

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 20-0034.01 Conrad Imel x2313

**SENATE BILL 20-052**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Coram,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Wilson,**

---

**Senate Committees**

Education  
Finance

**House Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE SMART SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**  
102 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

---

**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 the smart school bus safety pilot program (pilot program) in the department of public safety (department) to increase the safety of students and the security of school buses. The department is required to enter into an agreement with an organization to administer the pilot program (program administrator). The program administrator must notify school districts of the program; develop and maintain a website,

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 THE DEPARTMENT TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO  
2 SECTION 24-33.5-2503 (2).

3 (5) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN  
4 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DETERMINES IS RURAL,  
5 BASED ON THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE  
6 DISTANCE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE,  
7 URBANIZED AREA.

8 (6) "SILENT DURESS ALARM" MEANS A SILENT ALARM THAT SENDS  
9 A DISTRESS CALL AND THE LAST-KNOWN GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM  
10 COORDINATES OF THE SCHOOL BUS TO SCHOOL OFFICIALS AND EMERGENCY  
11 RESPONSE PERSONNEL.

12 **24-33.5-2503. Smart school bus safety pilot program - creation**  
13 **- program administrator - use of money - department duties - rules.**

14 (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT THE SMART SCHOOL BUS  
15 SAFETY PILOT PROGRAM TO:

16 (a) INCREASE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND THE SECURITY OF  
17 SCHOOL BUSES;

18 (b) PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS WITH  
19 GRANTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2504 TO EQUIP THEIR SCHOOL  
20 BUSES WITH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE THAT ENABLE THE BUSES TO  
21 COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH FIRST RESPONDERS BY CELLULAR,  
22 SATELLITE, TWO-WAY RADIO, OR ANY OTHER AVAILABLE MEANS OF VOICE  
23 COMMUNICATION AND BY USING A SILENT DURESS ALARM;

24 (c) PROVIDE NOTIFICATIONS TO PARENTS ABOUT SCHOOL BUS  
25 STATUS AND STUDENT SAFETY;

26 (d) INFORM AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT SCHOOL  
27 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY; AND

1 (e) IMPROVE DRIVER TRAINING RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR  
2 STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

3 (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH  
4 A PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM IN  
5 ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT RULES. THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR  
6 MUST BE A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION ORGANIZED IN ANY STATE. AT  
7 LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE OF THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS  
8 ASSIGNED TO WORK ON THE PILOT PROGRAM MUST HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN  
9 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOL BUS SAFETY, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
10 SECURITY, CHILD SAFETY CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT, AND CONDUCTING  
11 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS THAT SUPPORT SAFETY-RELATED INITIATIVES.

12 (b) THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR SHALL USE PILOT PROGRAM  
13 MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

14 (I) NOTIFYING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS OF THE  
15 PILOT PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED GRANT PROGRAM;

16 (II) ASSISTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS WITH  
17 COMPLETING AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT AWARDED PURSUANT TO  
18 SECTION 24-33.5-2504;

19 (III) SUPPORTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS  
20 AWARDED GRANTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2504;

21 (IV) DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING AN INTERNET WEBSITE,  
22 ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION, OR A  
23 COMBINATION THEREOF, THAT INCLUDES DATA PRIVACY AND INTEGRITY  
24 AND DEVICE IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY PROTECTIONS, TO PROVIDE SECURE  
25 AND VERIFIABLE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION, AT NO COST TO PARENTS,  
26 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS AND STUDENT STATUS;

27 (V) RECRUITING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS;

1 (VI) DEVELOPING, AND MAKING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE, SCHOOL  
2 BUS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL  
3 MATERIALS; AND

4 (VII) DEVELOPING PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FUNDING AND  
5 STUDYING THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW FUNDING SOURCES, INCLUDING  
6 SEEKING GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PILOT  
7 PROGRAM FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER  
8 NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

9 (3) (a) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 24, THE EXECUTIVE  
10 DIRECTOR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY FOR THE  
11 ADMINISTRATION OF THIS PART 25, INCLUDING RULES TO IMPLEMENT THE  
12 GRANT PROGRAM THAT MUST INCLUDE:

13 (I) AN APPLICATION PROCESS, INCLUDING DEADLINES AND  
14 PROVISIONS TO ENSURE THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL  
15 MAY SUBMIT A SIMPLIFIED GRANT APPLICATION DEVELOPED BY THE  
16 DEPARTMENT; AND

17 (II) THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDING A GRANT TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
18 OR CHARTER SCHOOL AND DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD,  
19 INCLUDING A PROCESS FOR ACHIEVING A BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF  
20 GRANT MONEY TO RURAL, URBAN, AND SUBURBAN AREAS OF THE STATE.

