LEVEL BY A PUBLIC NON-CHARTER SCHOOL
18 DISTRICT, APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE MINORITY
19 LEADERS ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS
20 SCHOOL EXECUTIVES;

21 (F) ONE TEACHER WHO IS EMPLOYED AT A CHARTER SCHOOL,
22 APPOINTED BY THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER ON THE ADVICE OF A
23 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS;

24 (G) ONE SCHOOL LEADER OR ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED
25 AT A DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL OR A SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE
26 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, APPOINTED BY THE SENATE MINORITY
27 LEADER ON THE ADVICE OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE;

1 (H) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS
2 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FROM DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED SCHOOLS
3 THAT RECEIVES MONEY UNDER TITLE I OF THE FEDERAL "ELEMENTARY
4 AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965", AS AMENDED, AND THE
5 SCHOOLS ARE IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE
6 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT IDENTIFY AS MINORITY, APPOINTED
7 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

8 (I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT
9 REPRESENTS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER
10 OF THE HOUSE;

11 (J) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WORKS FOR A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT
12 FOCUSES ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND TRAINING, APPOINTED BY THE
13 GOVERNOR; AND

14 (K) A CERTIFIED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS
15 EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNITY-BASED JUVENILE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE,
16 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR ON THE ADVICE OF THE COLORADO
17 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL.

18 (II) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING NONVOTING
19 MEMBERS:

20 (A) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION OR THE COMMISSIONER'S
21 DESIGNEE; AND

22 (B) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
23 ADMINISTRATION CREATED IN SECTION 27-50-203, APPOINTED BY THE
24 COMMISSIONER OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

25 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT THE TASK FORCE
26 MEMBERS BY JULY 1, 2024.

27 (c) ANY VACANCY OCCURRING IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK

1 FORCE MUST BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL
2 APPOINTMENT.

3 (d) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE
4 CONSTITUTES A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS, AND A
5 MAJORITY OF A QUORUM PRESENT AT ANY MEETING IS SUFFICIENT FOR ANY
6 OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN BY THE TASK FORCE.

7 (e) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONVENE THE
8 FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.
9 THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES IN 2024 AND AT LEAST
10 THREE TIMES IN 2025. THE TASK FORCE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO
11 ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS
12 REMOTELY.

13 (f) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SERVE WITHOUT
14 COMPENSATION, BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES DIRECTLY
15 RELATING TO THEIR SERVICE ON THE TASK FORCE.

16 (g) UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE,
17 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE,
18 MEETING SPACE, OR AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
19 RESOURCES TO THE TASK FORCE AS NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF
20 ITS DUTIES.

21 (3) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY:

22 (I) ANY ISSUE RELATING TO THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF
23 PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF, INCLUDING LAWS OR REGULATIONS THAT AFFECT
24 THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF;

25 (II) THE EFFECTS OF THE DECLINING NUMBER OF SPECIAL
26 EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS ON STUDENT BEHAVIORS, AS WELL AS THE
27 EFFECTS OF WIDESPREAD STAFF SHORTAGES, CLASS SIZE, AND CASELOADS

1 ON DISRUPTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS;

2 (III) INCIDENTS OF AGGRESSIVE STUDENT BEHAVIORS TOWARD
3 EDUCATORS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS. THE STUDY OF THESE INCIDENTS MUST
4 PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF STUDENTS AND MUST INCLUDE WORKER'S
5 COMPENSATION DATA, REPORTED INCIDENTS IN THE TEACHING AND
6 LEARNING CONDITIONS IN COLORADO SURVEY, AND OTHER RELEVANT
7 DATA THAT MAY INFORM SOLUTIONS.

8 (IV) THE WORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING TASK
9 FORCES: THE SCHOOL FINANCE TASK FORCE, THE SCHOOL SAFETY
10 WORKING GROUP, THE DISPROPORTIONATE DISCIPLINE TASK FORCE, AND
11 THE FACILITY SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP;

12 (V) THE IMPACT OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDING AND THE LACK OF
13 WRAPAROUND SERVICES ON DISRUPTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS; AND

14 (VI) THE ROLE THAT RESOURCE INEQUALITY MAY HAVE ON STAFF
15 SAFETY ISSUES.

16 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
17 ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATUTORY CHANGES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO
18 FACILITATE SCHOOL STAFF SAFETY SOLUTIONS.

19 (4) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2025, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT
20 A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
21 THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, TO THE
22 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
23 SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES; THE GOVERNOR; THE STATE
24 BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
25 EDUCATION.

26 (5) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

27 (a) "EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A PERSON THAT

1 IS EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE WHO IS NOT REQUIRED
2 AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT TO HOLD A LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT
3 TO THIS TITLE 22. THE TERM INCLUDES ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF,
4 PARAPROFESSIONALS, CUSTODIAL STAFF, FOOD SERVICE WORKERS, AND
5 BUS DRIVERS.

6 (b) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE EDUCATOR SAFETY TASK FORCE
7 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2025.

9 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
12 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
13 institutions.