

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 11-0680.01 Julie Pelegrin

**SENATE BILL 11-133**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hudak and Newell**, Foster, Giron, Steadman, Bacon, Jahn, King K.

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Nikkel**, Ferrandino, Gardner B., Kagan, Levy, Waller, Solano

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**Senate Committees**

Judiciary  
Legislative Council

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING A STUDY OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN IN PUBLIC**  
102     **SCHOOLS.**

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

The bill directs the Colorado commission on criminal and juvenile justice (commission) to instruct the juvenile justice task force (task force) to create a working group to study and collect data concerning the use of criminal justice sanctions and specified school discipline strategies in the public schools in the state. The working group, at a minimum, will seek

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.*

input from students, parents, community organizations, and school and school district employees in conducting the study. In conducting the study, the working group shall request and may receive nonidentifying information from law enforcement agencies, school districts, public schools, and state agencies. The working group is also encouraged to conduct other qualitative research and to hold public hearings around the state.

The working group will report its findings and recommendations to the task force, which will report to the commission by November 15, 2011. By December 15, 2011, the commission will report its findings and any recommendations for legislative changes to the education and judiciary committees of the general assembly.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Part 1 of article 33 of title 22, Colorado Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
4 read:

5 **22-33-111. School discipline study - legislative declaration -**  
6 **task force appointed - report - repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
7 FINDS THAT:

8 (I) SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION  
9 PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A THOROUGH AND UNIFORM  
10 SYSTEM OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FREE  
11 EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE STATE SO THAT THEY ARE  
12 PREPARED TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE AND ENGAGED MEMBERS OF SOCIETY;

13 (II) TO THAT END, PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHOULD BE SAFE, WELCOMING,  
14 AND ENGAGING PLACES FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE  
15 POLICIES AND PRACTICES SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PROTECT STUDENTS  
16 FROM HARM, CREATE HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE LEARNING  
17 ENVIRONMENTS, ASSIST YOUTH IN LEARNING FROM THEIR MISTAKES, AND  
18 MAXIMIZE STUDENTS' OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN.

19 (III) IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE, ZERO-TOLERANCE

1 POLICIES HAVE LED TO STUDENTS BEING REMOVED FROM SCHOOL  
2 THROUGH OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, AND REFERRALS TO  
3 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS FOR MINOR INCIDENTS OF MISBEHAVIOR THAT  
4 COULD BE MORE APPROPRIATELY DEALT WITH USING MORE EFFECTIVE  
5 STRATEGIES;

6 (IV) SIMILARLY, PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE, STUDENTS  
7 ARE BEING TICKETED, ARRESTED, OR OTHERWISE REFERRED TO LAW  
8 ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FOR MINOR MISBEHAVIOR THAT COULD BE DEALT  
9 WITH USING MORE EFFECTIVE SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY METHODS; AND

10 (V) THESE PROBLEMS EXIST AND THEY CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH  
11 DROPOUT RATES, LOW GRADUATION RATES, ACHIEVEMENT GAPS, AND  
12 LONG-TERM COSTS TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE FORM OF LESS EDUCATED  
13 AND LESS PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

14 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS NECESSARY  
15 AND APPROPRIATE TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO ASSESS THE  
16 CURRENT USE OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE STRATEGIES AS THEY RELATE TO THE  
17 JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, ALONG WITH EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS  
18 THAT PROMOTE DISCIPLINE STRATEGIES TO KEEP STUDENTS IN SCHOOL  
19 AND REDUCE THE CRIMINALIZATION OF SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIORS.

20 (2) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED A LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE TO  
21 STUDY AND ASSESS:

22 (a) CURRENT SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PRACTICES AND STATUTES  
23 CONCERNING ZERO TOLERANCE PRACTICES IN COLORADO SCHOOLS;

24 (b) THE USE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TICKETS, ARRESTS, AND OTHER  
25 JUVENILE JUSTICE SANCTIONS FOR SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIORS IN  
26 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN COLORADO; AND

27 (c) THE INTERACTION OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PRACTICES WITH THE

1 JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN COLORADO.

2 (3) (a) (I) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF SIX LEGISLATIVE  
3 MEMBERS APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

4 (A) THREE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, TWO OF WHOM ARE  
5 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND ONE OF WHOM IS  
6 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE; AND

7 (B) THREE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TWO OF  
8 WHOM ARE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE OF WHOM IS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY  
10 LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

11 (II) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE THEIR  
12 APPOINTMENTS NO LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
13 OF THIS SECTION. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL SELECT A  
14 LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEMBER TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE TASK  
15 FORCE, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL  
16 SELECT A LEGISLATIVE MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE TO SERVE AS  
17 VICE-CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE.

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19 (b) (I) THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
20 JOINTLY SELECT UP TO TEN PERSONS TO SERVE AS NON-VOTING MEMBERS  
21 OF THE TASK FORCE AND TO ASSIST THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE  
22 MEMBERS IN REVIEWING THE ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THIS SECTION. THE  
23 NON-VOTING MEMBERS SHALL INCLUDE PERSONS WITH KNOWLEDGE AND  
24 EXPERIENCE IN THE AREAS OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE  
25 AND WHO REPRESENT THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUENCIES:

26 (A) SCHOOL DISTRICTS;

27 (B) TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC

1 SCHOOLS;  
2 (C) STUDENTS AND PARENTS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC  
3 SCHOOLS;  
4 (D) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES;  
5 (E) DISTRICT ATTORNEYS;  
6 (F) CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS;  
7 (G) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTITIONERS; AND  
8 (H) COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.  
9 (II) THE NON-VOTING TASK FORCE MEMBERS SHALL SERVE  
10 WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.  
11 (4) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL HOLD AT LEAST FOUR PUBLIC  
12 MEETINGS AND MAY HOLD ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MEETINGS AS DEEMED  
13 NECESSARY BY THE CHAIR. AT THE MEETINGS, THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
14 TAKE TESTIMONY ON AND DISCUSS THE TOPICS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION  
15 (2) OF THIS SECTION. THE TASK FORCE MAY ALSO SOLICIT AND RECEIVE  
16 WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.  
17 (b) IN ADDITION TO TESTIMONY, THE TASK FORCE SHALL REVIEW  
18 ANY AVAILABLE, NON-IDENTIFYING COLORADO DATA COLLECTED BY THE  
19 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT  
20 AGENCIES IN STUDYING ISSUES RELATING TO ZERO-TOLERANCE LAWS AND  
21 PRACTICES AND THE USE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SANCTIONS FOR  
22 SCHOOL-BASED ADOLESCENT BEHAVIORS. THE TASK FORCE MAY ALSO  
23 SOLICIT INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE  
24 LEGISLATURES, OTHER NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER  
25 STATES OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE STUDIED OR INTRODUCED  
26 LEGISLATION CONCERNING EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING  
27 SCHOOL DISCIPLINE ISSUES.

1           (5) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF AND THE OFFICE OF  
2           LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE  
3           TASK FORCE.

4           (6) THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND  
5           RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN  
6           ACCORDANCE WITH JOINT RULE 24 (b) (1) (D) OF THE SENATE AND THE  
7           HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS  
8           ON BILLS SPECIFIED IN SAID JOINT RULE. \_\_\_

9           (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2012.

10           **SECTION 2. No appropriation.** The general assembly has  
11           determined that this act can be implemented within existing  
12           appropriations, and therefore no separate appropriation of state moneys  
13           is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

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