

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
9/19/23

BILL 4

LLS NO. 24-0231.01 Conrad Imel x2313

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee

BILL TOPIC: Gun Violence Prevention In Schools

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES BY SCHOOLS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE,**
102 **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE**
103 **TO STUDY GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION MEASURES IN SCHOOLS**
104 **AND REQUIRING THAT EDUCATION PROVIDERS NOTIFY**
105 **STUDENTS' PARENTS ABOUT SECURE FIREARM STORAGE LAW.**

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/>.)

Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee. The bill establishes the gun violence prevention in schools task force (task force)

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing law.*

to examine the disparities in gun violence prevention measures among school districts and inadequacies of gun violence prevention in Colorado schools, including in rural areas. The task force consists of 3 school counselors, 3 students, and representatives from a statewide association of school counselors, a statewide association of school resource officers, the suicide prevention commission, the behavioral health administration, the state board of education, and the department of law. The task force shall meet a maximum of 12 times in 2025 and 2026. On or before December 31, 2026, the task force shall complete a report on gun violence prevention in schools that includes a description of its work and recommendations to resolve any disparities and inadequacies identified by the task force. The task force shall submit the report to the house and senate education committees, the house public and behavioral health and human services committee, and the senate health and human services committee.

The bill requires school districts, boards of cooperative services, and charter schools (local education providers) to provide a written notice to students' parents and legal guardians about the state law requiring a person to responsibly and securely store firearms. The local education provider must provide the notice at the beginning of each academic year and each month thereafter. Local education providers and each school operated by a local education provider must also post the notice on their websites.

The bill requires each local education provider to deliver to the task force redacted versions of each threat assessment conducted by each school operated by the local education provider each month.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25-20.5-1207** as
3 follows:

4 **25-20.5-1207. Gun violence prevention in schools task force -**
5 **created - membership - report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN
6 THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION" MEANS THE COMMISSIONER
8 OF EDUCATION APPOINTED BY THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION
9 22-2-110.

10 (b) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN

1 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CREATED IN SECTION
2 24-1-115, DETERMINES IS RURAL, BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE
3 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE
4 NEAREST LARGE, URBANIZED AREA.

5 (c) "SAFE2TELL" MEANS THE SAFE2TELL PROGRAM CREATED IN
6 SECTION 24-31-606.

7 (d) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN
8 SCHOOLS TASK FORCE CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (2) THERE IS CREATED IN THE OFFICE THE GUN VIOLENCE
10 PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE DISPARITIES IN
11 GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION MEASURES AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
12 INADEQUACIES OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS, INCLUDING IN
13 RURAL AREAS.

14 (3) (a) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

15 (I) THREE SCHOOL COUNSELORS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM MUST BE
16 A SCHOOL COUNSELOR IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY THE
17 DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE;

18 (II) THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM MUST
19 BE A STUDENT IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM
20 MUST BE IN GRADE NINE OR TEN AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT, APPOINTED
21 BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION. A STUDENT APPOINTED PURSUANT
22 TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(a)(II) MUST BE ENROLLED IN HIGH SCHOOL AND
23 UNDER NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE. UPON A STUDENT APPOINTEE
24 GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL OR REACHING NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE, THE
25 STUDENT'S SEAT ON THE TASK FORCE IS VACANT, AND THE COMMISSIONER
26 OF EDUCATION SHALL APPOINT A REPLACEMENT.

27 (III) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL

1 COUNSELORS, APPOINTED BY THE ASSOCIATION;

2 (IV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL
3 RESOURCE OFFICERS, APPOINTED BY THE ASSOCIATION;

4 (V) A MEMBER OF THE SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMISSION CREATED
5 IN SECTION 25-1.5-111, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
6 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT;

7 (VI) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
8 ADMINISTRATION CREATED IN SECTION 27-50-102, APPOINTED BY THE
9 COMMISSIONER OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION;

10 (VII) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
11 CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE
12 STATE CONSTITUTION, APPOINTED BY THE STATE BOARD; AND

13 (VIII) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW WHO IS
14 KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE SAFE2TELL PROGRAM, APPOINTED BY THE
15 ATTORNEY GENERAL.

16 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO
17 THE TASK FORCE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 1, 2024.

18 (c) AT ITS FIRST MEETING, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SELECT A CHAIR
19 FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS; EXCEPT THAT A STUDENT MEMBER APPOINTED
20 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO
21 CHAIR THE TASK FORCE.

22 (d) EACH MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE SERVES WITHOUT
23 COMPENSATION BUT IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR
24 ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
25 THE MEMBER'S DUTIES.

26 (4) (a) THE DIRECTOR SHALL CONVENE THE TASK FORCE'S FIRST
27 MEETING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2025, BUT NO LATER THAN JANUARY

1 31, 2025.

2 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY OTHER
3 MONTH UNTIL THE TASK FORCE SUBMITS ITS REPORT REQUIRED IN
4 SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS SECTION. INCLUDING THE FIRST MEETING
5 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE TASK FORCE SHALL
6 MEET NO MORE THAN TWELVE TIMES.

