

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

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 21-0264.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 21-1059

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING PROTECTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN**
102 **ONLINE INSTRUCTION.**

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>.)

If a school district, board of cooperative services, or charter school (local education provider) provides educational programming via online instruction to a student (online student), the bill prohibits the local education provider from:

- Prohibiting the online student's parent from being present while the student participates in online instruction;

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.*

HOUSE
Amended 3rd Reading
April 21, 2021

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 20, 2021

- Recording the online student without prior written approval from the student's parent;
- Imposing requirements concerning the online student's physical environment except to directly assist the student in focusing on instruction; and
- Suspending or expelling an online student based on an item observed in the student's physical environment or the student's behavior while participating in online instruction, unless the behavior constitutes repeated interference with the local education provider's ability to provide online instruction to other students.

The bill specifies that the limitation on suspending or expelling an online student applies to suspensions and expulsions that occur on or after March 23, 2020.

The bill specifies that the premises, facilities, and buildings of an educational institution do not include the private residence of an online student for purposes of the crime of interference with staff, faculty, or students of educational institutions.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-1-131 as
3 follows:

4 **22-1-131. Online instruction - student protections - short title**

5 **- definitions.** (1) THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS SECTION IS "ISAIAH'S LAW".

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

8 (a) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT
9 CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 30 OF THIS TITLE 22, A BOARD OF
10 COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE
11 22, A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO
12 PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22, OR AN INSTITUTE CHARTER
13 SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE
14 PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22.

15 (b) "ONLINE INSTRUCTION" MEANS THE DELIVERY OF

1 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING VIA AN INTERNET FORMAT BY A LOCAL
2 EDUCATION PROVIDER TO A STUDENT WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE LOCAL
3 EDUCATION PROVIDER AND IS RECEIVING THE EDUCATIONAL
4 PROGRAMMING AT A LOCATION THAT IS REMOTE FROM A SCHOOL. "ONLINE
5 INSTRUCTION" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, EDUCATIONAL
6 PROGRAMMING DELIVERED THROUGH AN ONLINE PROGRAM, AS DEFINED
7 IN SECTION 22-30.7-102 (9); AN ONLINE SCHOOL, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
8 22-30.7-102 (9.5); AND A SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE EDUCATION COURSE, AS
9 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-2-130 (2)(f).

10 (c) "PARENT" MEANS A BIOLOGICAL PARENT, ADOPTIVE PARENT,
11 LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR ANY OTHER PERSON HAVING LEGAL CUSTODY OF A
12 CHILD.

13 (3) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER THAT DELIVERS EDUCATIONAL
14 PROGRAMMING TO A STUDENT USING ONLINE INSTRUCTION SHALL NOT:

15 (a) PROHIBIT OR ATTEMPT TO PROHIBIT THE STUDENT'S PARENT
16 FROM BEING IN THE SAME ROOM AS THE STUDENT WHILE THE STUDENT
17 PARTICIPATES IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION OR OTHERWISE SUGGEST THAT THE
18 PARENT SHOULD NOT BE IN THE SAME ROOM WHILE THE STUDENT
19 PARTICIPATES IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION; EXCEPT THAT THE PERSON
20 LEADING THE ONLINE INSTRUCTION MAY REQUIRE A STUDENT'S PARENT TO
21 LEAVE THE AREA IF THE PARENT CONTINUES TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN
22 BEHAVIOR THAT DISRUPTS THE STUDENT OR THE CLASS AFTER THE PERSON
23 LEADING THE ONLINE INSTRUCTION ASKS THE PARENT TO DISCONTINUE
24 THE BEHAVIOR;

25 [REDACTED]

26 (b) REQUIRE A STUDENT TO USE A CAMERA TO PROVIDE A LIVE
27 DIGITAL IMAGE OF THE STUDENT WHILE THE STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN

1 ONLINE INSTRUCTION IF THE STUDENT'S TECHNOLOGY DOES NOT ALLOW
2 FOR SUCH USE OF A CAMERA.

3 (4) A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL NOT SUSPEND OR EXPEL
4 A STUDENT BASED ON THE PRESENCE OF AN ITEM THAT AN EMPLOYEE OF
5 THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER OBSERVES WITHIN THE STUDENT'S
6 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT WHILE THE STUDENT IS PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE
7 INSTRUCTION OR BASED ON THE STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR WHILE
8 PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION; EXCEPT THAT A LOCAL
9 EDUCATION PROVIDER MAY SUSPEND A STUDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
10 SECTIONS 22-33-105 AND 22-33-106.

11 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-33-106, **add** (5)
12 as follows:

13 **22-33-106. Grounds for suspension, expulsion, and denial of**
14 **admission.** (5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION TO
15 THE CONTRARY, A STUDENT WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE
16 INSTRUCTION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-1-131 (2), MAY BE SUSPENDED
17 ONLY ON THE GROUNDS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-1-131 (4). IF A STUDENT
18 WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION IS SUSPENDED OR
19 EXPELLED ON OR AFTER MARCH 23, 2020, ON GROUNDS OTHER THAN
20 THOSE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 22-1-131 (4), THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
21 PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT SUSPENDS OR EXPELS THE STUDENT SHALL REVOKE
22 THE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION AND EXPUNGE THE SUSPENSION OR
23 EXPULSION FROM THE STUDENT'S RECORD.

24 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-9-109, **add** (7) as
25 follows:

26 **18-9-109. Interference with staff, faculty, or students of**
27 **educational institutions.** (7) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE

1 PREMISES, FACILITIES, AND BUILDINGS OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION
2 DO NOT INCLUDE THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF A STUDENT WHO IS
3 PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE INSTRUCTION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-1-131
4 (2).

5 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
7 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.