21 (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
22 CHARTER SCHOOLS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING ANY GRANT  
23 PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINES. THE DEPARTMENT MAY COORDINATE  
24 WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONCERNING SUCH NOTIFICATION.

25 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE MONEY TO THE PROGRAM  
26 ADMINISTRATOR NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS PART 25.

27 (d) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,

1 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE  
2 PURPOSES OF THIS PART 25.

3 **24-33.5-2504. Pilot program grants - report.** (1) SUBJECT TO  
4 AVAILABLE MONEY, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO SCHOOL  
5 DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PILOT  
6 PROGRAM BY PROVIDING THOSE DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS WITH FUNDING  
7 NECESSARY TO EQUIP SCHOOL BUSES WITH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE,  
8 FOR EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, AND FOR ANY RELEVANT TRAINING TO  
9 INCREASE THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND THE SECURITY OF SCHOOL BUSES.

10 (2) A GRANT AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST PROVIDE  
11 FUNDING FOR THREE YEARS.

12 (3) A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES A  
13 GRANT SHALL CONSULT WITH AND RECEIVE SUPPORT AND  
14 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR AND SHALL USE  
15 A GRANT AWARD FOR THE FOLLOWING:

16 (a) THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR EACH  
17 SCHOOL BUS TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH FIRST RESPONDERS BY  
18 CELLULAR, SATELLITE, TWO-WAY RADIO, OR ANY OTHER AVAILABLE  
19 MEANS OF VOICE COMMUNICATION AND BY USING A SILENT DURESS  
20 ALARM;

21 (b) TRAINING, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE,  
22 TELECOMMUNICATION, AND DATA-RELATED COSTS RELATED TO ANY  
23 EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY;

24 (c) THE OPERATION AND USE OF AN INTERNET WEBSITE, ONLINE  
25 SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION, OR A  
26 COMBINATION THEREOF, THAT INCLUDES DATA PRIVACY AND INTEGRITY  
27 AND DEVICE IDENTITY AND INTEGRITY PROTECTIONS, TO PROVIDE SECURE

1 AND VERIFIABLE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION, AT NO COST TO PARENTS,  
2 RELATING TO SCHOOL BUS AND STUDENT STATUS;

3 (d) SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING AND THE PROVISION OF  
4 BACKGROUND CHECKS NECESSARY FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS TO OPERATE  
5 EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY;

6 (e) ADVANCED SCHOOL BUS DRIVER TRAINING RELATED TO  
7 TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS;

8 (f) THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO USE ANY EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED  
9 WITH GRANT MONEY TO IMPROVE SCHOOL BUS MAINTENANCE; AND

10 (g) OBTAINING CREDENTIALS OR OTHER PERMISSIONS, INCLUDING  
11 DIGITAL IDENTITIES, NECESSARY FOR BUS DRIVERS OR OTHER PERSONNEL  
12 TO PROPERLY OPERATE EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED WITH GRANT MONEY.

13 (4) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH JUNE  
14 30 THEREAFTER, A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT RECEIVES  
15 A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE  
16 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR. AT A MINIMUM, THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE  
17 THE FOLLOWING:

18 (a) THE NUMBER OF BUSES EQUIPPED WITH EQUIPMENT NECESSARY  
19 TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING BY  
20 USING A SILENT DURESS ALARM;

21 (b) WHETHER ANY SUCH EQUIPMENT WAS USED IN AN EMERGENCY  
22 SITUATION;

23 (c) ANY SCHOOL BUS MAINTENANCE OR OPERATION DECISIONS  
24 MADE BASED ON INFORMATION LEARNED FROM EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED  
25 WITH GRANT MONEY; AND

26 (d) ANY OTHER USE OF GRANT MONEY.

27 **24-33.5-2505. Pilot program funding.** IN STATE FISCAL YEARS

1 2020-21, 2021-22, AND 2022-23, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL  
2 APPROPRIATE TWO MILLION DOLLARS TO THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT  
3 THE PILOT PROGRAM.

4 **24-33.5-2506. Reporting.** (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30,  
5 2021, AND ON OR BEFORE EACH SEPTEMBER 30 THEREAFTER, THE  
6 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT  
7 CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE REPORT MUST  
8 INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, THE USE OF PILOT PROGRAM MONEY, A  
9 DESCRIPTION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR'S  
10 DUTIES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2503 (2)(b), AND THE  
11 INFORMATION REPORTED TO THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR BY A SCHOOL  
12 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-33.5-2504.

13 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE  
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PILOT PROGRAM  
15 IN ITS ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO ITS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF  
16 REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203.

17 **24-33.5-2507. Repeal.** THIS PART 25 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
18 JULY 31, 2024.

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