

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0212.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1059

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Weinberg,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rich and Marchman, Winter F.

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House Committees  
Education

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING REDUCING FOOD WASTE IN SCHOOLS.

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/>.)*

**Representative Hugh McKean Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee.** The bill encourages each local education provider to adopt a policy to reduce food waste in school cafeterias and food preparation facilities (policy). The policy may address food waste diversion and aversion initiatives, including composting and share tables that permit students to return whole food or beverage items for redistribution to other students or donation to local nonprofits. The policy may address permissible food and beverage redistribution practices, food

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.

safety measures, communications with students and parents about food waste reduction efforts, and training and compensation for school personnel supervising the local education provider's implementation of the policy.

Current law establishes the Colorado circular communities enterprise (enterprise) to award grants and other funding and to provide technical assistance to certain entities throughout the state, including local governments, nonprofit and for-profit businesses, public and private schools, and institutions of higher education, that pursue a circular economy for waste management, including waste diversion and aversion. The bill requires the enterprise to consider reducing food waste by incentivizing public schools to develop and implement effective composting or share table programs.

The bill extends limited immunity from civil and criminal liability to school personnel and local education providers that supervise food and beverage redistribution pursuant to policies that include share tables.

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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** 22-32-152 as  
3 follows:

4 **22-32-152. Food waste reduction encouraged - definitions.**

5 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
6 REQUIRES:

7 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
8 CREATED IN SECTION 24-1-115.

9 (b) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

10 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 30 OF  
11 THIS TITLE 22;

12 (II) A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO  
13 ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

14 (III) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
15 PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

16 (IV) AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE

1 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF  
2 THIS TITLE 22;

3 (V) AN APPROVED FACILITY SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
4 22-2-402 (1); OR

5 (VI) THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND  
6 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-80-102.

7 (c) "ORGANIC MATERIALS" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN  
8 SECTION 25-17-901.

9 (d) "SHARE TABLE" MEANS A STATION WHERE A STUDENT MAY  
10 RETURN WHOLE FOOD OR BEVERAGE ITEMS THAT THE STUDENT CHOOSES  
11 NOT TO CONSUME. RETURNED FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS ARE THEN  
12 AVAILABLE FOR REDISTRIBUTION TO OTHER STUDENTS OR LOCAL  
13 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND  
14 LOCAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

15 (2) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT A  
16 POLICY TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE IN SCHOOL CAFETERIAS AND MEAL  
17 PREPARATION FACILITIES THAT INCLUDES:

18 (a) THE MANAGEMENT OF SHARE TABLES;

19 (b) THE COMPOSTING OF RAW AND CERTAIN REUSED MATERIALS,  
20 INCLUDING ORGANIC MATERIALS; OR

21 (c) OTHER FOOD WASTE DIVERSION OR AVERSION INITIATIVES.

22 (3) A FOOD WASTE REDUCTION POLICY MAY ADDRESS:

23 (a) ALLOWABLE FOOD AND BEVERAGE REDISTRIBUTION PRACTICES  
24 FOR SHARE TABLE ITEMS, INCLUDING RETURNING ITEMS TO STORAGE FOR  
25 SERVICE TO STUDENTS OR DONATING ITEMS TO LOCAL NONPROFIT  
26 ORGANIZATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-32-148;

27 (b) COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND

1 LOCAL SANITATION AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS, ANY STANDARD  
2 OPERATING PROCEDURES THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE, AS WELL AS  
3 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO FOOD ALLERGIES, IN THE  
4 IDENTIFICATION, STORAGE, HANDLING, AND SERVICE OF REDISTRIBUTED  
5 FOOD AND BEVERAGES;

6 (c) PROHIBITIONS ON REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN FOOD AND  
7 BEVERAGE ITEMS, INCLUDING ITEMS BROUGHT FROM HOME;

8 (d) COMMUNICATIONS WITH STUDENTS AND STUDENTS' PARENTS,  
9 CUSTODIANS, OR LEGAL GUARDIANS ABOUT SAFE AND EFFECTIVE  
10 PARTICIPATION IN FOOD WASTE REDUCTION EFFORTS; AND

11 (e) TRAINING AND COMPENSATION FOR DESIGNATED SCHOOL  
12 PERSONNEL SUPERVISING SHARE TABLES, COMPOSTING BINS, OR OTHER  
13 FOOD WASTE DIVERSION AND AVERSION INITIATIVES.

