

**.Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 12-0173.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 12-1124**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Massey,** Fields, Hamner, Holbert, Levy, Peniston

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Johnston,**

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**House Committees**  
Education

**Senate Committees**  
Education

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING A STUDY OF DIGITAL LEARNING IN COLORADO.**

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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 department of education (department) to commission a study of the issues surrounding integration of digital learning into the statewide system of public education in Colorado. The department will select a Colorado-based entity to complete the study. The study is funded by gifts, grants, or donations. If the department does not receive sufficient moneys to complete the study, it will not commission the study. The study will be completed and submitted to the state board

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.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 20, 2012

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 17, 2012

of education, the governor, and the education committees of the general assembly by January 31, 2013.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-2-140 as  
3 follows:

4 **22-2-140. Digital learning study - legislative declaration -**  
5 **definitions - notice of funding through gifts, grants, and donations -**  
6 **repeal.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

7 (a) THE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN DIGITAL LEARNING  
8 TECHNOLOGIES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS SUGGEST  
9 MANY PROMISING STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION IF  
10 THESE TECHNOLOGIES ARE EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATED INTO THE PUBLIC  
11 EDUCATION SYSTEM;

12 (b) A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM IS NECESSARY TO  
13 ENABLE THE STATE TO MAINTAIN A WELL-EDUCATED CITIZENRY AND  
14 ATTRACT AND SUPPORT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN  
15 THE STATE TO STABILIZE AND GROW THE STATE'S ECONOMY;

16 (c) INCREASING THE USE OF DIGITAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES IN  
17 PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO INCREASE HIGH-QUALITY  
18 EDUCATION AND DECREASE THE COSTS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, HELPING  
19 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, PARTICULARLY SMALL, RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS,  
20 MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL THEIR STUDENTS;

21 (d) TO CLOSE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS, INCREASE GRADUATION RATES,  
22 AND PREPARE STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY  
23 WORKFORCE, PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST PROVIDE A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY  
24 EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT ENCOURAGES INNOVATION AND  
25 ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF EDUCATION AND PROVIDES HIGH-QUALITY

1 OPTIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS IN COLORADO;

2 (e) IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE TO STUDY HOW TO  
3 EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE DIGITAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES INTO PUBLIC  
4 EDUCATION, THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THIS  
5 INTEGRATION, THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS  
6 INTEGRATION, AND STRATEGIES FOR USING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO HELP  
7 THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE BETTER SERVE ALL STUDENTS.

8 (2) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
9 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

10 (a) "BLENDED LEARNING" MEANS COMBINING ON-LINE LEARNING  
11 WITH OTHER MODES OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY INCLUDING ON-SITE  
12 INSTRUCTION AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR AT A LEARNING CENTER AS DEFINED  
13 IN SECTION 22-30.7-102 (4). "BLENDED LEARNING" INVOLVES COMBINING  
14 THE TRADITIONAL, IN-PERSON DELIVERY OF EDUCATION SERVICES WITH  
15 THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATION SERVICES USING AN ON-LINE OR  
16 COMPUTER-BASED ENVIRONMENT THAT PROVIDES SOME DEGREE OF  
17 STUDENT CONTROL OVER TIME, PLACE, AND PACE.

18 (b) "DIGITAL LEARNING" MEANS ANY TYPE OF LEARNING THAT IS  
19 FACILITATED BY TECHNOLOGY.

20 (c) "ON-LINE LEARNING" MEANS INSTRUCTION VIA A WEB-BASED  
21 EDUCATION DELIVERY SYSTEM THAT INCLUDES SOFTWARE TO PROVIDE A  
22 STRUCTURED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. "ON-LINE LEARNING" MAY BE  
23 TEACHER-LED EDUCATION THAT TAKES PLACE OVER THE INTERNET WHILE  
24 THE TEACHER AND STUDENT ARE SEPARATED GEOGRAPHICALLY. "ON-LINE  
25 LEARNING" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, AN ON-LINE PROGRAM, AS  
26 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-30.7-102 (9) AND A MULTI-DISTRICT PROGRAM, AS  
27 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-30.7-102 (6).

1 (d) "STUDY" MEANS THE STUDY OF DIGITAL LEARNING IN  
2 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONS PURSUANT TO  
3 SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.

4 (e) "SUPPLEMENTAL ON-LINE COURSE" MEANS AN EDUCATION  
5 COURSE THAT IS:

6 (I) DELIVERED VIA AN INTERNET FORMAT TO ONE OR MORE  
7 STUDENTS AT A LOCATION THAT IS REMOTE FROM THE DELIVERY POINT;

8 AND

9 (II) PURCHASED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF COOPERATIVE  
10 SERVICES, OR PUBLIC SCHOOL FROM A PROVIDER TO AUGMENT THE  
11 EDUCATION PROGRAM PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF  
12 COOPERATIVE SERVICES, OR PUBLIC SCHOOL.

