

**Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 14-0364.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 14-058

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Todd,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Murray,

Senate Committees
Education

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATIONS IN**
102 **COLORADO.**

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 changes the term "general equivalency diploma" or "GED" to "high school equivalency examination" throughout statute.

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

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.

1 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-2-1303, **amend** (1)
2 introductory portion, (1) (b) introductory portion, and (1) (b) (II) as
3 follows:

4 **2-2-1303. Membership - selection - terms.** (1) The council ~~shall~~
5 ~~consist~~ CONSISTS of forty-four members as follows:

6 (b) Thirty-five voting members representing each ~~of the~~ senate
7 ~~districts~~ DISTRICT in the state and five at-large members. The five at-large
8 members must be selected to help ensure diversity on the council, with an
9 express concern for adequate rural representation. Members described in
10 this paragraph (b) ~~shall~~ MUST meet the following qualifications at the time
11 of appointment:

12 (II) Be enrolled in and attending a Colorado junior high, middle,
13 or high school, including an on-line or charter school or approved facility
14 school as defined in section 22-2-402, C.R.S.; BE participating in a
15 nonpublic, home-based educational program; BE participating in a ~~general~~
16 ~~equivalency degree~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION program;
17 or have obtained a high school ~~or general equivalency~~ diploma THROUGH
18 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
19 EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-6-203, **amend** (3)
21 as follows:

22 **13-6-203. Qualifications of judges.** (3) In counties of Class C
23 and Class D, ~~no~~ A person ~~shall be~~ IS NOT eligible for appointment to the
24 office of county judge unless he OR SHE has graduated from high school
25 or has ~~attained the equivalent of a high school education as indicated by~~
26 ~~the possession of a certificate of equivalency issued by the department of~~
27 ~~education, based upon the record made on the general educational~~

1 ~~development—test~~ SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A HIGH SCHOOL
2 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5),
3 C.R.S.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-22.5-404, **amend**
5 (4) (a) (XI) as follows:

6 **17-22.5-404. Parole guidelines.** (4) (a) In considering offenders
7 for parole, the state board of parole shall consider the totality of the
8 circumstances, which include, but need not be limited to, the following
9 factors:

10 (XI) Whether the offender SUCCESSFULLY completed or worked
11 toward completing a high school diploma, a ~~general equivalency degree~~
12 HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
13 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., or a college degree during his or her period of
14 incarceration.

15 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-32-105, **amend**
16 (1) introductory portion and (1) (d) as follows:

17 **17-32-105. Development of correctional education program -**
18 **goals and objectives - performance objectives - evaluation - transfers**
19 **of custody - reports.** (1) On and after July 1, 1990, the correctional
20 education program ~~shall have responsibility~~ IS RESPONSIBLE for ~~the~~
21 ~~provision of~~ PROVIDING educational services to persons in correctional
22 facilities under the control of the department and for ~~the development and~~
23 ~~implementation of~~ DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING a comprehensive
24 competency-based educational and vocational program, which ~~program~~
25 ~~shall~~ MUST conform to the goals and objectives outlined in this subsection
26 (1). The correctional education program may be implemented in phases
27 with the goals and objectives implemented in all facilities in the order

1 specified in this subsection (1); except that the goal and objective stated
2 in paragraph (a) of this subsection (1) ~~shall~~ MUST be implemented in all
3 correctional facilities no later than July 1, 1991, and the entire program
4 ~~shall~~ MUST be completely implemented in all correctional facilities no
5 later than July 1, 1992. The program shall continue to operate
6 instructional services currently offered in correctional facilities until such
7 services are incorporated in or replaced by instructional services offered
8 under the correctional education program. The correctional education
9 program ~~shall~~ MUST encompass the following goals and objectives:

10 (d) Fourth, to provide every person in a correctional facility who
11 has an expectation of release from custody within five years and who has
12 demonstrated the intellectual capacity with the opportunity to ~~obtain the~~
13 ~~equivalent of a high school education~~ SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A HIGH
14 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102
15 (8.5), C.R.S. A person who wishes to receive a standard high school
16 diploma ~~shall~~ MUST meet the graduation requirements established by the
17 school district where he or she was last enrolled or pass ~~an~~ THE HIGH
18 SCHOOL equivalency examination. To be eligible to receive credit for
19 completion of a course required for the receipt of a high school diploma,
20 a person ~~shall have satisfied~~ MUST SATISFY the requirements for ~~such~~ THE
21 course AS established by the school district where he or she was last
22 enrolled.

