

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 25-0440.01 Jerry Barry x4341

**HOUSE BILL 25-1167**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Valdez and Martinez,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES.**

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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>.)*

For alternative education campuses (AECs), the bill:

- Directs the department of education (department) when administering state education grants to allocate priority points to AECs;
- Authorizes AECs to include certain high-risk students in the AEC's pupil count who are 21 years of age or younger during the budget year;
- Requires the department to prepare and post a report on

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.

- enrollment trends, student demographics, and student mobility in AECs; and
- Exempts an AEC from losing its designation due to a fluctuation in enrollment for one school year.

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

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

4           (a) Alternative education campuses (AECs) play a critical role in  
5 Colorado's education system by serving students who face extraordinary  
6 challenges;

7           (b) Despite serving some of Colorado's most impacted students,  
8 AECs frequently operate with insufficient funding and resources.  
9 Consequently, many AECs often struggle to meet the critical needs of the  
10 students they are dedicated to serving and are reliant on additional  
11 funding through gifts, grants, and donations.

12           (c) By prioritizing existing education grant programs, AECs will  
13 be able to access more of the resources that they need to best address the  
14 unique circumstances and challenges of the students they enroll;

15           (d) AECs often also see great variability in their enrollment  
16 throughout the school year due to the transient nature and urgent needs of  
17 many AEC students. As a result, the current funding system, which relies  
18 on a single enrollment count date, does not accurately reflect the  
19 fluctuating enrollment of AECs throughout the year.

20           (e) To assess the impact of an alternative funding system, such as  
21 a dual enrollment count, the department of education should annually  
22 monitor and report on AEC enrollment trends, student demographics, and  
23 student mobility; and

1 (f) Despite the mission of helping students who are often  
2 marginalized, current statute caps the age of parents and expectant  
3 pregnant moms who can be served at AECs at twenty years of age. The  
4 eligibility age for these students at AECs should be expanded to include  
5 individuals up to twenty-one years of age.

6 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-604.5, **amend**  
7 (1.5)(j); and **add** (1.2), (4), (5), and (6) as follows:

8 **22-7-604.5. Alternative education campuses - criteria -**  
9 **application - rule-making - report - definition.**

10 (1.2) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION  
11 (1)(a)(VI)(B) OF THIS SECTION, AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS  
12 THAT HAS A PUPIL ENROLLMENT OF LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY  
13 STUDENTS SHALL NOT LOSE ITS DESIGNATION IF THE CAMPUS MET THE  
14 NINETY PERCENT THRESHOLD DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR, DID NOT FALL  
15 BELOW THE NINETY PERCENT THRESHOLD BY MORE THAN THREE STUDENTS  
16 DURING THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR, AND AGAIN MET THE NINETY PERCENT  
17 THRESHOLD THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

18 (1.5) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires,  
19 a "high-risk student" means a student enrolled in a public school who:

20 (j) Is a parent or pregnant woman ~~under the age of twenty~~ WHO IS  
21 TWENTY-ONE years OF AGE OR YOUNGER;

22 (4) IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT EXISTING PURSUANT TO  
23 THIS TITLE 22, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ALLOCATE  
24 PRIORITY POINTS TO AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS IF THE  
25 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS IS ELIGIBLE AND SATISFIES THE  
26 GRANT'S REQUIREMENTS.

27 (5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AN

1 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS MAY INCLUDE IN ITS PUPIL  
2 ENROLLMENT A HIGH-RISK STUDENT, AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION, WHO IS  
3 TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER ON THE PUPIL ENROLLMENT  
4 COUNT DAY IF THE HIGH-RISK STUDENT HAS SUFFICIENT CREDITS SO THAT  
5 THE STUDENT WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A DIPLOMA BY THE END OF THE SAME  
6 SCHOOL YEAR.

7 (6) BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2025, AND EACH SEPTEMBER  
8 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PREPARE AND POST  
9 AN ANNUAL REPORT ON ENROLLMENT TRENDS, STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS,  
10 AND STUDENT MOBILITY IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES. THE  
11 REPORT MUST INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

12 (a) YEAR-ROUND ENROLLMENT TRENDS, INCLUDING  
13 FLUCTUATIONS BEYOND THE OFFICIAL OCTOBER COUNT DATE;

14 (b) A DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION  
15 CAMPUS STUDENTS, INCLUDING FACTORS SUCH AS AGE, RACE AND  
16 ETHNICITY, MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS;  
17 AND

18 (c) DATA ON STUDENT MOBILITY, INCLUDING TRANSFERS INTO AND  
19 OUT OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL  
20 YEAR.

21 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
22 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
24 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
25 institutions.