

CHAPTER 117

EDUCATION - UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

HOUSE BILL 10-1054

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) King S., Apuan, Casso, Curry, DelGrosso, Frangas, Gardner C., Labuda, Lambert, McNulty, Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Priola, Schafer S., Stephens, Summers, Tipton, Todd, Tyler, Vaad, Vigil;
also SENATOR(S) Carroll M., Hudak, Newell, Sandoval, Schwartz, Williams.

AN ACT

CONCERNING PRESENTING SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. Article 5 of title 23, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

23-5-140. Lifesaving school safety information. (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

(I) THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WHO WORK AND LEARN ON THE CAMPUSES OF COLORADO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAN BE ENHANCED BY INFORMING, ORGANIZING, AND EMPOWERING THOSE INDIVIDUALS TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ON CAMPUS;

(II) CRITICAL INCIDENTS THAT TAKE PLACE ON CAMPUSES ARE UNIQUE, LIFE-CHANGING EVENTS THAT REQUIRE EXERCISING BASIC SURVIVAL SKILLS DURING AN INTENSE PERIOD OF HIGH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL STRESS. HAVING THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THESE CRITICAL INCIDENTS CAN BE KEY TO A POSITIVE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP OUTCOME IN A TRUE LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION; AND

(III) COLORADO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD ENSURE THAT ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF RECEIVE UPDATED SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION THAT REFLECTS BEST PRACTICES FOR THEIR INSTITUTION AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE FINDS THAT THE DISSEMINATION OF SAFETY INFORMATION TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF THAT REFLECTS BEST PRACTICES FOR THE INSTITUTION MAY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY AND IN COORDINATION WITH SCHOOL SAFETY PERSONNEL IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" OR "INSTITUTION" MEANS A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED IN SECTION 23-18-102 (10) (a), A JUNIOR COLLEGE, AN AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, OR A TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

(b) "SCHOOL BUILDING" MEANS A BUILDING, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A CLASSROOM BUILDING OR A SCHOOL DORMITORY, THAT IS A PUBLIC BUILDING OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(3) (a) EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT ARE TAILORED TO THE INSTITUTION AND THAT REFLECT BEST PRACTICES CONCERNING CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOLS AND PERSONAL SAFETY ON CAMPUS AND IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS ON CAMPUS.

(b) BEGINNING IN THE 2011-12 ACADEMIC YEAR, EACH INSTITUTION SHALL DISSEMINATE ANNUALLY SCHOOL SAFETY INFORMATION TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF CONCERNING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3).

SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 11, 2010, if adjournment sine die is on May 12, 2010); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part shall not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2010 and shall take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: April 15, 2010