23 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-204, **amend**
24 (2.3) (a) as follows:

25 **18-1.3-204. Conditions of probation - interstate compact**
26 **probation transfer cash fund - creation.** (2.3) (a) When granting
27 probation, the court may, as a condition of probation, require any

1 defendant who is less than eighteen years of age at the time of sentencing
2 to attend school or an educational program or to work toward the
3 attainment of a high school diploma or a ~~GED~~ THE SUCCESSFUL
4 COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, as that term
5 is defined in section 22-33-102 (~~7~~) (8.5), C.R.S.; except that the court
6 shall not require any such juvenile to attend a school from which he or
7 she has been expelled without the prior approval of that school's local
8 board of education.

9 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 19-2-207 as
10 follows:

11 **19-2-207. Juvenile parole board - authority.** The board ~~shall~~
12 ~~have the authority to~~ MAY grant, deny, defer, suspend, revoke, or specify
13 or modify the conditions of any parole for any juvenile committed to the
14 department of human services under section 19-2-601 or 19-2-907 in ~~such~~
15 a manner ~~as~~ THAT is in the best interests of the juvenile and the public. In
16 addition to any other conditions, the board may require, as a condition of
17 parole, any adjudicated juvenile to attend school or an educational
18 program or to work toward the attainment of a high school diploma or a
19 ~~GED~~ THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
20 EXAMINATION, as that term is defined in section 22-33-102 (~~7~~) (8.5),
21 C.R.S.; except that the board shall not require any such juvenile to attend
22 a school from which he or she has been expelled without the prior
23 approval of that school's local board of education. The board shall
24 promulgate rules that establish criteria under which its parole decisions
25 are made. The board ~~shall have~~ HAS the duties and responsibilities
26 specified in part 10 of this article.

27 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-2-1002, **amend**

1 (1) (a), (3) (b) (I), and (9) (c) (I) as follows:

2 **19-2-1002. Juvenile parole.** (1) **Juvenile parole board -**
3 **hearing panels authority.** (a) The juvenile parole board, referred to in
4 this part 10 as the "board", established pursuant to section 19-2-206 is
5 ~~authorized to~~ MAY grant, deny, defer, suspend, revoke, or specify or
6 modify the conditions of any parole for any juvenile committed to the
7 department of human services as provided in sections 19-2-601 and
8 19-2-907. In addition to any other conditions, the board may require, as
9 a condition of parole, any adjudicated juvenile to attend school or an
10 educational program or to work toward the attainment of a high school
11 diploma or ~~a GED~~ THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A HIGH SCHOOL
12 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, as that term is defined in section 22-33-102
13 ~~(7)~~ (8.5), C.R.S.; except that the board shall not require any such juvenile
14 to attend a school from which he or she has been expelled without the
15 prior approval of that school's local board of education. The board may
16 modify any of its decisions, or those of the hearing panel, except an order
17 of discharge.

18 (3) (b) (I) In addition to any other conditions, the hearing panel
19 may require, as a condition of parole, any adjudicated juvenile to attend
20 school or an educational program or to work toward the attainment of a
21 high school diploma or ~~a GED~~ THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A HIGH
22 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, as that term is defined in section
23 22-33-102 ~~(7)~~ (8.5), C.R.S.; except that the hearing panel shall not require
24 any such juvenile to attend a school from which he or she has been
25 expelled without the prior approval of that school's local board of
26 education.

27 (9) **Parole discharge.** (c) The board may discharge a juvenile

1 from parole before completion of the mandatory six-month parole period
2 when the board finds that the juvenile meets, at a minimum, all of the
3 following conditions of special achievement:

4 (I) Graduation from a public or accredited nonpublic high school
5 or SUCCESSFUL completion of a ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
6 EXAMINATION, as that term is defined in section 22-33-102 ~~(7)~~ (8.5),
7 C.R.S.;

8 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-2-112, **amend** (2)
9 as follows:

10 **22-2-112. Commissioner - duties.** (2) In accordance with section
11 22-2-107 (1) (c), the commissioner shall establish requirements enabling
12 residents of this state who are seventeen years of age or older or who are
13 sixteen years of age and satisfy the requirements of section 22-33-104.7
14 to ~~earn a high school equivalency certificate upon satisfaction of said~~
15 ~~requirements~~ SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
16 EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5).

