

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 06-0518.01 Richard Sweetman

**SENATE BILL 06-073**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Tapia,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

---

**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE AGE SPECIFICATIONS RELATING TO COMPULSORY**  
102     **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Lowers the minimum age of compulsory school attendance from 7 to 6 years. Raises the maximum age of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 17 years.

---

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. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
2 hereby declares that:

3            (a) The minimum age for compulsory school attendance in  
4 Colorado shall be six years of age;

5            (b) The maximum age for compulsory school attendance in  
6 Colorado shall be eighteen years of age;

7            (c) Students who are being instructed under a nonpublic  
8 home-based educational program pursuant to section 22-33-104.5, C.R.S.,  
9 shall not be subject to the minimum age requirement for compulsory  
10 school attendance and, so long as such students continue to be instructed  
11 under a nonpublic home-based educational program, shall not be subject  
12 to the maximum age requirement for compulsory school attendance; and

13            (d) The provisions in section 22-33-104, C.R.S., concerning the  
14 minimum and maximum ages for compulsory school attendance shall not  
15 apply to a child who is temporarily ill or injured or whose absence is  
16 approved by the administrator of the school of attendance.

17            **SECTION 2.** 22-33-104 (1), (1.5), (2) (j), and (5) (a), Colorado  
18 Revised Statutes, are amended, and the said 22-33-104 (2), Colorado  
19 Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW  
20 PARAGRAPH, to read:

21            **22-33-104. Compulsory school attendance.** (1) (a) Except as  
22 otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, every child who has  
23 attained the age of ~~seven~~ SIX years and is under the age of ~~sixteen~~  
24 EIGHTEEN years, except as provided by this section, shall attend public  
25 school for at least THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF HOURS DURING EACH  
26 SCHOOL YEAR:

27            (I) One thousand fifty-six hours if a secondary school pupil; ~~or~~

1 (II) Nine hundred sixty-eight hours if an elementary school pupil  
2 ~~during each school year; except that in no case shall~~ IN A GRADE OTHER  
3 THAN KINDERGARTEN;

4 (III) NINE HUNDRED HOURS IF A FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN PUPIL;  
5 OR

6 (IV) FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY HOURS IF A HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN  
7 PUPIL.

8 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF  
9 THIS SUBSECTION (1), a school or schools SHALL NOT be in session for  
10 fewer than one hundred sixty days without the specific prior approval of  
11 the commissioner of education.

12 (c) A student who participates in an on-line program pursuant to  
13 the provisions of section 22-33-104.6 shall be deemed to attend school in  
14 accordance with the requirements of this subsection (1).

15 ~~(1.5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this~~  
16 ~~section and any other provision of this article relating to compulsory~~  
17 ~~school attendance, the compulsory school attendance laws apply to a~~  
18 ~~six-year-old child who has been enrolled in a public school in the first~~  
19 ~~grade or in a higher grade level. In such circumstances, the courts may~~  
20 ~~issue orders to compel compliance with the compulsory school attendance~~  
21 ~~requirements of this article. However, this subsection (1.5) shall not~~  
22 ~~apply to a six-year-old child whose parent or legal guardian chooses to~~  
23 ~~withdraw such child.~~

24 (2) (j) Who is enrolled in a school where the state board of  
25 education has approved a lesser number of days; OR

26 (k) WHO IS SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND HAS ENLISTED IN  
27 MILITARY SERVICE.

1 (5) (a) The general assembly hereby declares that two of the most  
2 important factors in ensuring a child's educational development are  
3 parental involvement and parental responsibility. The general assembly  
4 further declares that it is the obligation of every parent to ensure that  
5 every child under such parent's care and supervision receives adequate  
6 education and training. Therefore, every parent of a child who has  
7 attained the age of ~~seven~~ SIX years and is under the age of ~~sixteen~~  
8 SEVENTEEN years shall ensure that such child attends the public school in  
9 which such child is enrolled in compliance with this section.

10 **SECTION 3.** 22-33-104.7, Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read:

12 **22-33-104.7. Eligibility for the general educational**  
13 **development tests.** Any child ~~sixteen~~ EIGHTEEN years of age who  
14 submits written evidence of a need to take the GED to be eligible for an  
15 educational or vocational program shall be eligible to sit for the GED  
16 after complying with all statutory and regulatory requirements in regard  
17 to GED testing.

18 **SECTION 4.** 22-33-107 (3) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read:

20 **22-33-107. Enforcement of compulsory school attendance.**  
21 (3) (a) As used in this subsection (3), a child who is "habitually truant"  
22 means a child who has attained the age of ~~seven~~ SIX years and is under the  
23 age of ~~sixteen~~ EIGHTEEN years having four unexcused absences from  
24 public school in any one month or ten unexcused absences from public  
25 school during any school year. Absences due to suspension or expulsion  
26 of a child shall be considered excused absences for purposes of this  
27 subsection (3).

1           **SECTION 5.** 22-2-112 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read:

3           **22-2-112. Commissioner - duties.** (2) In accordance with  
4 section 22-2-107 (1) (c), the commissioner shall establish requirements  
5 enabling residents of this state who are ~~seventeen~~ EIGHTEEN years of age  
6 or older or who are sixteen years of age and satisfy the requirements of  
7 section 22-33-104.7 to earn a high school equivalency certificate upon  
8 satisfaction of said requirements.

9           **SECTION 6.** 22-2-124 (2) (c) (I), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended to read:

11           **22-2-124. Family literacy education grant program -**  
12 **rule-making - repeal.** (2) As used in this section, unless the context  
13 otherwise requires:

14           (c) "Eligible adult" means a person who meets the following  
15 criteria:

16           (I) Is at least ~~sixteen~~ EIGHTEEN years of age;

17           **SECTION 7.** 22-52-102 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read:

19           **22-52-102. Eligible students.** (1) In order to be eligible to  
20 participate in the second chance program, a child shall be a dropout  
21 between ~~sixteen~~ EIGHTEEN and twenty-one years of age who has been  
22 recommended for participation in the program by his OR HER school  
23 district of residence with the concurrence of the child, ~~his~~ THE CHILD'S  
24 parent, and the receiving district; but no such child shall be eligible to  
25 participate in the second chance program if he OR SHE has achieved a high  
26 school diploma or its equivalent.

27           **SECTION 8.** 23-1-119 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes, is

1 amended to read:

2 **23-1-119. Commission directive - transition between K-12**  
3 **education system and postsecondary education system.** (4) For  
4 purposes of this section, "postsecondary" means related to instruction of  
5 students over the age of ~~sixteen~~ EIGHTEEN years who are not enrolled in  
6 a regular program of kindergarten through grade twelve in a public,  
7 independent, or parochial school.

8 **SECTION 9.** 23-20-131, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
9 to read:

10 **23-20-131. Free pupil from each county.** Each county is entitled  
11 to send one pupil under the age of ~~sixteen~~ EIGHTEEN years to said  
12 university, tuition free, said pupil to be selected by competitive  
13 examination before the county superintendent of such county and given  
14 to the highest scholarship.

15 **SECTION 10.** 23-60-103 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended to read:

17 **23-60-103. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the context  
18 otherwise requires:

19 (3) "Postsecondary" means related to instruction of students over  
20 the age of ~~sixteen~~ EIGHTEEN years who are not enrolled in a regular  
21 program of kindergarten through grade twelve in a public, independent,  
22 or parochial school.

23 **SECTION 11. Effective date.** This act shall take effect July 1,  
24 2007.

25 **SECTION 12. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
26 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
27 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.