

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

BILL A

LLS NO. 25-0211.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Winter F.,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Vigil,

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Senate Committees

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO PROMOTE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY.

**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 creates a youth health literacy oversight panel (panel) in the department of public health and environment (department). The purpose of the panel is to identify and examine youth health literacy deficits and to make recommendations and take action to improve youth health literacy.

The panel consists of students who are 14 to 18 years old; teachers of physical health, behavioral health, or physical education classes; and

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.



1           (3) "HEALTH LITERACY" MEANS THE ABILITY TO ACCESS,  
2 UNDERSTAND, AND USE INFORMATION AND SERVICES TO INFORM  
3 HEALTH-RELATED DECISIONS AND ACTIONS FOR ONESELF AND OTHERS IN  
4 THE COMMUNITY.

5           (4) "PANEL" MEANS THE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY OVERSIGHT  
6 PANEL CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-20.5-2402.

7           (5) "SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET  
8 FORTH IN SECTION 25-20.5-502.

9           (6) "SCHOOL COUNSELOR" MEANS A PERSON WHO HAS A SPECIAL  
10 SERVICES PROVIDER LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE  
11 22 WITH A SCHOOL COUNSELOR ENDORSEMENT, INCLUDING THE  
12 COMPLETION OF COURSE WORK IN THE AREAS OF ACADEMIC AND  
13 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT; ASSESSMENT FOR SOCIAL AND  
14 EMOTIONAL CONCERNS, INCLUDING SUICIDE PREVENTION AND  
15 INTERVENTION; CRISIS INTERVENTION; SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
16 PROGRAMS, INCLUDING CHARACTER EDUCATION AND VIOLENCE  
17 PREVENTION; MENTAL HEALTH; PROTECTIVE FACTORS FOR AT-RISK  
18 STUDENTS; AND CAREER AWARENESS, EXPLORATION, AND PLANNING.

19           (7) "SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A SCHOOL  
20 COUNSELOR, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST, OR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER.

21           (8) "SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST" MEANS A PERSON WHO HAS A  
22 SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5  
23 OF TITLE 22 WITH A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST ENDORSEMENT.

24           (9) "SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER" MEANS A PERSON WHO HAS A  
25 SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDER LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5  
26 OF TITLE 22 WITH AN ENDORSEMENT IN SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, INCLUDING  
27 THE COMPLETION OF COURSE WORK IN THE AREAS OF SCHOOL AND SPECIAL

1 EDUCATION LAW, FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT, AND THE  
2 DEVELOPMENT OF BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION PLANS.

3 (10) "YOUTH" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR  
4 OLDER BUT UNDER NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE.

5 **25-20.5-2402. Youth health literacy oversight panel - creation**

6 **- membership - appointment.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE  
7 DEPARTMENT THE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY OVERSIGHT PANEL. THE  
8 PURPOSE OF THE PANEL IS TO IDENTIFY AND EXAMINE YOUTH HEALTH  
9 LITERACY DEFICITS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TAKE ACTIONS  
10 TO IMPROVE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY.

11 (2) THE PANEL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

12 (a) FIVE MEMBERS WHO ARE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC  
13 SCHOOLS IN COLORADO AND ARE FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER BUT  
14 UNDER NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE  
15 DIRECTOR;

16 (b) SIX MEMBERS WHO ARE TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN  
17 COLORADO AND TEACH CLASSES CONCERNING PHYSICAL HEALTH,  
18 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, OR PHYSICAL EDUCATION, APPOINTED BY THE  
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; AND

20 (c) THREE MEMBERS WHO ARE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH  
21 PROFESSIONALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN COLORADO, APPOINTED BY THE  
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

23 (3) (a) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE INITIAL  
24 APPOINTMENTS TO THE PANEL NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31, 2025. THE  
25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL CREATE A PROCESS FOR INTERESTED PERSONS  
26 TO APPLY FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE PANEL.

