A BILL FOR AN ACT

Concerning implementing media literacy in elementary and secondary education, and, in connection therewith, making an 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 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)(a) 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. The report must include, but is not limited to:

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

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

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

(V) STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICTS IMPLEMENTING THE BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE COMMITTEE; AND

(VI) RECOMMENDED OPPORTUNITIES TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WHO DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA LITERACY.

(b) The commissioner of education shall appoint the following members to serve on the committee no later than July 15, 2019:

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

(II) One member who is a teacher in a rural school district or a small rural school district, as defined in section 22-7-1211 (4), and holds an initial or professional teacher's license pursuant to article 60.5 of title 22;

(III) One member who is a teacher in a school district that is not a rural school district or a small rural school district, as defined in section 22-7-1211 (4), and holds an initial or professional teacher's license pursuant to article 60.5 of title 22;

(IV) One member who is a librarian and is a member of a professional association of librarians;
(V) One member who is a school administrator in a rural school district or a small rural school district, as defined in Section 22-7-1211 (4), and is a member of a professional association of school administrators;

(VI) One member who is a school administrator in a school district that is not a rural school district or a small school district, as defined in Section 22-7-1211 (4), and is a member of a professional association of school administrators;

(VII) One member who is a parent or legal guardian of a student who attends a public school and is a member of a parent organization;

(VIII) One member who is a student in a rural school district or a small rural school district, as defined in Section 22-7-1211 (4); and

(IX) One member who is a student in a school district that is not a rural school district or a small school district, as defined in Section 22-7-1211 (4);

(X) One member who represents a nonprofit organization specializing in media literacy;

(XI) One member who represents a nonprofit organization specializing in journalism;

(XII) One member who is a professional print journalist and is a member of a professional association of journalists; and

(XIII) One member who is a professional broadcast journalist and is a member of a professional association of broadcasters.

(3) (a) On or before July 15, 2019, the commissioner of
EDUCATION SHALL HIRE A CONSULTANT TO PERFORM THE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS REQUIRED FOR THE REPORT AND TO DRAFT THE REPORT.

(b) The consultant shall distribute his or her research, analysis, and draft reports to the committee members for feedback at least monthly.

(4) On or before November 1, 2019, the committee and consultant shall convene to discuss the draft report and make recommendations for the final report to be submitted pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.

(5) On or before January 1, 2020, the committee shall submit the written report of its findings, recommendations, and summaries of the committee's discussions and diverse opinions regarding the findings and recommendations contained in the final report to the education committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, or any successor committees.

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

SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, $19,816 is appropriated to the department of education. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for content specialists.

SECTION 3. 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.