17 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-132, **amend**
18 (2) (b) as follows:

19 **22-32-132. Diplomas - veterans.** (2) Notwithstanding any
20 provision of subsection (1) of this section to the contrary, a board of
21 education of a school district may award a diploma:

22 (b) Even though an honorably discharged veteran has already
23 ~~received a general educational development high school equivalency~~
24 ~~certificate~~ SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
25 EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5).

26 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-33-102, **repeal**
27 (7); and **add** (8.5) as follows:

1 **22-33-102. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context
2 otherwise requires:

3 (7) ~~"General educational development tests" or "GED" means the~~
4 ~~battery of tests given at an authorized testing center, which tests are~~
5 ~~designed and published by the GED testing service of the American~~
6 ~~council on education to measure the major outcomes and concepts~~
7 ~~generally associated with four years of high school education. Each GED~~
8 ~~testing center must have a current contract with the American council on~~
9 ~~education and be authorized by the commissioner of education.~~

10 (8.5) "HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION" MEANS THE
11 STATE BOARD APPROVED BATTERY OF TESTS THAT ARE DESIGNED TO
12 MEASURE THE MAJOR OUTCOMES AND CONCEPTS GENERALLY ASSOCIATED
13 WITH FOUR YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND THAT ARE
14 ADMINISTERED AT A TESTING CENTER THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE
15 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC NEED AND TESTING
16 VOLUME.

17 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 22-33-104.7
18 as follows:

19 **22-33-104.7. Eligibility for the general educational**
20 **development tests.** (1) A student who is sixteen years of age and who
21 submits written evidence of a need to take the ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL
22 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION to be eligible for an educational or
23 vocational program is eligible to sit for the ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL
24 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION after complying with all statutory and
25 regulatory requirements in regard to ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
26 EXAMINATION testing.

27 (2) (a) A student who is sixteen years of age and who is subject

1 to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court is eligible to sit for the ~~GED~~ HIGH
2 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION if the judicial officer or
3 administrative hearing officer who has responsibility for the student's case
4 finds that sitting for the ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION
5 is in the student's best interests based on:

6 (I) The number of credits that the student has earned toward high
7 school graduation and the number needed to graduate;

8 (II) The outcome of previous credit recovery and school
9 reengagement plans, if any, created for the student by the school in which
10 the student was most recently enrolled; and

11 (III) The desires of the student and the student's parent concerning
12 returning to school or sitting for the ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
13 EXAMINATION.

14 (b) Before sitting for the ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
15 EXAMINATION, a student who is eligible pursuant to paragraph (a) of this
16 subsection (2) shall comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements
17 in regard to ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION testing.

18 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-33-203, **amend**
19 (2) (a) as follows:

20 **22-33-203. Educational alternatives for expelled students.**

21 (2) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection
22 (2), upon request of a student or the student's parent or guardian, the
23 school district shall provide, for any student who is expelled from the
24 school district, any educational services that are deemed appropriate for
25 the student by the school district. The educational services provided ~~shall~~
26 **MUST** be designed to enable the student to return to the school in which
27 he or she was enrolled prior to expulsion, to successfully complete the

1 ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, or to enroll in a
2 nonpublic, nonparochial school or in an alternative school, including but
3 not limited to a charter school or a pilot school established pursuant to
4 article 38 of this title. The expelling school district shall determine the
5 amount of credit the student ~~shall~~ MUST receive toward graduation for the
6 educational services provided pursuant to this section.

7 **SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-38-104, **amend**
8 (10) as follows:

9 **22-38-104. Pilot schools - requirements - authority.** (10) In
10 addition to the students enrolled at each pilot school pursuant to section
11 22-38-111, a pilot school may enter into an agreement pursuant to section
12 22-33-203 (2) with a school district or with a board of cooperative
13 services to provide educational services to enable expelled students to
14 either return to school or successfully complete the ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL
15 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5).
16 Students receiving such services ~~shall~~ ARE not be considered to be
17 enrolled at the pilot school, and, if the pilot school provides full-time
18 residential facilities, students receiving such services need not reside at
19 the pilot school.