27 (b) (I) MEMBERS SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS. EACH TERM BEGINS ON

1 SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH ODD-NUMBERED YEAR AND ENDS ON AUGUST 31  
2 OF THE NEXT ODD-NUMBERED YEAR.

3 (II) MEMBERS SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
4 DIRECTOR.

5 (III) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY REAPPOINT A MEMBER TO  
6 SERVE NO MORE THAN TWO TERMS, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO  
7 SUBSECTION (3)(b)(IV) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (IV) IF A VACANCY OCCURS, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL  
9 PROMPTLY APPOINT A NEW MEMBER WHO SATISFIES THE MEMBERSHIP  
10 REQUIREMENT OF THE VACATED SEAT TO COMPLETE THE TERM. THE  
11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY REAPPOINT A MEMBER APPOINTED TO  
12 COMPLETE A TERM PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3)(b)(IV) TO SERVE  
13 NO MORE THAN TWO TERMS IN ADDITION TO THE REMAINDER OF THE  
14 PARTIAL TERM.

15 (c) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE PANEL'S MEMBERSHIP MUST  
16 INCLUDE PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND REFLECT THE  
17 RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

18 (d) MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION BUT MAY BE  
19 REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES DIRECTLY RELATING TO THEIR SERVICE ON  
20 THE PANEL.

21 (4) THE PANEL MUST MEET AT LEAST EIGHT, BUT NO MORE THAN  
22 TWELVE, TIMES PER YEAR. MEETINGS MAY BE HELD IN PERSON, THROUGH  
23 THE USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, OR BOTH. THE  
24 PANEL IS A STATE PUBLIC BODY FOR PURPOSES OF SECTION 24-6-402, AND  
25 MEETINGS OF THE PANEL ARE SUBJECT TO SECTION 24-6-402. THE PANEL  
26 IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE "COLORADO OPEN RECORDS ACT",  
27 PART 2 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24.

1 (5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE PANEL NECESSARY  
2 STAFF SUPPORT, MEETING SPACE, AND AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION  
3 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES.

4 **25-20.5-2403. Duties - report.** (1) THE PANEL SHALL:

5 (a) EXAMINE DATA, INCLUDING THE RESULTS OF THE HEALTHY  
6 KIDS COLORADO SURVEY, TO IDENTIFY YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY DEFICITS  
7 AND SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT IMPROVE OR CURE THE  
8 DEFICITS TO:

9 (I) THE AGENCY WITH THE AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE  
10 RECOMMENDATION; AND

11 (II) SCHOOL DISTRICTS;

12 (b) DEVELOP A YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY LEARNING PLATFORM  
13 THAT IS MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE ON  
14 THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE. THE PLATFORM MUST INCLUDE YOUTH  
15 HEALTH LITERACY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS DEVELOPED FOR STUDENTS  
16 IN GRADES SIX THROUGH TWELVE. THE MATERIALS MUST BE IN  
17 CULTURALLY RELEVANT MEDIUMS DETERMINED AT THE DISCRETION OF  
18 THE PANEL. THE MATERIALS MUST INCLUDE A RESOURCE BANK AND MAY  
19 INCLUDE ONLINE VIDEOS OR PODCASTS. THE PANEL SHALL CONTINUALLY  
20 DEVELOP, REVIEW, AND UPDATE THE MATERIALS, AS NECESSARY.

21 (c) EXAMINE THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
22 STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO  
23 SECTION 22-7-1005, ALIGN THE CURRENT HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS  
24 WITH THE HEALTH LITERACY STANDARDS, AND RECOMMEND REVISIONS TO  
25 IMPROVE THE STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY  
26 KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT A STUDENT NEEDS TO ACQUIRE. THE PANEL  
27 MUST RECOMMEND ITS REVISIONS TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1       BASED ON THE TIMING PURSUANT TO THE STANDARD SCHEDULE  
2       DESCRIBED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (6).

