

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REREVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the Second House*

LLS NO. 14-0956.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 14-1381

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ADOPTION OF A SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN AS A**
102 **REQUIREMENT FOR CLOSING A LOW-PERFORMING PUBLIC**
103 **SCHOOL.**

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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill requires a school district or the state charter school institute, if it decides or is directed by the state board of education to close a public school because of low performance, to adopt a school closure plan that addresses communications, the timeline for the closure,

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
3rd Reading Unamended
May 6, 2014

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
May 5, 2014

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 24, 2014

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 23, 2014

and the reassignment of students to other public schools.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-307, **add** (5)
3 as follows:

4 **22-11-307. Accreditation of public schools.** (5) (a) IF A LOCAL
5 SCHOOL BOARD OR THE INSTITUTE DECIDES OR IS DIRECTED BY THE STATE
6 BOARD TO CLOSE A PUBLIC SCHOOL BECAUSE OF LOW PERFORMANCE, THE
7 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE INSTITUTE MUST DEVELOP **AND UPDATE AS**
8 **NECESSARY** A SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN THAT IMPLEMENTS EVIDENCE-BASED
9 BEST PRACTICES DURING THE SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT
10 STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT IS CLOSED
11 ARE FULLY SUPPORTED IN ENROLLING IN THE SUCCESSOR PUBLIC SCHOOL,
12 IF ANY, OR IN ANOTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL. THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD OR
13 THE INSTITUTE SHALL MAKE THE SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN **AND ANY**
14 **UPDATES** AVAILABLE IN WRITING TO THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL,
15 THE LOCAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, IF ANY, THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS
16 ENROLLED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND THE COMMUNITY SURROUNDING
17 THE PUBLIC SCHOOL. AT A MINIMUM, THE SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN MUST
18 INCLUDE:

19 (I) A PLAN FOR COMMUNICATING IN WRITING WITH PARENTS,
20 SCHOOL STAFF, THE LOCAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, IF ANY, AND THE
21 COMMUNITY SURROUNDING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE
22 **AFTER THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD OR THE** INSTITUTE DECIDES TO CLOSE
23 THE PUBLIC SCHOOL **AND AT REGULAR INTERVALS THROUGHOUT THE**
24 **CLOSURE PROCESS;**

25 (II) THE PROCEDURES OR MECHANISMS BY WHICH THE LOCAL

1 SCHOOL BOARD AND THE INSTITUTE WILL SOLICIT AND CONSIDER INPUT ON
2 THE SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCESS FROM THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL,
3 THE LOCAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, IF ANY, THE PARENTS OF THE
4 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND THE COMMUNITY
5 SURROUNDING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL;

6 (III) A TIMELINE FOR CLOSING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT INCLUDES
7 OR IS UPDATED TO INCLUDE ALL MAJOR STEPS AND DECISION POINTS IN
8 COMPLETING THE SCHOOL CLOSURE AND STARTS NO LATER THAN THE
9 DECISION TO CLOSE AND CONTINUES AT LEAST THROUGH THE
10 REASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS AND THE OPENING OF A NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL,
11 IF APPLICABLE; AND

12 (IV) A PLAN FOR REASSIGNING STUDENTS TO OTHER PUBLIC
13 SCHOOLS, WHICH MUST, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE, TAKE INTO
14 ACCOUNT PARENTS' CHOICE CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO WHICH
15 STUDENTS ARE REASSIGNED.

16 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS
17 SUBSECTION (5) TO THE CONTRARY, A SCHOOL CLOSURE PLAN THAT
18 APPLIES TO THE CLOSURE OF AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL MUST
19 SPECIFY THAT:

20 (I) THE INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL WILL COMMUNICATE
21 DIRECTLY WITH PARENTS, SCHOOL STAFF, AND THE SURROUNDING
22 COMMUNITY; AND

23 (II) THE INSTITUTE AND THE INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL WILL
24 WORK WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH THE INSTITUTE CHARTER
25 SCHOOL IS LOCATED TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS
26 HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PROCESSES FOR
27 REASSIGNING STUDENTS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE SCHOOL CHOICE

1 OPTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS.

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