



**Colorado
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Council
Staff**

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MEMORANDUM

July 13, 2015

TO: Members of the School Safety and Youth in Crisis Interim Committee

FROM: Kerry White, Principal Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-3469
 Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Research Analyst, 303-866-3028
 Lisa Gezelter, Research Analyst, 303-866-3264

SUBJECT: Overview of the School Safety and Youth in Crisis Interim Committee

This memorandum provides an overview of the membership of the School Safety and Youth in Crisis Interim Committee, the charge of the committee, bill limits and request deadlines applicable to the committee, and information regarding committee staff.

Background and Committee Membership

The committee was created through the passage of Senate Bill 15-214. The committee includes eight voting legislative members, as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1
Voting Committee Membership**

Representatives	Senators
Crisanta Duran	Bill Cadman
Dominick Moreno	Andy Kerr
Yeulin Willett	Linda Newell
Jim Wilson	Mark Scheffel

The voting members of the committee will choose a chair and a vice-chair at the committee's first meeting.

The Governor was authorized to select eight persons to serve as non-voting members of the committee, as shown in Table 2, below.

**Table 2
Non-Voting Committee Membership**

Name	Representing
Gregory Thomas McDonald	a licensed school counselor
David J. Crews	a superintendent of a school district
Heidi Ganahl	a parent of a student who attended or who is attending a school in a school district serving more than 5,000 students
Melissa Ann Silvia	a parent of a student who attended or who is attending a school in a school district serving less than 5,000 students
Sharyl Kay Lawson	a licensed school educator and a person who has experience working with children with disabilities
Linda Ann Weinerman	a statewide organization that advocates for juveniles and juvenile justice issues
Kate O'Donnell Angevine	a member with experience with child or adolescent mental health issues
Christine Rankin Harms	a member who has experience with school safety or the prevention of violence

Legislative members may receive per diem and necessary expenses. Non-legislative members serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

Committee Details and Charge

According to the committee's authorizing legislation, the committee may meet up to six times each legislative interim and as necessary throughout the year.¹ Topics to be studied include: issues relating to school safety and threat prevention in public and private schools; programs and methods for identifying and monitoring students in crisis; standardized criteria for school personnel to use in assessing potential threats; and the implementation of Senate Bill 15-213.

The committee is charged with studying and evaluating the implementation of SB 15-213, which allows school districts and charter schools to be held liable if they fail to exercise reasonable care in protecting students, faculty, or staff from reasonably foreseeable acts of violence while at the school or engaged in school activities.

The committee's evaluation of the implementation of SB 15-213 should include, but is not limited to: the duty of school districts and charter schools to exercise reasonable care to protect students, faculty, and staff from harm when the harm is reasonably foreseeable; any statutory provisions that may require modification to reflect local community circumstances and standards; and any recommendations the committee may have concerning steps that a school district or charter school may take to satisfy its duty of reasonable care.

¹Section 27-15-101, C.R.S.

The committee may form subcommittees and other groups of interested parties for the performance of its duties.

A calendar of meeting dates and meeting topics will be prepared at the first meeting, which is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, at 9:00 am in House Committee Room 0112.**

The committee is scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2019.

Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill recommendation limits and approval. The committee may recommend up to five bills for Legislative Council approval. Bills approved by the Legislative Council *do not* count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session for each bill.² Prior to voting on bills to report to the Legislative Council, a fiscal analysis must be prepared.³ In order to ensure timely preparation of fiscal analyses of drafted legislation, the date by which the committee must make all requests for drafting is October 2, 2015. The committee must meet no later than November 2, 2015, in order to vote on bills to forward to the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council must meet to review interim committee recommendations by November 15, 2015. Bills not approved by Legislative Council may be introduced in the regular session, but such bills *will* count against a member's five-bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to consideration by the Legislative Council.⁴

Committee Staff

The Legislative Council Staff (LCS) and Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) are charged with assisting the interim committee in its activities. If you have any questions or need additional information about the committee, please contact schoolsafetycomm.ga@state.co.us or the Legislative Council Main Office at 303-866-3521. In addition, individual staff member contact information is as follows:

- Kerry White, LCS, kerry.white@state.co.us, 303-866-3469
- Lisa Gezelter, LCS, lisa.gezelter@state.co.us, 303-866-3264
- Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, LCS, rachel.kurtz-phelan@state.co.us, 303-866-3028
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²Joint Rule 24 (b)(1)(D)

³Section 2-2-322, C.R.S.

⁴Joint Rule 24 (b) (1) (E)