

First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 21-0069.01 Conrad Imel x2313

**HOUSE BILL 21-1122**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

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**House Committees**

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

Health & Human Services  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO IMPROVE FIRST**  
102     **RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES,**  
103     **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, 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 establishes the commission on improving first responder interactions with persons with disabilities (commission) in the attorney general's office. The commission is comprised of 10 members, including 2 persons with a disability, 2 parents of a child with a disability, 2 first responders, 2 representatives from advocacy organizations, the

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 19, 2021

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 16, 2021

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.*

vice-chairperson of the peace officer standards and training board (P.O.S.T. board), and a member of the P.O.S.T. board's curriculum subject matter expert committee.

After reviewing the existing Colorado peace officer training and existing available curriculum, the commission must recommend to the P.O.S.T. board a curriculum for peace officer training concerning interactions with persons with disabilities. Subject to available appropriations, the P.O.S.T. board must implement the recommended curriculum by July 1, 2022. The commission is required to review implementation of the curriculum and may recommend changes that the P.O.S.T. board may adopt.

The commission is repealed on December 31, 2023, but prior to its repeal the attorney general may recommend continuation of the commission.

The bill requires the fire service training and certification advisory board to advise the director of the division of fire prevention and control on whether to include the commission's curriculum or similar curriculum in the fire service education and training program. The Colorado department of public health and environment is required to consider including the commission's curriculum in training for personnel who routinely respond to emergencies.

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

2                   **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 10 to article  
3                   31 of title 24 as follows:

## PART 10

# COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

7                   **24-31-1001. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 10, UNLESS THE  
8                   CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

12 (2) "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS A PEACE OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER, OR  
13 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER.

(4) "P.O.S.T. BOARD" MEANS THE PEACE OFFICERS STANDARDS  
AND TRAINING BOARD CREATED IN SECTION 24-31-302.

6                   **24-31-1002. Commission - membership - duties.** (1) THERE IS  
7                   CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF  
8                   THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING  
9                   FIRST RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

10 (2) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TWELVE MEMBERS, APPOINTED  
11 BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AS FOLLOWS:

12 (a) TWO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY:

13 (b) TWO PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY:

14

15 (c) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM ORGANIZ

16 ADVOCATE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE RECOMMENDED BY  
17 THE ORGANIZATION;

18 (d) A PERSON WHO MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED IN  
19 SUBSECTION (2)(a), (2)(b), OR (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION AND WHO  
20 REPRESENTS A DISABILITY COMMUNITY THAT IS NOT REPRESENTED BY THE  
21 PERSONS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a), (2)(b), OR (2)(c)  
22 OF THIS SECTION;

23 (e) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF  
24 CURRENT AND FORMER PEACE OFFICERS;

25 (f) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF CHIEFS  
26 OF POLICE;

27 (g) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF

1 COUNTY SHERIFFS;

2 (h) ONE MEMBER OF THE P.O.S.T. BOARD; AND

3 (i) A MEMBER OF THE P.O.S.T. BOARD'S CURRICULUM SUBJECT

4 MATTER EXPERT COMMITTEE.

5 (3) (a) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS TO  
6 THE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2021.

7 (b) IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO  
8 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL  
9 ENSURE, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF  
10 THE COMMISSION IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND  
11 GENDER DIVERSITY OF THE STATE AND OF ALL GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE  
12 STATE, INCLUDING RURAL AREAS.

13 (4) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SERVE WITHOUT  
14 COMPENSATION BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW SHALL REIMBURSE  
15 MEMBERS FOR ALL ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE  
16 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

17 (5) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE A STAFF  
18 MEMBER TO COORDINATE AND SUPPORT THE COMMISSION AND HELP  
19 IMPLEMENT THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

20 (6) (a) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE SHALL CONVENE THE  
21 FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15, 2021.  
22 AT THE FIRST MEETING, COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL SELECT FROM  
23 AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP A PERSON TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE  
24 COMMISSION.

25 (b) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET UPON THE CALL OF THE CHAIR  
26 AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 10, BUT  
27 MUST MEET AT LEAST ONCE PER QUARTER.

