

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

**ENGROSSED**

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

LLS NO. 23-0352.02 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 23-1223**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bacon and English,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Fields,**

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**House Committees**

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH SHARED**  
102                    **GUIDANCE FOR ENTITIES TO UTILIZE IN PRIORITIZING GRANT**  
103                    **MONEY TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPACT TO REDUCE NEGATIVE**  
104                    **OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
105                    **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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 a task force (task force) to establish shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for entities to utilize in prioritizing new and

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

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 21, 2023

existing grant money to achieve maximum impact to reduce youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors. The task force shall identify target communities with the highest rates of youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors. The task force shall create shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for governmental and community-based organizations to prioritize the use of new and existing grant money, as well as help community-based organizations reduce youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors in the target communities by using the shared goals, objectives, and guidelines when working in intervention, prevention, and tracking statistics.

Membership in the task force is outlined.

The task force shall make a preliminary "SMART Act" report in January 2024 followed by a final report in January 2025.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25-1-137** as  
3 follows:

4 **25-1-137. Task force to establish shared goals, objectives, and**  
5 **guidelines for entities to achieve maximum impact to reduce youth**  
6 **violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors - creation -**  
7 **membership - reporting - definitions.** (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31,  
8 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH  
9 SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENTAL  
10 AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM  
11 IMPACT IN REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK  
12 FACTORS FOR TARGET COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH  
13 VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS.

14 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IS TO BRING TOGETHER  
15 DIVERSE GROUPS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES  
16 AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO:

17 (a) IDENTIFY **THREE** TARGET COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WHERE  
18 DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH LEVELS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND

1 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS EXIST. THE TARGET COMMUNITIES MAY  
2 INCLUDE ANY ZIP CODE OR CONTIGUOUS ZIP CODES WITH THE TOP THREE  
3 TO FIVE RATES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK  
4 FACTORS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SCHOOL PERFORMANCE,  
5 AVERAGE EDUCATION LEVEL, INCOME LEVEL, EMPLOYMENT LEVELS, CRIME  
6 STATISTICS, AND HOUSING AND FOOD INSECURITY. THE THREE TARGET  
7 COMMUNITIES SELECTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(a) MUST  
8 REPRESENT, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, GEOGRAPHIC AND URBAN AND  
9 RURAL DIVERSITY.

10 (b) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE  
11 YEARS THEREAFTER, ESTABLISH CLEAR AND SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES,  
12 AND GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE, ALIGN, AND POOL AGENCY RESOURCES,  
13 INCLUDING NEW AND STATE GRANT MONEY, TO GUIDE INTERVENTION,  
14 PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM  
15 IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK  
16 FACTORS; AND

17 (c) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE  
18 YEARS THEREAFTER, ESTABLISH CLEAR AND SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES,  
19 AND GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEW GRANT  
20 MONEY ACROSS MULTIPLE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO GUIDE  
21 INTERVENTION, PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE  
22 MAXIMUM IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND  
23 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS. THIS INCLUDES CREATING:

24 (I) A PROCESS FOR STREAMLINING STATE GRANT APPLICATIONS  
25 ACROSS AGENCIES THAT DOES NOT VIOLATE FEDERAL LAWS, RULES, OR  
26 GUIDELINES FOR FEDERAL DOLLARS AS IT PERTAINS TO STATE GRANT  
27 MAKING AMONG AGENCIES;

1 (II) A COMMON APPLICATION FORM TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE  
2 WITHOUT VIOLATING FEDERAL LAWS, RULES, OR GUIDELINES AND IS  
3 PRACTICAL AND ACCESSIBLE FOR GRANTEES TO USE;

4 (III) A CLEARINGHOUSE OF RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS; AND

5 (IV) A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE SUPPORT FOR  
6 THE FIVE AGENCIES OF THE TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
7 AND ASSISTANCE TO GRANT APPLICANTS WHO MAY LACK THE  
8 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY TO COMPLETE COMPETITIVE AND COMPLETE  
9 APPLICATIONS.

10 (3) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, AT  
11 A MINIMUM:

12 (a) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
13 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. ONE REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE  
14 EXPERIENCE IN SUBSTANCE USE AND BE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE  
15 DIRECTOR. THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE FROM THE OFFICE OF  
16 GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
17 OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

18 (b) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY  
19 CHILDHOOD, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
20 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD;

21 (c) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN,  
22 YOUTH, AND FAMILIES IN THE DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE IN THE  
23 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES;

24 (d) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
25 EDUCATION, ONE WITH EXPERTISE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, ONE  
26 WITH EXPERTISE IN POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS, AND ONE WHO  
27 REPRESENTS RURAL K-12 COMMUNITIES OR HAS RURAL K-12 EXPERTISE,

1 ALL APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION;

2 (e) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
3 ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND  
4 APPOINTED BY THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER. ONE  
5 REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN SUBSTANCE USE AND DRUG  
6 PREVENTION AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH  
7 MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

8 (f) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL  
9 JUSTICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE  
10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY;

11 (g) FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY-BASED  
12 ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS CURRENT AGENCY GRANTEEES, WORKING IN  
13 THE TARGET COMMUNITIES, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE TASK FORCE PURSUANT  
14 TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND APPOINTED BY THE TASK  
15 FORCE. TWO OF THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY-BASED  
16 ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE ONES THAT FOCUS ON INDIVIDUALS WITH  
17 INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OR SEVERE MENTAL OR  
18 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS.