14 (4) IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD WASTE  
15 REDUCTION POLICIES, LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO  
16 LEVERAGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP, LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY  
17 EXPERTISE, OR OTHER AVAILABLE WASTE DIVERSION AND AVERSION  
18 RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GRANT FUNDING  
19 PROVIDED BY THE COLORADO CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES ENTERPRISE  
20 PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-16.5-109.

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-16.5-109, **amend**  
22 (5)(a)(VI) and (5)(a)(VII); and **add** (2)(i) and (5)(a)(VIII) as follows:

23 **25-16.5-109. Colorado circular communities enterprise - fund**  
24 **- goals - grant program - personal property tax reimbursements -**  
25 **gifts, grants, or donations - legislative declaration - definitions -**  
26 **repeal. (2) Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context  
27 otherwise requires:

1 (i) "SHARE TABLE" MEANS A STATION WHERE A STUDENT MAY  
2 RETURN WHOLE FOOD OR BEVERAGE ITEMS THAT THE STUDENT CHOOSES  
3 NOT TO CONSUME. RETURNED FOOD AND BEVERAGE ITEMS ARE THEN  
4 AVAILABLE FOR REDISTRIBUTION TO OTHER STUDENTS OR LOCAL  
5 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND  
6 LOCAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

7 (5) **Circular economy promotion.** (a) The enterprise shall  
8 promote a circular economy in the state, including waste diversion and  
9 aversion. In promoting a circular economy, the enterprise shall consider:

10 (VI) Extending the useful life of local landfills; ~~and~~

11 (VII) Supporting statewide municipal waste diversion and  
12 aversion and waste reduction goals; AND

13 (VIII) REDUCING FOOD WASTE BY INCENTIVIZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
14 TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE COMPOSTING OR SHARE TABLE  
15 PROGRAMS.

16 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-21-113, **add**  
17 (1)(b)(II.5), (1)(b)(VI), and (5) as follows:

18 **13-21-113. Donation of items of food - exemption from civil**  
19 **and criminal liability - definitions.** (1) (b) As used in this section,  
20 unless the context otherwise requires:

21 (II.5) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

22 (A) A SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 30 OF  
23 TITLE 22;

24 (B) A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO  
25 ARTICLE 5 OF TITLE 22;

26 (C) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
27 PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF TITLE 22;

1 (D) AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE  
2 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF  
3 TITLE 22;

4 (E) AN APPROVED FACILITY SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
5 22-2-402 (1); OR

6 (F) THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND  
7 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-80-102.

8 (VI) "SHARE TABLE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION  
9 22-32-152.

10 (5) A DESIGNATED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OR LOCAL EDUCATION  
11 PROVIDER THAT SUPERVISES THE REDISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE  
12 ITEMS RETURNED TO A SHARE TABLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-32-152 IS  
13 NOT LIABLE FOR DAMAGES IN ANY CIVIL ACTION OR SUBJECT TO  
14 PROSECUTION IN ANY CRIMINAL PROCEEDING RESULTING FROM THE  
15 NATURE, AGE, CONDITION, OR PACKAGING OF THE REDISTRIBUTED FOOD OR  
16 BEVERAGE ITEMS; EXCEPT THAT THIS EXEMPTION DOES NOT APPLY TO  
17 WILLFUL, WANTON, OR RECKLESS ACTS OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL OR LOCAL  
18 EDUCATION PROVIDERS THAT RESULT IN INJURY TO RECIPIENTS OF  
19 REDISTRIBUTED ITEMS.

20 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
23 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
24 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
25 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
26 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.