

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0352.02 Jane Ritter x4342

HOUSE BILL 23-1223

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bacon and English,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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House Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH SHARED  
102 GUIDANCE FOR ENTITIES TO UTILIZE IN PRIORITIZING GRANT  
103 MONEY TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPACT TO REDUCE NEGATIVE  
104 OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH.

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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 creates a task force (task force) to establish shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for entities to utilize in prioritizing new and existing grant money to achieve maximum impact to reduce youth

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.

violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors. The task force shall identify target communities with the highest rates of youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors. The task force shall create shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for governmental and community-based organizations to prioritize the use of new and existing grant money, as well as help community-based organizations reduce youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors in the target communities by using the shared goals, objectives, and guidelines when working in intervention, prevention, and tracking statistics.

Membership in the task force is outlined.

The task force shall make a preliminary "SMART Act" report in January 2024 followed by a final report in January 2025.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 25-1-137** as  
3 follows:

4 **25-1-137. Task force to establish shared goals, objectives, and**  
5 **guidelines for entities to achieve maximum impact to reduce youth**  
6 **violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors - creation -**  
7 **membership - reporting - definitions.** (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31,  
8 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH  
9 SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENTAL  
10 AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM  
11 IMPACT IN REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK  
12 FACTORS FOR TARGET COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH  
13 VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS.

14 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE IS TO BRING TOGETHER  
15 DIVERSE GROUPS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES  
16 AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO:

17 (a) IDENTIFY TARGET COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE WHERE  
18 DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH LEVELS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND  
19 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS EXIST. THE TARGET COMMUNITIES MAY

1 INCLUDE ANY ZIP CODE OR CONTIGUOUS ZIP CODES WITH THE TOP FIVE  
2 RATES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS,  
3 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, AVERAGE  
4 EDUCATION LEVEL, INCOME LEVEL, EMPLOYMENT LEVELS, CRIME  
5 STATISTICS, AND HOUSING AND FOOD INSECURITY.

6 (b) ESTABLISH CLEAR AND SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND  
7 GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE, ALIGN, AND POOL AGENCY RESOURCES,  
8 INCLUDING NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY, TO GUIDE INTERVENTION,  
9 PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM  
10 IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK  
11 FACTORS; AND

12 (c) ESTABLISH CLEAR SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND  
13 GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING AND NEW  
14 GRANT MONEY ACROSS MULTIPLE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES TO GUIDE  
15 INTERVENTION, PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE  
16 MAXIMUM IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND  
17 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS. THIS INCLUDES CREATING:

18 (I) A PROCESS FOR STREAMLINING GRANT APPLICATIONS ACROSS  
19 AGENCIES;

20 (II) A COMMON APPLICATION FORM;

21 (III) A CLEARINGHOUSE OF RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS; AND

22 (IV) A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE SUPPORT  
23 FOR THE FIVE AGENCIES OF THE TASK FORCE.

24 (3) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, AT  
25 A MINIMUM:

26 (a) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
27 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT. ONE REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE

1 EXPERIENCE IN SUBSTANCE USE AND BE APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE  
2 DIRECTOR. THE OTHER REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE FROM THE OFFICE OF  
3 GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
4 OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

5 (b) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY  
6 CHILDHOOD, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
7 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD;

8 (c) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 EDUCATION, ONE WITH EXPERTISE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ONE  
10 WITH EXPERTISE IN POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS, BOTH APPOINTED BY  
11 THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION;

12 (d) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
13 ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND  
14 APPOINTED BY THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER. ONE  
15 REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN SUBSTANCE USE AND DRUG  
16 PREVENTION AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH  
17 MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

18 (e) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
19 IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE  
20 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND

21 (f) FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITY-BASED  
22 ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS CURRENT AGENCY GRANTEEES, WORKING IN  
23 THE TARGET COMMUNITIES, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE TASK FORCE PURSUANT  
24 TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION AND APPOINTED BY THE TASK  
25 FORCE.

26 (4) THE TASK FORCE MUST HAVE A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE TO  
27 SUPPORT WORK OF THE TASK FORCE.

1           (5) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE ON A  
2 VOLUNTARY BASIS WITHOUT COMPENSATION, EXCEPT FOR THE  
3 REPRESENTATIVES FROM NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, WHO MAY  
4 RECEIVE A PER DIEM STIPEND. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENTITLED TO  
5 COMPENSATION FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE  
6 PERFORMANCE OF THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS' DUTIES.

7           (6) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL PRESENT ITS PRELIMINARY  
8 FINDINGS, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES TO THE JUDICIARY  
9 COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE AND  
10 TO THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
11 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND  
12 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR  
13 COMMITTEES, DURING THE DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" HEARINGS HELD  
14 IN JANUARY 2024.

15           (b) IN JANUARY 2025, THE TASK FORCE SHALL PRESENT ITS FINAL  
16 REPORT THAT ESTABLISHES CLEAR AND SHARED GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND  
17 GUIDELINES TO PRIORITIZE, ALIGN, AND POOL AGENCY RESOURCES,  
18 INCLUDING NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY, THAT WOULD GUIDE  
19 INTERVENTION, PREVENTION, AND TRACKING STATISTICS TO ACHIEVE THE  
20 MAXIMUM IMPACT ON REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND  
21 DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS IN PRIORITY COMMUNITIES. THE TASK FORCE  
22 SHALL MAKE ITS PRESENTATION TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEES OF THE  
23 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE AND TO THE PUBLIC AND  
24 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
25 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF  
26 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, DURING THE  
27 DEPARTMENT'S "SMART ACT" HEARINGS HELD IN JANUARY 2025.

1 (7) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
2 REQUIRES:

3 (a) "COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION" MEANS A PERSON,  
4 PRIVATE NONPROFIT AGENCY, CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, OR OTHER  
5 NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY.

6 (b) "GOVERNMENTAL UNIT" MEANS ANY COUNTY, CITY AND  
7 COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, OR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

8 (c) "TARGET COMMUNITIES" MEANS THE COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED  
9 BY THE TASK FORCE AS PART OF THE TASK FORCE'S DUTIES PURSUANT TO  
10 SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (d) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE TASK FORCE CREATED IN  
12 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION TO ESTABLISH SHARED GOALS,  
13 OBJECTIVES, AND GUIDELINES FOR ENTITIES TO UTILIZE IN PRIORITIZING  
14 NEW AND EXISTING GRANT MONEY TO ENSURE ACHIEVING A MAXIMUM  
15 IMPACT IN REDUCING YOUTH VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, AND DELINQUENCY RISK  
16 FACTORS FOR TARGET COMMUNITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH  
17 VIOLENCE, SUICIDE, OR DELINQUENCY RISK FACTORS.

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