

Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 22-0871.01 Conrad Imel x2313

HOUSE BILL 22-1243

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Exum and Van Winkle,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE FUNDING TO IMPROVE
102 SCHOOL SAFETY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN
103 APPROPRIATION.

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 school security disbursement program cash fund (cash fund). The department of public safety (department) may disburse money from the cash fund to school districts, charter schools, and boards of cooperative services to improve security within public schools. The bill appropriates \$6,000,000 to the cash fund.

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.

The temporary youth mental health services program is set to repeal on June 30, 2022. The bill continues the temporary youth mental health services program and the bi-annual reporting requirements until June 30, 2024.

The bill appropriates \$2 million from the behavioral and mental health cash fund to the department of education for the behavioral health care professional matching grant program.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) The federal government enacted the "American Rescue Plan
5 Act of 2021" (ARPA), Pub.L. 117-2, pursuant to which Colorado
6 received \$3,828,761,790 to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the
7 COVID-19 public health emergency;

8 (b) Government recipients of ARPA funds may use the funds to
9 provide resources for governments to meet the public health and
10 economic needs of those impacted by the pandemic in their communities.
11 Pursuant to ARPA and subsequent federal regulations, when providing
12 behavioral health services, government recipients may presume that the
13 general public was impacted by the pandemic, and they can therefore use
14 ARPA funds to provide a broad range of behavioral health services to the
15 public, including services for children and youth in schools; and

16 (c) The expenditures in this bill for the behavioral health care
17 professional matching grant program, which provides grants to increase
18 the funding education providers allocate to school health professionals to
19 provide behavioral health care to students, is considered an allowable use
20 under ARPA and is necessary to respond to the COVID-19 public health
21 emergency.

22 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

1 (a) Ensuring that students, educators, and school staff are safe in
2 school is a top priority in Colorado;

3 (b) Addressing school safety includes, but is not limited to, efforts
4 to ensure that schools have the security infrastructure necessary to prevent
5 unauthorized entry and prevent students, educators, and individuals from
6 physical harm;

7 (c) School safety, climate, and learning are linked, and students
8 cannot learn if they do not feel safe, welcome, and supported;

9 (d) For the 2019-20 school year in Colorado, Black students were
10 3.1 times more likely to be suspended than white students, and Hispanic
11 students were 1.8 times more likely to be suspended than white students;

12 (e) When implementing efforts to improve school safety,
13 education professionals and law enforcement must take a proactive
14 approach to prevent any effort that would increase discipline disparities;

15 (f) Colorado schools have been fundamentally rethinking school
16 safety by centering the social, emotional, and mental health needs of
17 young people and providing the resources and supports necessary to
18 address the root causes of students' pain, trauma, and isolation;

19 (g) Colorado's school health professional ratio currently falls well
20 below the national average, and funding behavioral health-care
21 professionals and services in schools is part of a multifaceted approach
22 to maintaining safe schools;

23 (h) As of January 2022, Colorado's "I Matter" program provided
24 more than 1,300 therapy sessions, with over 3,000 scheduled
25 appointments, helping to provide a free avenue for youth to find mental
26 health supports; and

27 (i) Therefore, the general assembly finds that providing additional

1 resources for school safety, including school security investments and
2 behavioral health supports, is necessary to ensure that Colorado children
3 are safe in school and their communities.

4 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-1811 as
5 follows:

6 **24-33.5-1811. School security disbursement program cash**
7 **fund - repeal.** (1) THE SCHOOL SECURITY DISBURSEMENT PROGRAM CASH
8 FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE "FUND" IS CREATED IN THE
9 STATE TREASURY. THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY THAT THE GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND. THE STATE
11 TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE
12 DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE FUND. THE
13 MONEY IN THE FUND IS CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE
14 DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHOOL SECURITY DISBURSEMENT
15 PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1810. THE DEPARTMENT MAY
16 EXPEND UP TO THREE PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO THE
17 FUND IN EACH FISCAL YEAR FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
18 INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THE SCHOOL SECURITY DISBURSEMENT
19 PROGRAM.

20 (2) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024. THE
21 STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED AND
22 UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON JUNE 30, 2024, TO THE GENERAL
23 FUND.

24 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 27-60-109, **amend**
25 (5) and (6) as follows:

26 **27-60-109. Temporary youth mental health services program**
27 **- established - rules - report - definitions - repeal.** (5) On or before

1 January 1 ~~2022~~ OF EACH YEAR, and on or before June 30 ~~2022~~ OF EACH
2 YEAR, the state department shall report to the house of representatives
3 public and behavioral health and human services committee and the
4 senate health and human services committee, or their successor
5 committees, regarding the number of youth who received services under
6 the program, excluding any personally identifiable information in
7 accordance with state and federal law; information in aggregate about the
8 services provided to youth under the program; and other relevant
9 information regarding the program.

10 (6) This section is repealed, effective June 30, ~~2022~~ 2024.

11 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal
12 year, \$6,000,000 is appropriated to the school security disbursement
13 program cash fund created in section 24-33.5-1811, C.R.S. This
14 appropriation is from the general fund. The department of public safety
15 is responsible for the accounting related to this appropriation.

16 (2) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$2,000,000 is appropriated
17 to the department of education. This appropriation is from the behavioral
18 and mental health cash fund created in section 24-75-230, C.R.S., and is
19 from money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal
20 recovery fund. The department may use this appropriation for the
21 behavioral health care professional matching grant program. Any money
22 appropriated in this section not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further
23 appropriated to the department from July 1, 2023, through December 30,
24 2024, for the same purpose.

25 **SECTION 5. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
26 except that section 2 and subsection (1) of section 4 of this act take effect
27 only if House Bill 22-1120 becomes law, in which case section 2 and

1 subsection (1) of section 4 take effect on the effective date of this act or
2 House Bill 22-1120, whichever is later.

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