

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 19-1008.01 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 19-215

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Rodriguez,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lontine,

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS**
102 **CONFERENCE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.**

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>.)

The bill creates parents encouraging parents conferences for parents of children with disabilities who are enrolled in public schools in Colorado. The department of education shall provide for the conferences and related lodging and food for attendees. The bill requires a specified conference curriculum.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-20-120 as
3 follows:

4 **22-20-120. Parents encouraging parents conference -**
5 **legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS AND
6 DECLARES THAT:

7 (a) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES OFTEN SUPPORT
8 THEIR CHILDREN UNTIL THEIR DEATH;

9 (b) THERE ARE NO RESOURCES THAT ADEQUATELY PREPARE
10 PARENTS FOR THE TASK OF SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES;

11 (c) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES STRUGGLE TO
12 OBTAIN TIME AWAY FROM CARING FOR THEIR CHILD IN ORDER TO GAIN
13 PERSONAL INSIGHT AND SUPPORT FROM EACH OTHER WHILE LEARNING OF
14 EDUCATIONAL, LEGAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES;

15 (d) BOTH PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS PLAY CRITICAL
16 INTERACTIVE ROLES IN A CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS AND IN
17 DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS;

18 (e) THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS CONFERENCE UNIQUELY
19 MOTIVATES INTERPERSONAL AND INTRAPERSONAL INSIGHT THAT IS
20 CRITICAL FOR SUCCESSFUL PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS;

21 (f) THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM WAS FOUNDED
22 IN 1978 AND HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF
23 FAMILIES; AND

24 (g) PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM EVALUATIONS
25 HAVE SHOWN THAT PARTICIPATING PARENTS FEEL LESS ISOLATED THAN
26 BEFORE PARTICIPATION AND FEEL MORE HOPEFUL AND EMPOWERED TO

1 ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY FOR THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION AND LIFE PLANS.

2 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS
3 NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS PROGRAM
4 FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

5 (3) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FEDERAL FUNDS, OR SUBJECT TO STATE
6 APPROPRIATIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE UP TO FOUR PARENTS
7 ENCOURAGING PARENTS CONFERENCES, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS
8 "CONFERENCE", PER YEAR. THE PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY
9 ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AS A COUPLE. ALTERNATIVELY, A PARENT
10 IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND WITH A SUPPORT PERSON.

11 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND FACILITATE AN
12 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE.
13 AT A MINIMUM, A PERSON IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE IF HE OR
14 SHE IS THE PARENT OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.

15 (5) A CONFERENCE MUST BE PROVIDED OF SUFFICIENT LENGTH FOR
16 CONTENT TO BE DELIVERED, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE OVERNIGHT STAY.

17 (6) A CONFERENCE SHALL BE HELD AT A VENUE EQUIPPED TO MEET
18 REGIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANT NEEDS.

19 (7) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ALL CONFERENCE
20 PARTICIPANTS WITH LODGING AND FOOD, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING
21 AND CONSISTENT WITH STATE FISCAL RULES.

22 (8) THE CONFERENCE CURRICULUM MUST INCLUDE TOPICS THAT
23 ENABLE PARENTS TO EFFECTIVELY PARTNER WITH THEIR CHILDREN'S
24 TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH APPROPRIATE
25 EDUCATION SERVICES SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE STAGES OF
26 GRIEVING; SPECIAL EDUCATION IN COLORADO AND THE PROGRAM
27 STANDARDS FOR PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS; AN INDIVIDUAL WITH

1 A DISABILITY'S LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH
2 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED, OR
3 OTHER RELATED FEDERAL OR STATE LAWS; PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL
4 WORK SESSIONS ON FAMILY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES;
5 AND HOW PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY CAN ADVOCATE FOR
6 THEIR CHILDREN.

7 (9) THE CONFERENCE MUST PROVIDE PEER SUPPORT FOR PARENTS
8 AT WORKING MEALS AND DURING BREAKS.

9 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.