1                   **24-31-1003. Study of training concerning interactions with**  
2 **persons with disabilities - report.** (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL, IN  
3 COLLABORATION WITH THE P.O.S.T. BOARD, EVALUATE EXISTING  
4 TRAINING FOR PEACE OFFICERS CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS  
5 WITH DISABILITIES. THE COMMISSION SHALL EXAMINE:

6                   (a) WHETHER THE TRAINING IS INCLUDED AS A PART OF BASIC  
7 TRAINING OR ANY OTHER TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE P.O.S.T.  
8 BOARD AND PROVIDED BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY;

9                   (b) (I) IF THE TRAINING IS REQUIRED, THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF  
10 TRAINING REQUIRED; OR

11                   (II) IF THE TRAINING IS OPTIONAL, THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF  
12 TRAINING OFFERED; AND

13                   (c) THE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF  
14 INSTRUCTORS WHO PROVIDE THE TRAINING.

15                   (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW EXISTING TRAINING  
16 CURRICULA CONCERNING FIRST RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS  
17 WITH DISABILITIES OFFERED BY ORGANIZATIONS IN COLORADO AND OTHER  
18 STATES. THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW MUST INCLUDE IDENTIFYING EXISTING  
19 CURRICULA OFFERED BY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND  
20 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, EVALUATING WHETHER ANY  
21 IDENTIFIED EXISTING AND AVAILABLE CURRICULA IS ADEQUATE TO TRAIN  
22 PEACE OFFICERS IN COLORADO, AND WHETHER ANY EXISTING CURRICULA  
23 COULD BE MODIFIED TO PROPERLY TRAIN PEACE OFFICERS IN COLORADO.

24                   **24-31-1004. Recommend training curriculum for peace**  
25 **officers.** (1) (a) ON OR BEFORE **FEBRUARY 28, 2022**, AND AFTER  
26 COMPLETING THE STUDY DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-1003, THE  
27 COMMISSION SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE P.O.S.T. BOARD THE

1 CURRICULUM FOR PEACE OFFICER TRAINING CONCERNING INTERACTIONS  
2 WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE USED IN BASIC TRAINING AND  
3 OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS APPROVED BY THE P.O.S.T. BOARD AND THAT  
4 MAY BE OFFERED TO FIRST RESPONDERS THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TAKE  
5 P.O.S.T. BOARD APPROVED TRAINING.

6 (b) THE RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM MUST INCLUDE AN INITIAL  
7 TRAINING CURRICULUM THAT CAN BE OFFERED AS PART OF BASIC LAW  
8 ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND AN ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING  
9 CURRICULUM.

10 (2) IN RECOMMENDING A CURRICULUM PURSUANT TO THIS  
11 SECTION, THE COMMISSION MUST:

12 (a) RECOMMEND A CURRICULUM THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE  
13 STANDARDS OF THE EXISTING CURRICULUM OFFERED TO FIRST  
14 RESPONDERS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE IN ITS STUDY OF THE  
15 EXISTING CURRICULUM;

16 (b) CONSIDER EXISTING BASIC TRAINING AND ANNUAL IN-SERVICE  
17 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PEACE OFFICERS TO ENSURE THAT THE  
18 RECOMMENDED CURRICULUM CAN BE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY AND  
19 WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE DUPLICATION OF EXISTING TRAINING  
20 REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL BURDEN ON PEACE  
21 OFFICERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
22 TRAINING ACADEMIES;

23 (c) STUDY THE EXISTING TRAINING REQUIREMENT CONCERNING  
24 ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF AT-RISK ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND  
25 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-313.5 AND  
26 CONSIDER RECOMMENDING A CURRICULUM THAT MAY SATISFY THE  
27 EXISTING REQUIREMENT; AND

12 (b) IF, AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRICULUM, THE  
13 COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT THE CURRICULUM SHOULD BE CHANGED,  
14 IT MAY RECOMMEND CHANGES TO THE P.O.S.T. BOARD. THE P.O.S.T.  
15 BOARD MAY ADOPT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES.