3               (d) COLLABORATE WITH SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS TO  
4       DEVELOP AND REVISE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS  
5       THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS THROUGH THE SCHOOL-BASED  
6       HEALTH CENTERS. THE MATERIALS MUST BE IN CULTURALLY-RELEVANT  
7       MEDIUMS.

8               (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND ON OR BEFORE  
9       EACH DECEMBER 31 THEREAFTER, THE PANEL SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO  
10      THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE  
11      SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
12      COMMITTEES. AT A MINIMUM, THE PANEL'S REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

13              (I) DESCRIPTIONS OF THE WORK THE PANEL PERFORMED IN  
14      ACCORDANCE WITH ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS  
15      SECTION;

16              (II) DATA CONCERNING YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY TRENDS AND  
17      YOUTH HEALTH. YOUTH HEALTH DATA MUST INCLUDE METRICS  
18      CONCERNING HEALTH-CARE FACILITY AVAILABILITY, HEALTH-CARE  
19      PROVIDER AVAILABILITY, HEALTH-CARE EDUCATION AVAILABILITY,  
20      SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AVAILABILITY, DEPRESSION  
21      RATES, SUICIDE RATES, PREGNANCY RATES, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE  
22      RATES, PREVENTABLE DEATH RATES, AND ANY OTHER DATA DETERMINED  
23      APPROPRIATE BY THE PANEL.

24              (III) DATA, STATEMENTS, AND OPINIONS FROM STUDENTS,  
25      PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS, AND HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS  
26      CONCERNING THE STATUS OF YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY AND YOUTH  
27      HEALTH LITERACY NEEDS.

1 (b) UNLESS A STUDENT OPTS IN TO HAVING THE STUDENT'S NAME  
2 INCLUDED IN THE REPORT, THE REPORT MUST NOT INCLUDE THE STUDENT'S  
3 NAME, OR ANY INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED TO IDENTIFY THE  
4 STUDENT.

5 (c) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE REPORT  
6 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2) CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

7 (d) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL HIRE A CONSULTANT TO  
8 PERFORM THE RESEARCH AND COORDINATION REQUIRED TO COMPOSE THE  
9 ANNUAL REPORT. THE CONSULTANT MUST HAVE EXPERTISE IN DATA  
10 COLLECTION, PROGRAM ANALYSIS, AND HEALTH POLICY.

11 (3) THE PANEL MAY COLLABORATE WITH ANY PERSON OR  
12 ORGANIZATION THE PANEL DEEMS APPROPRIATE TO ASSIST THE PANEL IN  
13 PERFORMING ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. A PERSON OR  
14 ORGANIZATION MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, A YOUTH  
15 ORGANIZATION, HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL OR ORGANIZATION,  
16 STUDENT, PARENT, TEACHER, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, OR AN AGENCY  
17 REPRESENTATIVE.

18 **25-20.5-2404. School-based health center - information**  
19 **accessibility.** (1) A SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER MAY COLLABORATE  
20 WITH THE PANEL TO DEVELOP AND REVISE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY  
21 EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS.

22 (2) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, EACH SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH  
23 CENTER SHALL MAKE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS  
24 DEVELOPED OR REVISED BY THE PANEL, OR IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
25 PANEL, ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS. EACH SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER  
26 SHALL MAKE THE DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN A  
27 CONSPICUOUS PLACE ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S

1 WEBSITE. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S WEBSITE MUST  
2 ALSO INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING WHERE A STUDENT MAY  
3 ACCESS NON-DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1005, **add** (2.2)  
5 as follows:

6 **22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary**  
7 **education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions.** (2.2) PURSUANT  
8 TO THE SCHEDULE OF REVISIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS  
9 SECTION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
10 MADE BY THE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY OVERSIGHT PANEL PURSUANT TO  
11 SECTION 25-20.5-2403 (1)(c) TO IMPLEMENT OR IMPROVE STANDARDS  
12 THAT IDENTIFY THE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS  
13 THAT A STUDENT NEEDS TO ACQUIRE.

14 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
15 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
16 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
17 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
18 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
19 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
20 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
21 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
22 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.