19 (h) THE TASK FORCE MUST ALSO INCLUDE EITHER:

20 (I) A NON-VOTING MEMBER WHO IS A PERSON WITH EXPERIENCE IN,  
21 OR REPRESENTS AN ORGANIZATION WITH EXPERIENCE IN, DELIVERY OF  
22 ACTIONABLE DATA INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS AND DATA READINESS;  
23 OR

24 (II) ALLOW FOR PRESENTATIONS ON ACTIONABLE DATA  
25 INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS AND DATA READINESS.

26 (4) FOR INSIGHTS INTO GRANT ALIGNMENT PRACTICES, THE TASK  
27 FORCE SHALL CONSULT WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

1 (a) THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION; AND

2 (b) THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

3 (5) AFTER THE TASK FORCE IDENTIFIES THE TARGET COMMUNITIES  
4 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
5 CONSULT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES THAT INCLUDE, BUT ARE  
6 NOT LIMITED TO, CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; LOCAL LAW  
7 ENFORCEMENT AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS; LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS;  
8 LOCAL AND REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS; AND ANY LOCAL  
9 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE RECEIVED STATE-LEVEL  
10 GRANTS IN THE AREA OF YOUTH SUICIDE, VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND  
11 INTERVENTION, AND REDUCING YOUTH RISK FACTORS.

12 (6) THE TASK FORCE MUST HAVE AN EMPLOYEE TO SUPPORT WORK  
13 OF THE TASK FORCE.

14 (7) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE ON A  
15 VOLUNTARY BASIS WITHOUT COMPENSATION, EXCEPT FOR THE  
16 REPRESENTATIVES FROM NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, WHO MAY  
17 RECEIVE A PER DIEM STIPEND. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO  
18 COMPENSATION FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE  
19 PERFORMANCE OF THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS' DUTIES.

20 (8) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL PRESENT ITS PRELIMINARY  
21 FINDINGS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES TO THE JUDICIARY  
22 COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE AND  
23 TO THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
24 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND  
25 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
26 COMMITTEES, DURING THE DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" HEARINGS HELD  
27 IN JANUARY 2024. THE 2024 "SMART ACT" REPORT MUST INCLUDE

1 FURTHER DESCRIPTIONS OF HOW THE TASK FORCE IDENTIFIED WHICH  
2 TARGET COMMUNITIES TO PRIORITIZE, INCLUDING WHETHER OR IF CERTAIN  
3 FACTORS WERE WEIGHTED OR ASSESSED. THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT  
4 A TIMELINE WITH SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES, INCLUDING WHEN TARGET  
5 COMMUNITIES WILL BE DEFINED, WHEN DATA SOURCES WILL BE  
6 IDENTIFIED, AND WHEN DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS WILL BE CONFORMED.

7 (b) IN JANUARY 2025, THE TASK FORCE SHALL PRESENT ITS FINAL  
8 REPORT THAT ESTABLISHES CLEAR AND SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND  
9 GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE, ALIGN, AND POOL AGENCY RESOURCES,  
10 INCLUDING NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY, THAT WOULD GUIDE  
11 INTERVENTION, PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE  
12 MAXIMUM IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND  
13 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS IN PRIORITY COMMUNITIES. THE TASK FORCE  
14 SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS REPORT HOW IT WILL DISPLAY AND TRACK DATA  
15 TOWARDS THE EFFICACY OF THE STRATEGIES AND GOALS; HOW THE TASK  
16 FORCE WILL COLLECT FUTURE DATA FROM STREAMLINED GRANT  
17 APPLICATIONS, SUCH AS REFLECTED IN ANNUAL REPORTS, AS NARRATIVE  
18 OR DATA TABLES; AND HOW OR IF THE TASK FORCE WILL REASSESS  
19 FACTORS AND DATA ON AN ONGOING BASIS. THE TASK FORCE SHALL MAKE  
20 ITS PRESENTATION TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
21 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE AND TO THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL  
22 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF  
24 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, DURING THE  
25 DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" HEARINGS HELD IN JANUARY 2025.

26 (9) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
27 REQUIRES:

1 (a) "COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION" MEANS A PERSON,  
2 PRIVATE NONPROFIT AGENCY, CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, OR OTHER  
3 NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY.

4 (b) "GOVERNMENTAL UNIT" MEANS ANY COUNTY, CITY AND  
5 COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, OR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

6 (c) "TARGET COMMUNITIES" MEANS THE COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED  
7 BY THE TASK FORCE AS PART OF THE TASK FORCE'S DUTIES PURSUANT TO  
8 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (d) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE TASK FORCE CREATED IN  
10 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION TO ESTABLISH SHARED GOALS,  
11 OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES FOR ENTITIES TO UTILIZE IN PRIORITIZING  
12 NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY TO ENSURE ACHIEVING A MAXIMUM  
13 IMPACT IN REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK  
14 FACTORS FOR TARGET COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH  
15 VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS.

16 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2023-24 state fiscal year,  
17 \$92,447 is appropriated to the department of public health and  
18 environment for use by the prevention services division. This  
19 appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an assumption that  
20 the division will require an additional 1.0 FTE. To implement this act, the  
21 division may use this appropriation for the grant prioritization task force  
22 related to administration.

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