

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

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 25-0023.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 25-027

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Joseph,

Senate Committees

Education
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE USE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES TO ADDRESS**
102 **SCHOOL SAFETY, 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>.)

On or before September 1, 2025, the bill requires the office of school safety (office) to convene and oversee a work group to develop best practices for the use of trauma-informed practices to conduct school safety drills.

No later than June 30, 2026, the bill requires the work group to develop recommendations to support schools in training school personnel

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.

on the use of trauma-informed practices in conducting school safety drills, how to best conduct school safety drills in a trauma-informed manner, and how to best respond to a school safety incident. The recommendations must be submitted to the office and the house and senate education committees, or their successor committees; the governor; the state board; the commissioner of education; and the department of education.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Colorado is facing a growing mental health crisis among its
5 youth, with increasing rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental
6 health issues that significantly impact students' ability to learn and thrive
7 in school environments;

8 (b) The rise in school shootings and climate-related disasters have
9 increasingly disrupted the lives of Colorado youth, which contributes to
10 the mental health challenges and trauma students face, and the long term
11 effects of these events can impair a youth's emotional well-being, ability
12 to focus, and academic success;

13 (c) The safety and well-being of students and school personnel in
14 Colorado is a paramount concern;

15 (d) School safety drills are an essential part of school safety
16 protocols to prepare students and school personnel for emergency
17 situations;

18 (e) Traditional school safety drills can be distressing and
19 traumatizing for students and educators, thereby necessitating a more
20 considerate approach;

21 (f) Trauma-informed practices have been shown to reduce the
22 psychological impact of school safety drills on participants, fostering a

1 safer and more supportive school environment;

2 (g) Recognizing the unique vulnerabilities of students, it is
3 essential to include their perspectives and representation in efforts to
4 create a safe and supportive school environment; and

5 (h) Implementing trauma-informed school safety drills helps
6 maintain the mental health and emotional stability of students and school
7 personnel during and after the school safety drills.

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 24-33.5-2705** as
9 follows:

10 **24-33.5-2705. Trauma-informed practices for school safety**
11 **drills - work group - creation - purpose - membership - fund - notice**
12 **to revisor of statutes - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS
13 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

14 (a) "PARENT" MEANS A PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR ANY OTHER
15 PERSON HAVING LEGAL CUSTODY OF A STUDENT.

16 (b) "SCHOOL SAFETY DRILL" MEANS AN OPERATIONS-BASED
17 EXERCISE THAT IS DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS AND SCHOOL
18 PERSONNEL TO RESPOND TO SPECIFIC EMERGENCIES IN AN EFFORT TO
19 REINFORCE SAFETY PROTOCOLS, NURTURE READINESS, AND REDUCE PANIC
20 DURING A SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENT.

21 (c) "SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENT" MEANS AN EVENT THAT OCCURS
22 ON SCHOOL GROUNDS THAT PUTS PROPERTY OR THE HEALTH, SAFETY, OR
23 WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS, SCHOOL STAFF, OR VISITORS IN DANGER AND
24 REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

25 (d) "TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES" MEANS A SYSTEMATIC
26 APPROACH THAT RECOGNIZES THE PREVALENCE OF ADVERSE AND
27 TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES OF SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS AND EQUIPS SCHOOL

1 PERSONNEL WITH KNOWLEDGE TO RECOGNIZE TRAUMA AND STRATEGIES
2 TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO EXPERIENCE
3 TRAUMA.

4 (2) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE OFFICE SHALL
5 CONVENE AND OVERSEE A WORK GROUP AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.
6 THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK GROUP IS TO DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES FOR
7 THE USE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES TO CONDUCT SCHOOL SAFETY
8 DRILLS.

9 (3) THE WORK GROUP MUST BE FUNDED ENTIRELY BY GIFTS,
10 GRANTS, AND DONATIONS, INCLUDING IN-KIND DONATIONS AS PART OF A
11 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT, AND NO ADDITIONAL
12 GENERAL FUND MONEY SHALL BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE
13 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK GROUP.

14 (4) THE WORK GROUP SHALL OBTAIN INPUT FROM PARENTS AND
15 STUDENTS WHO REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE STATE WITH REGARD TO
16 RACE, ETHNICITY, _____ SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, GEOGRAPHY, AND
17 DISABILITY.