13 (3) (a) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2012, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
14 EDUCATION SHALL COMMISSION A STUDY OF DIGITAL LEARNING IN  
15 COLORADO, INCLUDING HOW TO EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE DIGITAL  
16 LEARNING INTO PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, HOW TO MAKE  
17 HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL CONTENT AND LEARNING AVAILABLE TO ALL  
18 STUDENTS, AND THE COSTS OF INTEGRATING DIGITAL LEARNING INTO THE  
19 STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION. AT A MINIMUM, THE STUDY  
20 SHALL ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES, INCLUDING THE DEGREE TO  
21 WHICH THEY ARE ALREADY ADDRESSED IN COLORADO, AND ANY  
22 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS, AT BOTH THE LOCAL AND STATE LEVELS, TO  
23 ADDRESS THE ISSUES AND EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE DIGITAL LEARNING  
24 INTO THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION:

25 (I) UNIVERSAL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR AND ACCESS TO DIGITAL  
26 LEARNING;

27 (II) THE ABILITY OF STUDENTS IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

1 TO CUSTOMIZE THEIR EDUCATION USING DIGITAL CONTENT THROUGH A  
2 DIGITAL LEARNING PROVIDER;

3 (III) THE ABILITY OF STUDENTS TO DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY  
4 BASED ON A STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT;

5 (IV) THE QUALITY OF THE DIGITAL CONTENT, INSTRUCTIONAL  
6 MATERIALS, AND ON-LINE LEARNING AND BLENDED LEARNING COURSES  
7 THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR MEASURING,  
8 MONITORING, AND IMPROVING QUALITY;

9 (V) THE QUALITY OF THE DIGITAL LEARNING INSTRUCTION  
10 AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH TEACHERS ARE  
11 ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH DIGITAL LEARNING;

12 (VI) STUDENT ACCESS TO MULTIPLE, HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL  
13 LEARNING PROVIDERS FROM WHICH TO SELECT ON-LINE LEARNING OR  
14 BLENDED LEARNING COURSES OR CONTENT;

15 (VII) METHODS FOR ENSURING THAT THE CONTENT AND  
16 INSTRUCTION PROVIDED THROUGH DIGITAL LEARNING IS HIGH QUALITY, AS  
17 MEASURED BY STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH AND PERFORMANCE;

18 (VIII) THE FINANCIAL BENEFITS AND IMPACTS TO SCHOOL  
19 DISTRICTS, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR DIGITAL LEARNING USING A MODEL  
20 THAT CREATES INCENTIVES FOR PERFORMANCE, OPTIONS, AND  
21 INNOVATION;

22 (IX) THE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT DIGITAL  
23 LEARNING AND ENSURE CONSISTENT AVAILABILITY THROUGHOUT THE  
24 STATE;

25 (X) THE MECHANISMS OTHER STATES USE TO PROVIDE FUNDING AT  
26 THE STATE LEVEL AND THE LOCAL LEVEL FOR DIGITAL LEARNING;

27 (XI) THE MANNER IN WHICH OTHER STATES HAVE ADDRESSED THE

1 INTEGRATION OF DIGITAL LEARNING INTO THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS;

2

3 (XII) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES  
4 THAT THE STATE APPLIES TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INCLUDING  
5 ACHIEVEMENT ON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS, ACADEMIC GROWTH,  
6 CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, AND POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE  
7 READINESS, ARE APPROPRIATE AND SUFFICIENT TO MEASURE THE  
8 PERFORMANCE OF ON-LINE SCHOOLS; AND

9 (XIII) PROTOCOLS FOR TRANSFERRING THE CREDITS THAT A  
10 STUDENT EARNS BY COMPLETING A SUPPLEMENTAL ON-LINE COURSE OR  
11 WHILE ENROLLED IN A FULL-TIME ON-LINE SCHOOL TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT  
12 OR PUBLIC SCHOOL IN WHICH THE STUDENT SUBSEQUENTLY ENROLLS.

13 (b) IN CONDUCTING THE STUDY AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS,  
14 THE SELECTED ENTITY SHALL ALSO REVIEW THE STATE STATUTES AND  
15 RULES CONCERNING DIGITAL LEARNING AND RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE  
16 CHANGES.

17 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT A COLORADO-BASED ENTITY  
18 WITH EXPERIENCE IN STUDYING PUBLIC EDUCATION ISSUES IN THE STATE  
19 TO COMPLETE THE STUDY. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT SELECT AN  
20 ENTITY THAT IS A PROVIDER OF DIGITAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES OR  
21 SERVICES OR THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE IN A POSITION TO PROFIT  
22 MONETARILY FROM ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MAY BE INCLUDED IN  
23 THE STUDY REPORT. THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE  
24 REQUIREMENTS OF THE "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES 101 TO 112 OF  
25 TITLE 24, C.R.S., IN SELECTING THE ENTITY TO COMPLETE THE STUDY. NO  
26 LATER THAN JULY 1, 2012, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT IN WRITING  
27 TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE GOVERNOR, AND THE

1 EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE  
2 SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, THE NAME OF THE ENTITY  
3 COMMISSIONED TO CONDUCT THE STUDY.

4 (5) (a) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,  
5 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE  
6 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION; EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT  
7 ACCEPT A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION THAT IS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS  
8 THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THIS SECTION OR ANY OTHER LAW OF THE  
9 STATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION UNTIL IT  
10 RECEIVES SUFFICIENT MONEYS IN GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO  
11 COMPLETE THE STUDY.

12 (b) (I) IN SEEKING OR ACCEPTING A GIFT, GRANT, OR DONATION,  
13 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF WHEN  
14 IT HAS RECEIVED ADEQUATE MONEYS THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR  
15 DONATIONS TO COMPLETE THE STUDY AND SHALL INCLUDE IN THE  
16 NOTIFICATION THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN SECTION 24-75-1303 (3),  
17 C.R.S.

18 (II) THIS PARAGRAPH (b) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015.

19 (6) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT THE COMPLETED STUDY TO  
20 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE GOVERNOR, AND THE EDUCATION  
21 COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR  
22 ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2013.

23 (7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013.

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