

**Second 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. 24-0224.01 Michael Dohr x4347

HOUSE BILL 24-1320

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Lukens and Velasco,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman and Mullica,

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY SCHOOL STAFF**
102 **SAFETY ISSUES, 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 educator safety task force (task force) within the office of school safety (office) in the department of public safety (department).

The task force consists of the director of the office, teachers, education support professionals, a school support professional, school

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 24, 2024

administrators, a representative of an organization representing students and families from disproportionately impacted communities, a representative of a statewide organization that represents students with disabilities, an individual who works for a nonprofit that focuses on school safety, and a restorative justice professional.

The task force shall meet at least 4 times in 2024 and at least 3 times in 2025 and may hold meetings with remote participation.

On or before June 30, 2025, the bill requires the task force to review, investigate, and make recommendations to the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, the governor, the state board, the commissioner of education, and the department concerning:

- Any issue relating to the safety and well-being of public school staff, including laws or regulations that affect the safety and well-being of public school staff;
- The effects of the declining number of special education professionals on student behaviors, as well as the impact of widespread staff shortages and the effects of class size and caseloads on disruptive learning environments;
- Incidents of aggressive student behaviors toward educators to inform solutions;
- The work and recommendations of existing education task forces;
- The impact of insufficient funding and the lack of wraparound services on disruptive learning environments; and
- The role resource inequality may play in staff safety issues.

The task force shall make recommendations for administrative and statutory changes that are necessary to facilitate school staff safety solutions.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-33.5-2704 as
3 follows:

4 **24-33.5-2704. Educator safety task force - created - report -**
5 **definitions - repeal.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL
6 SAFETY THE EDUCATOR SAFETY TASK FORCE.

7 (2) (a) (I) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING
8 MEMBERS:

1 (A) THE DIRECTOR, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, WHO IS THE
2 CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE;

3 (B) THREE PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO ARE LICENSED
4 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22 AND EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL
5 DISTRICT IN THIS STATE FROM A RURAL, URBAN, AND SUBURBAN DISTRICT,
6 ONE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND TWO APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER
7 OF THE HOUSE, ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT
8 REPRESENTS TEACHERS.

9 (C) TWO EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS, ONE OF WHOM
10 FOCUSES ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING, APPOINTED BY THE
11 PRESIDENT OF SENATE ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT
12 REPRESENTS EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS;

13 (D) ONE SCHOOL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WHO IS LICENSED
14 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF TITLE 22, WHO FOCUSES ON ADDRESSING
15 MENTAL HEALTH AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL AND HAS AN UNDERSTANDING OF
16 NEUROLOGICAL AND DEVELOPMENT DISORDERS, SUCH AS AUTISM,
17 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ON THE ADVICE OF A
18 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS EDUCATION SUPPORT
19 PROFESSIONALS;

20 (E) TWO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, WHO ARE EMPLOYED EITHER
21 AT THE SCHOOL OR DISTRICT LEVEL BY A PUBLIC NON-CHARTER SCHOOL
22 DISTRICT, ONE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE
24 HOUSE, ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS
25 SCHOOL EXECUTIVES;

26 (F) ONE TEACHER WHO IS EMPLOYED AT A CHARTER SCHOOL,
27 APPOINTED BY THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER ON THE ADVICE OF A

- 1 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS;
- 2 (G) ONE SCHOOL LEADER OR ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED
3 AT A DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL OR A SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE
4 CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE, APPOINTED BY THE SENATE MINORITY
5 LEADER ON THE ADVICE OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE;
- 6 (H) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS
7 STUDENTS AND FAMILIES FROM DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED SCHOOLS
8 THAT RECEIVES MONEY UNDER TITLE I OF THE FEDERAL "ELEMENTARY
9 AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965", AS AMENDED, AND THE
10 SCHOOLS ARE IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE
11 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE DISTRICT IDENTIFY AS MINORITY, APPOINTED
12 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;
- 13 (I) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT
14 REPRESENTS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER
15 OF THE HOUSE;
- 16 (J) A STUDENT REPRESENTING A COMMUNITY
17 DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE, APPOINTED BY
18 THE GOVERNOR;
- 19 (K) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WORKS FOR A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT
20 FOCUSES ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND TRAINING, APPOINTED BY THE SENATE
21 MINORITY LEADER; AND
- 22 (L) A CERTIFIED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS
23 EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNITY-BASED JUVENILE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE,
24 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.
- 25 (II) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING NONVOTING
26 MEMBERS:
- 27 (A) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION OR THE COMMISSIONER'S

1 DESIGNEE; AND

2 (B) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
3 ADMINISTRATION CREATED IN SECTION 27-50-203, APPOINTED BY THE
4 COMMISSIONER OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

5 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT THE TASK FORCE
6 MEMBERS BY JULY 1, 2024.

7 (c) ANY VACANCY OCCURRING IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK
8 FORCE MUST BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL
9 APPOINTMENT.