18 _____
19 _____ (5) (a) (I) THE WORK GROUP CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING
20 NONVOTING MEMBERS:

21 (A) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
22 SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

23 (B) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE, APPOINTED BY THE
24 GOVERNOR;

25 (C) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE
26 PREVENTION CREATED IN SECTION 25-20.5-1202, APPOINTED BY THE
27 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND

1 ENVIRONMENT;
2 (D) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OR
3 THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE; AND
4 (E) A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL,
5 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;
6 (II) THE WORK GROUP CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING
7 MEMBERS:
8 (A) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO REPRESENTS
9 EITHER A RURAL OR SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY THE
10 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;
11 (B) A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, OR THE PRINCIPAL'S DESIGNEE,
12 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES;
14 (C) TWO TEACHERS, ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT AN URBAN
15 SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND ONE
16 OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT AN URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY
17 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
18 (D) A SCHOOL NURSE OR PEDIATRICIAN, APPOINTED BY THE
19 MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
20 (E) TWO MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, ONE OF WHOM MUST
21 SPECIALIZE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT OR TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE,
22 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, AND ONE OF WHOM
23 MUST SPECIALIZE IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF
24 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;
25 (F) A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
26 REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERIENCE IN RURAL OR URBAN SCHOOL
27 SETTINGS, APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE;

1 (G) A PROFESSIONAL EXPERT IN PUBLIC HEALTH OR SCHOOL
2 SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

3 (H) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SECTION
4 OF THE DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL, APPOINTED BY THE
5 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

6 (I) A PARENT OF A STUDENT CURRENTLY ATTENDING A COLORADO
7 PUBLIC SCHOOL, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES; AND

9 (J) AN AT-LARGE MEMBER, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

10 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS
11 OF THE WORK GROUP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF
12 THIS SUBSECTION (5) BUT NO LATER THAN TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS AFTER THE
13 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (5).

14 (c) ANY VACANCY OCCURRING IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORK
15 GROUP MUST BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL
16 APPOINTMENT.

17 (d) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE WORK GROUP
18 CONSTITUTES A QUORUM. IF THE WORK GROUP IS UNABLE TO REACH A
19 QUORUM DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WORK GROUP MAY
20 PROCEED WITH A REDUCED QUORUM OF NO FEWER THAN SIX VOTING
21 MEMBERS.

22 (e) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORK GROUP SHALL CONVENE THE
23 FIRST MEETING OF THE WORK GROUP NO LATER THAN FIFTY-SIX DAYS
24 AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION. THE WORK GROUP SHALL
25 MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF ITS
26 OPERATION AND AT LEAST THREE TIMES DURING THE SECOND SIX MONTHS
27 OF ITS OPERATION. THE WORK GROUP SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO

1 ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS
2 REMOTELY.

3 (f) THE MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP SERVE WITHOUT
4 COMPENSATION BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES DIRECTLY
5 RELATING TO THEIR SERVICE ON THE WORK GROUP.

6 (g) UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORK
7 GROUP, THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE, MEETING SPACE,
8 OR AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES TO THE
9 WORK GROUP AS NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES.

10 (6) THE WORK GROUP SHALL:

11 (a) IDENTIFY THE INTENDED OUTCOMES OF THE
12 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES;

13 (b) IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR INCORPORATING
14 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES INTO SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS TO RESPOND
15 TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS;

16 (c) USE THE BEST PRACTICES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF
17 THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE HOW TO BEST IMPLEMENT
18 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR SCHOOLS TO:

19 (I) PLAN AND EXECUTE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY
20 DRILLS;

21 (II) IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO A SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENT; AND

22 (III) BEST RESPOND TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE AN EMOTIONAL
23 REACTION AS A RESULT OF SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS;

24 (d) DETERMINE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO
25 TRAIN SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO ADEQUATELY IMPLEMENT AND USE
26 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES WHEN CONDUCTING SCHOOL SAFETY
27 DRILLS;

1 (e) DETERMINE THE NECESSARY FREQUENCY OF SCHOOL
2 PERSONNEL TRAINING TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE USE OF
3 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES DURING SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS;

4 (f) DETERMINE THE NECESSARY FREQUENCY OF SCHOOL SAFETY
5 DRILLS TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL FOR
6 SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS;

7 (g) DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF ADVANCE NOTICE GIVEN TO
8 PARENTS BEFORE CONDUCTING A SCHOOL SAFETY DRILL;

9 (h) PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS ON TALKING TO STUDENTS
10 ABOUT SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS;

11 (i) IDENTIFY STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUPPORT
12 SCHOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR
13 CONDUCTING SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS; AND

14 (j) IDENTIFY POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN
15 INCORPORATING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES INTO SCHOOL SAFETY
16 DRILLS TO RESPOND TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS.