20 **SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 23-7-110, **amend**
21 (1), (2) (b), and (3) as follows:

22 **23-7-110. Tuition classification of students who successfully**
23 **complete high school or a high school equivalency examination in**
24 **Colorado.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the
25 contrary, a student, other than a nonimmigrant alien, ~~shall~~ MUST be
26 classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes if:

27 (a) The student attended a public or private high school in

1 Colorado for at least three years immediately preceding the date the
2 student either graduated from a Colorado high school or SUCCESSFULLY
3 completed a ~~general equivalency diploma~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
4 EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., in
5 Colorado; and

6 (b) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, within
7 twelve months after graduating or SUCCESSFULLY completing a ~~general~~
8 ~~equivalency diploma~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS
9 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., in Colorado, the student is
10 admitted to a Colorado institution or attends an institution of higher
11 education under a reciprocity agreement pursuant to section 23-1-112.

12 (2) (b) The institution shall not count a student described in
13 paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) as a resident for any purpose other
14 than tuition classification; except that the student is eligible for the
15 college opportunity fund program pursuant to the provisions of part 2 of
16 article 18 of this title upon confirmation of the student's uniquely
17 identifying student number provided by the local education provider
18 where the student graduated from high school or SUCCESSFULLY
19 completed his or her ~~general equivalency diploma~~ HIGH SCHOOL
20 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5),
21 C.R.S., and may be eligible for institutional or other private financial aid
22 programs.

23 (3) A student who satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) of
24 ~~subsection~~ SUBSECTION (1) of this section, who is subject to the provisions
25 of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section, and who graduated or
26 SUCCESSFULLY completed his or her ~~general equivalency diploma~~ HIGH
27 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102

1 (8.5), C.R.S., prior to September 1, 2013, but was not admitted to an
2 institution within twelve months after graduating or completing the
3 ~~general HIGH SCHOOL equivalency diploma, shall~~ EXAMINATION, MUST be
4 classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes so long as the student
5 has been physically present in Colorado on a continuous basis for at least
6 eighteen months prior to enrolling in the institution.

7 **SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 23-54-101
8 as follows:

9 **23-54-101. University established - role and mission -**
10 **governance.** There is hereby established a university at Denver, to be
11 known as Metropolitan state university of Denver, which shall be a
12 comprehensive institution with modified open admission standards at the
13 baccalaureate level; except that nontraditional students at the
14 baccalaureate level who are at least twenty years of age shall only have
15 as an admission requirement a high school diploma, a ~~GED~~ THE
16 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A high school equivalency ~~certificate~~
17 EXAMINATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., or the
18 equivalent thereof. Metropolitan state university of Denver shall offer a
19 variety of liberal arts and science, technical, and educational programs.
20 The university may offer a limited number of professional programs. In
21 furtherance of its role and mission, Metropolitan state university of
22 Denver may offer master's degree programs that address the needs of its
23 urban service area.

24 **SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-37.5-703.5,
25 **amend** (5) (g) as follows:

26 **24-37.5-703.5. Education data subcommittee - created - duties**
27 **- repeal.** (5) The education data subcommittee shall have the following

1 duties:

2 (g) To identify a method or methods, if feasible, for assigning a
3 unique student identifier as part of the department of education record
4 integration tracking system or an alternative tracking system employing
5 interagency data-sharing, for each person enrolled in an adult basic
6 education program or A high school ~~general~~ equivalency ~~diploma~~
7 EXAMINATION program.

8 **SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 25-9-106.5
9 as follows:

10 **25-9-106.5. Education and experience - substitution allowed.**

11 Water and wastewater facility operator applicants must have a high
12 school diploma or have successfully completed the ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL
13 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, as defined in section 22-33-102 ~~(7)~~ (8.5),
14 C.R.S.; except that experience or relevant training may be substituted for
15 the high school diploma or ~~GED~~ SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE HIGH
16 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION. Education, training as established
17 under section 25-9-104 (2), and cross-experience may be substituted for
18 experience requirements for certification as a water facility operator, as
19 a water distribution system operator, as a domestic wastewater facility
20 operator, as a wastewater collection system operator, as an industrial
21 wastewater treatment facility operator, or as a multiple facility operator;
22 except that at least fifty percent of any experience requirement ~~shall~~ MUST
23 be met by actual on-site operating experience in a water facility or a
24 wastewater facility, as the case may be. For the lowest classification of
25 operator in each category, the board may establish rules allowing
26 complete substitution of education for experience for any applicant who
27 passes the applicable examination. For purposes of this section,

1 "cross-experience" means that experience as a wastewater treatment
2 facility operator may be substituted for experience requirements for
3 certification as water treatment facility operator and vice versa.