7 (c) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO ALLOW
8 MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS REMOTELY.

9 (5) THE TASK FORCE SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, STUDY THE
10 FOLLOWING:

11 (a) WHETHER SCHOOL COUNSELORS, INCLUDING THOSE IN AREAS
12 WITH A HIGH STUDENT-TO-COUNSELOR RATIO, HAVE THE RESOURCES
13 NECESSARY TO ADEQUATELY CONDUCT THREAT ASSESSMENTS AND
14 COMPLETE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO GUN VIOLENCE
15 PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS;

16 (b) THREAT ASSESSMENT TRAINING PROVIDED TO SCHOOL
17 COUNSELORS AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS;

18 (c) THE RESULTS OF THREAT ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY
19 SCHOOLS;

20 (d) CURRENT GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUNDING AVAILABLE
21 FOR SCHOOLS, INCLUDING THE SOURCES OF FUNDING AND PERMISSIBLE
22 USES;

23 (e) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFE2TELL, INCLUDING AN
24 EXAMINATION OF REPORTS TO SAFE2TELL, INCLUDING FALSE REPORTS,
25 REFERRALS TO COUNSELING AS A RESULT OF A REPORT, AND ARRESTS AS
26 A RESULT OF A REPORT; AND

27 (f) LONG-TERM MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS AVAILABLE FOR

1 STUDENTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL.

2 (6) UPON REQUEST OF THE TASK FORCE, THE OFFICE SHALL
3 PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE, EQUIPMENT, AND STAFF SERVICES AS MAY BE
4 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

5 (7) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026, THE TASK FORCE SHALL
6 SUBMIT ITS REPORT ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS TO THE
7 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN
9 SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THE
10 SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR
11 COMMITTEES. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE TASK
12 FORCE'S WORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESOLVE ANY DISPARITIES
13 AND INADEQUACIES IDENTIFIED BY THE TASK FORCE. THE REPORT MAY
14 INCLUDE OTHER FINDINGS OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE.

15 (8) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2027.

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-1-144 as
17 follows:

18 **22-1-144. Gun violence prevention measures in schools -**
19 **secure firearm storage information - threat assessment reporting to**
20 **task force - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
21 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

22 (a) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT
23 CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 30 OF THIS TITLE 22, A BOARD OF
24 COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE
25 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO
26 PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR AN INSTITUTE CHARTER
27 SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE

1 PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22.

2 (b) "SECURE FIREARMS STORAGE NOTICE" MEANS THE NOTICE A
3 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TO PARENTS AND
4 LEGAL GUARDIANS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION ABOUT
5 COLORADO'S SECURE FIREARM STORAGE LAW.

6 (2) (a) (I) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL, AT THE
7 BEGINNING OF EACH ACADEMIC YEAR AND EACH MONTH THEREAFTER,
8 PROVIDE TO A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF EACH STUDENT ENROLLED
9 IN A SCHOOL OF THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE
10 REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-12-114 TO RESPONSIBLY AND
11 SECURELY STORE FIREARMS WHEN NOT IN USE TO PREVENT ACCESS BY
12 UNSUPERVISED JUVENILES AND OTHER UNAUTHORIZED USERS.

13 (II) THE SECURE FIREARMS STORAGE NOTICE MAY BE INCLUDED AS
14 PART OF OTHER NOTICES TO PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS PROVIDED
15 BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER AT THE SAME TIME.

16 (b) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL POST THE SECURE
17 FIREARMS STORAGE NOTICE ON ITS WEBSITE. EACH SCHOOL OPERATED BY
18 A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL POST THE NOTICE ON THE SCHOOL'S
19 WEBSITE.

20 (c) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY CREATE ITS OWN SECURE
21 FIREARMS STORAGE NOTICE OR USE MATERIALS DEVELOPED BY THE OFFICE
22 OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION, INCLUDING MATERIALS PROVIDED TO
23 EDUCATORS PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-20.5-1203 (2)(a)(II), IF THOSE
24 MATERIALS SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF
25 THIS SECTION.

26 (3) BEGINNING FEBRUARY 15, 2025, AND NO LATER THAN THE
27 FIFTEENTH OF EACH MONTH THEREAFTER, EACH LOCAL EDUCATION

1 PROVIDER SHALL DELIVER TO THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS
2 TASK FORCE CREATED IN SECTION 25-20.5-1207 REDACTED VERSIONS OF
3 EACH THREAT ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY EACH SCHOOL OPERATED BY
4 THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER FOR THE PRECEDING MONTH. THE
5 THREAT ASSESSMENTS MUST BE REDACTED SO THAT NO PERSONALLY
6 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ABOUT A STUDENT IN THE REPORT IS RELEASED
7 TO THE TASK FORCE. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (3) AUTHORIZES OR
8 REQUIRES A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER TO VIOLATE ANY FEDERAL OR
9 STATE STUDENT PRIVACY LAW.

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