16 (4) THE COMMISSION MAY IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND AN  
17 EXISTING TRAINING CURRICULUM APPROPRIATE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS  
18 WHO ARE NOT PEACE OFFICERS.

19                   **24-31-1005. Report.** IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT BEFORE THE HOUSE  
20                   AND SENATE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203,  
21                   THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
22                   COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES. IN ITS REPORT DURING THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE  
23                   SESSION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION  
24                   CONCERNING WHETHER TO CONTINUE THE COMMISSION.

25 **24-31-1006. Funding.** NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-31-310  
26 (3), THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY FROM THE  
27 GENERAL FUND TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 10.

1                   **24-31-1007. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 10 IS REPEALED,  
2 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2023.

3                   **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-31-303, **add** (1)(s)  
4 as follows:

5                   **24-31-303. Duties - powers of the P.O.S.T. board.** (1) The  
6 P.O.S.T. board has the following duties:

7                   (s) TO COLLABORATE WITH THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST  
8 RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, IN THE  
9 MANNER DESCRIBED IN PART 10 OF THIS ARTICLE 31.

10                  **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-31-315, **amend**  
11 (1) as follows:

12                  **24-31-315. Annual in-service training requirements.**  
13 (1) (a) The annual in-service training programs ~~shall~~ MUST include  
14 proper restraint and holds training, a two-hour anti-bias training program,  
15 and, in alternating years, either a two-hour community policing and  
16 community partnerships training program or a two-hour situation  
17 de-escalation training program. The programs and curriculum ~~shall be~~  
18 ~~available by July 1, 2016, and~~ may include interactive web-based training.  
19 Each certified peace officer shall satisfactorily complete the training by  
20 July 1, 2017, and shall satisfactorily complete the training at least once  
21 every five years thereafter.

22                  (b) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, BEGINNING JULY 1,  
23 2022, THE ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS MUST INCLUDE THE  
24 IN-SERVICE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH  
25 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON  
26 IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH  
27 DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-31-1004.

1                   **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-31-317 as  
2 follows:

3                   **24-31-317. Training requirements concerning peace officer**  
4                   **interactions with persons with disabilities.** (1) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE  
5 APPROPRIATIONS, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, THE BASIC ACADEMY  
6 CURRICULUM MUST INCLUDE THE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING  
7 CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
8 RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER  
9 INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION  
10 24-31-1004.

11                   (2) THE ANNUAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS MUST INCLUDE  
12 THE IN-SERVICE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING CONCERNING INTERACTIONS  
13 WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-31-315  
14 (1)(b).

15                   **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1205, **add**  
16 (6) as follows:

17                   **24-33.5-1205. Duties of the director and the advisory board.**  
18 (6) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL REVIEW THE CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING  
19 CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
20 RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST RESPONDER  
21 INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO SECTION  
22 24-31-1004 AND ADVISE THE DIRECTOR ON WHETHER TO INCLUDE THAT  
23 CURRICULUM OR SIMILAR CURRICULUM IN THE FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION  
24 AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

25                   **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-3.5-201, **add** (3)  
26 as follows:

27                   **25-3.5-201. Training programs.** (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL

1      CONSIDER INCLUDING IN THE DEPARTMENT'S TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR  
2      PERSONNEL WHO RESPOND ROUTINELY TO EMERGENCIES THE TRAINING  
3      CURRICULUM CONCERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH  
4      DISABILITIES RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION ON IMPROVING FIRST  
5      RESPONDER INTERACTIONS WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT  
6      TO SECTION 24-31-1004.

7      **SECTION 7. Appropriation.** For the 2021-22 state fiscal year,  
8      \$39,775 is appropriated to the department of law for use by the peace  
9      officers standards and training board. This appropriation is from the  
10     general fund and is based on an assumption that the board will require an  
11     additional 0.5 FTE. To implement this act, the board may use this  
12     appropriation for peace officers standards and training board support.

13     **SECTION 8. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
14     determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
15     preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.