4 **SECTION 18.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-20.5-502,
5 **amend** (1) as follows:

6 **25-20.5-502. Definitions.** As used in this part 5, unless the
7 context otherwise requires:

8 (1) "School-based health center" means a clinic established and
9 operated within a public school building, including charter schools and
10 state-sanctioned ~~GED~~ HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION
11 programs associated with a school district, or on public school property
12 by the school district. School-based health centers are operated by school
13 districts in cooperation with hospitals, public or private health care
14 organizations, licensed medical providers, public health nurses,
15 community health centers, and community mental health centers. The
16 term "school-based health center" includes clinics or facilities authorized
17 to provide clinic services ~~under~~ PURSUANT TO section 26-4-513, C.R.S.,
18 or authorized to apply for and receive medical assistance payments under
19 a contract entered into pursuant to section 26-4-531, C.R.S.

20 **SECTION 19.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-708, **amend**
21 (1) as follows:

22 **26-2-708. Assistance - assessment - individual responsibility**
23 **contract - waivers for domestic violence.** (1) Subject to the provisions
24 of the federal law, the provisions of this section, and available
25 appropriations, a county department shall perform an assessment for a
26 new participant who is eighteen years of age or older, or who is sixteen
27 years of age or older but has not yet attained the age of eighteen years of

1 age and has not completed high school or ~~obtained a certificate of~~
2 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A high school equivalency EXAMINATION, AS
3 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-33-102 (8.5), C.R.S., and is not attending high
4 school or participating in a high school equivalency EXAMINATION
5 program. The initial assessment ~~shall~~ MUST be completed no more than
6 thirty days after the submission of the application for assistance under the
7 works program. Updated assessments may be conducted at the discretion
8 of the county department.

9 **SECTION 20.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3-1702, **amend**
10 (1) (c) (III) as follows:

11 **28-3-1702. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
12 hereby finds and declares that:

13 (c) An evaluation of similar programs for eligible youth operating
14 in other states indicates that:

15 (III) Eighty percent of the students in these programs ~~obtained a~~
16 ~~GED~~ SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY
17 EXAMINATION, either during the time in which they were participating in
18 the programs or within one year after graduating from the programs; and

19 **SECTION 21.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3-1703, **amend**
20 (2) as follows:

21 **28-3-1703. Definitions.** As used in this part 17, unless the context
22 otherwise requires:

23 (2) "~~GED~~" "HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION" means
24 ~~a certificate that demonstrates that a person has passed the~~ STATE BOARD
25 APPROVED battery of tests ~~given at a testing center authorized by the~~
26 commissioner of education that are designed to measure the major
27 outcomes and concepts generally associated with four years of high

1 school education AND THAT ARE ADMINISTERED AT A TESTING CENTER
2 THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BASED ON
3 GEOGRAPHIC NEED AND TESTING VOLUME.

4 **SECTION 22.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 28-3-1704, **amend**
5 (1) as follows:

6 **28-3-1704. Youth challenge corps program - authority - youth**
7 **challenge corps program fund - creation.** (1) The department is hereby
8 authorized to operate a youth challenge corps program through the use of
9 National Guard or other facilities and equipment for the purpose of
10 providing eligible youth with a program to help them obtain A high school
11 ~~diplomas or GEDs~~ DIPLOMA OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A HIGH SCHOOL
12 EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION, increase their employment potential, and
13 enhance their education and life skills. The program ~~shall~~ MUST be
14 structured as a five-and-one-half-month residential phase that focuses on
15 education and practical life skills, followed by a twelve-month,
16 post-residential phase that involves skilled and trained mentors who
17 support the program graduates. The department ~~shall~~ IS not ~~be~~ obligated
18 to implement the program if adequate appropriations or federal or other
19 moneys are not available.

20 **SECTION 23. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
21 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.