10 (d) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE
11 CONSTITUTES A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS, AND A
12 MAJORITY OF A QUORUM PRESENT AT ANY MEETING IS SUFFICIENT FOR ANY
13 OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN BY THE TASK FORCE.

14 (e) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONVENE THE
15 FIRST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2024.
16 THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES IN 2024 AND AT LEAST
17 THREE TIMES IN 2025. THE TASK FORCE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO
18 ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS
19 REMOTELY.

20 (f) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SERVE WITHOUT
21 COMPENSATION, BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES DIRECTLY
22 RELATING TO THEIR SERVICE ON THE TASK FORCE.

23 (g) UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE,
24 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE,
25 MEETING SPACE, OR AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
26 RESOURCES TO THE TASK FORCE AS NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF
27 ITS DUTIES.

1 (3) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY:

2 (I) ANY ISSUE RELATING TO THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF
3 PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF, INCLUDING LAWS OR REGULATIONS THAT AFFECT
4 THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF;

5 (II) THE EFFECTS OF THE DECLINING NUMBER OF [REDACTED] EDUCATION
6 PROFESSIONALS ON STUDENT BEHAVIORS, AS WELL AS THE EFFECTS OF
7 WIDESPREAD STAFF SHORTAGES, CLASS SIZE, AND CASELOADS ON
8 DISRUPTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS;

9 (III) INCIDENTS OF AGGRESSIVE STUDENT BEHAVIORS TOWARD
10 EDUCATORS TO INFORM SOLUTIONS. THE STUDY OF INCIDENTS OF
11 AGGRESSIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOR MUST INCLUDE AN EXAMINATION OF THE
12 STUDENT'S HISTORY, THE SCHOOL'S ATTEMPTS AT ADDRESSING THE
13 BEHAVIOR AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
14 BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS OR BEHAVIORAL PLANS, ACCESS TO MENTAL
15 HEALTH SUPPORTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL, AND REFERRALS TO SUPPORTS
16 OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL. THE STUDY OF INCIDENTS OF AGGRESSIVE
17 STUDENT BEHAVIOR MUST ALSO INCLUDE EXAMINING THE NUMBER OF
18 SUSPENSIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED AND THE NUMBER OF ABBREVIATED
19 SCHOOL DAYS BECAUSE OF BEHAVIOR CONCERNS. THE STUDY OF THESE
20 INCIDENTS MUST PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF STUDENTS AND MUST INCLUDE
21 WORKER'S COMPENSATION DATA, REPORTED INCIDENTS IN THE TEACHING
22 AND LEARNING CONDITIONS IN COLORADO SURVEY, AND OTHER RELEVANT
23 DATA THAT MAY INFORM SOLUTIONS. THE SOLUTIONS MUST NOT INCLUDE
24 POLICIES THAT FOCUS ON ADDITIONAL STUDENT DISCIPLINE OR CRIMINAL
25 REFERRAL OF STUDENTS OR ACTIVATE ANY CURRENT POLICIES THAT CAUSE
26 STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE AT
27 DISPROPORTIONATE RISK FOR CRIMINAL REFERRALS.

1 (IV) THE WORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING TASK
2 FORCES: THE SCHOOL FINANCE TASK FORCE, THE SCHOOL SAFETY
3 WORKING GROUP, THE DISPROPORTIONATE DISCIPLINE TASK FORCE, AND
4 THE FACILITY SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP;

5 (V) THE IMPACT OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDING, LACK OF
6 COORDINATION OF SERVICES BETWEEN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY, AND THE
7 LACK OF WRAPAROUND SERVICES ON LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS; AND

8 (VI) THE ROLE THAT RESOURCE INEQUALITY MAY HAVE ON STAFF
9 SAFETY ISSUES.

10 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
11 ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATUTORY CHANGES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO
12 FACILITATE SCHOOL STAFF SAFETY SOLUTIONS.

13 (4) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2025, THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT
14 A FINAL REPORT, INCLUDING ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
15 THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, TO THE
16 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
17 SENATE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES; THE GOVERNOR; THE STATE
18 BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
19 EDUCATION.

20 (5) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION:

21 (a) "EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL" MEANS A PERSON THAT
22 IS EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THIS STATE WHO IS NOT REQUIRED
23 AS A CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT TO HOLD A LICENSE ISSUED PURSUANT
24 TO THIS TITLE 22. THE TERM INCLUDES ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF,
25 PARAPROFESSIONALS, CUSTODIAL STAFF, FOOD SERVICE WORKERS, AND
26 BUS DRIVERS.

27 (b) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE EDUCATOR SAFETY TASK FORCE

1 CREATED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

2 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2025.

3 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2024-25 state fiscal year,
4 \$146,250 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the
5 executive director's office. This appropriation is from the general fund.
6 To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for
7 administrative services related to the office of school safety.

8 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
9 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
10 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
11 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
12 institutions.