17 (7) THE WORK GROUP SHALL CREATE A REPORT CONTAINING
18 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
19 (6) OF THIS SECTION. THE REPORT MUST ACCOUNT FOR THE DIFFERENT
20 NEEDS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

21 (8) NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR AND ONE MONTH AFTER THE
22 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (8), THE WORK GROUP MUST SUBMIT
23 A REPORT CONTAINING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
24 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS SECTION TO THE OFFICE
25 AND TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
26 AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES; THE GOVERNOR; THE
27 STATE BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND THE DEPARTMENT

1 OF EDUCATION. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL SUBMIT THE
2 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS PART OF ITS "SMART" ACT
3 PRESENTATION REQUIRED BY SECTION 2-7-203.

4 (9) (a) THE OFFICE MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
5 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
6 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE OFFICE SHALL TRANSMIT ALL MONEY
7 RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE
8 TREASURER.

9 (b) THE OFFICE MAY ENTER INTO A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
10 AGREEMENT TO CARRY OUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. FOR
11 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, IF THE OFFICE ENTERS INTO A PUBLIC-PRIVATE
12 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT, THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
13 AGREEMENT IS CONSIDERED AN IN-KIND DONATION THAT COUNTS AS A
14 GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION IN THE MONETARY AMOUNT THAT
15 CORRELATES WITH THE VALUE OF THE CONTRACT.

16 (10) (a) IF BY JUNE 30, 2027, SUBSECTIONS (2), (4), (5), (6), (7),
17 (8), AND (9) OF THIS SECTION HAVE NOT TAKEN EFFECT, THE STATE
18 TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL MONEY RECEIVED FOR PURPOSES OF
19 IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION TO THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN
20 SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

21 (b) IF SUBSECTIONS (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), AND (9) OF THIS
22 SECTION TAKE EFFECT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (11)(a) OF THIS SECTION,
23 ON THE DAY PRIOR TO THE REPEAL OF THIS SECTION OR ONE YEAR LATER
24 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (11)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE
25 TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED
26 MONEY RECEIVED FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION TO THE
27 STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF

1 THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

2 (11) (a) SUBSECTIONS (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), AND (9) OF THIS
3 SECTION TAKE EFFECT IF THE OFFICE RECEIVES FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
4 OF GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION OR
5 IF THE OFFICE RECEIVES AN IN-KIND DONATION AS PART OF A
6 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR WHICH THE VALUE IS
7 EQUAL TO FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE OFFICE SHALL NOTIFY THE
8 REVISOR OF STATUTES IN WRITING OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE CONDITION
9 SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBSECTION (11)(a) HAS OCCURRED BY EMAILING THE
10 NOTICE TO REVISOROFSTATUTES.GA@COLEG.GOV. SUBSECTIONS (2), (4),
11 (5), (6), (7), (8), AND (9) OF THIS SECTION TAKE EFFECT UPON THE DATE
12 IDENTIFIED IN THE NOTICE THAT THE COMMISSION HAS RECEIVED FIFTY
13 THOUSAND DOLLARS OF GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS, OR AN IN-KIND
14 DONATION AS PART OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR
15 WHICH THE VALUE IS EQUAL TO FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, FOR THE
16 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION OR, IF THE NOTICE DOES NOT SPECIFY THAT
17 DATE, UPON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE TO THE REVISOR OF STATUTES.

18 (b) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027; EXCEPT
19 THAT, IF THE REVISOR OF STATUTES RECEIVES NOTICE PURSUANT TO THIS
20 SECTION, THEN THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE ONE YEAR AFTER
21 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS SECTION ARE SATISFIED.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-2702,
23 **amend** (2)(g); and **add** (2)(g.5) as follows:

24 **24-33.5-2702. Office of school safety - created - duties - grants**
25 **manager - crisis response unit.** (2) The office has the following duties:

26 (g) To administer the youth violence prevention grant program;
27 and

1 (g.5) TO OVERSEE THE WORK GROUP CREATED IN SECTION
2 24-33.5-2705; AND

3 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
4 \$50,000 is appropriated to the department of public safety for use by the
5 executive director's office. This appropriation is from the
6 trauma-informed practices for school safety drills fund created in section
7 24-33.5-2705 (9), C.R.S. To implement this act, the office may use this
8 appropriation for administrative services related to the office of school
9 safety.

10 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
13 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
14 institutions.