A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING IMPLEMENTING MEDIA LITERACY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

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 media literacy advisory committee (committee) within the department of education (department). The committee is responsible for studying media literacy and creating a report for the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate regarding the committee's findings and recommendations for implementing media literacy in elementary and secondary education.
The bill requires the department to implement media literacy in elementary and secondary education standards based upon the committee's report.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 22-2-145 as follows:

22-2-145. Media literacy - committee - report - strategic plan - definition - repeal. (1) For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "media literacy" means the:

(a) Ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act through the various forms of media;

(b) Ability to analyze the reliability of information, claims, and sources presented in the various forms of media; and

(c) Practice of digital citizenship, including norms of appropriate and responsible behavior and discourse when engaging with media, and the prevention of cyberbullying.

(2) There is created in the department of education the media literacy advisory committee, referred to in this section as the "committee". The committee shall create a report containing recommendations and best practices for implementing media literacy into elementary and secondary education.

(a) The commissioner of education shall appoint the following members to serve on the committee:

(I) One member who is an academic expert in media literacy;

(II) One member who represents a nonprofit organization specializing in media literacy;
(III) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST;

(IV) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER FROM A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE;

(V) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER FROM AN URBAN AREA OF THE STATE;

(VI) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A LIBRARIAN;

(VII) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A PARENT ORGANIZATION;

(VIII) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR; AND

(IX) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A STUDENT.

(b) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN TWO MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, AND THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONVENE NO LATER THAN THREE MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

(3) THE REPORT CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:

(a) RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR READING, WRITING, AND CIVICS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (2)(a), TO IMPLEMENT MEDIA LITERACY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION;

(b) BEST PRACTICES AND MODELS FOR INSTRUCTION IN MEDIA LITERACY;

(c) RECOMMENDED MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS TO ADOPT FOR MEDIA LITERACY INSTRUCTION;

(d) RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION OR RULES TO IMPLEMENT MEDIA LITERACY IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION;

(e) BEST PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES REGARDING MEDIA LITERACY;

(f) Strategies to support school districts implementing the best practices and recommendations developed by the committee; and

(g) Recommended opportunities to recognize students and teachers who demonstrate excellence in media literacy.

(4) On or before March 1, 2020, the committee shall submit the written report of its findings and recommendations developed pursuant to subsection (3) of this section to the education committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, or any successor committees.

(5) On or before September 1, 2020, pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, the department shall implement media literacy in elementary and secondary education standards to the extent practicable based upon the recommendations contained in the report provided by the committee pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

(6) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2021.

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