A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING CREATING A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY IN SCHOOLS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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 creates the school safety and youth mental health committee (committee) to:

! Study issues relating to school safety and the prevention of threats to the safety of students, teachers, administrators, employees, and volunteers;

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.
Study and evaluate programs and methods for identifying and monitoring students in crisis;
Develop standardized criteria for school personnel to use in assessing the potential threat posed by one or more students; and
Make recommendations to the education committees of the general assembly.

The committee shall meet at least 4 times each legislative interim and may meet as necessary throughout the year. Each appointing party shall make his or her appointment or appointments to the committee on or before June 1, 2015.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add article 15 to title 22 as follows:

ARTICLE 15

Interim Committee on School Safety

and Youth in Crisis

22-15-101. School safety and youth in crisis committee - created - membership - repeal. (1) (a) The school safety and youth in crisis committee, referred to within this article as the "committee", is hereby created to:

(I) Study issues relating to school safety and the prevention of threats to the safety of students, teachers, administrators, employees, and volunteers who are present on the grounds of each public and private school in the state;

(II) Study and evaluate programs and methods for identifying and monitoring students in crisis; and

(III) Develop standardized criteria for school personnel to use in assessing the potential threat posed by one or more students.
(b) The committee may recommend legislative changes that shall be treated as legislation recommended by an interim committee for purposes of any introduction deadlines or bill limitations imposed by the joint rules of the General Assembly.

(c) The committee shall meet no more than six times each legislative interim, unless additional meetings are authorized by the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council, and may meet as necessary throughout the year.

(2) (a) The committee shall include eight voting members, as follows:

(I) Four members of the Senate, no more than two of whom shall be from the same political party, with two members to be appointed by the President of the Senate and two members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(II) Four members of the House of Representatives, no more than two of whom shall be from the same political party, with two members to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two members to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

(b) The committee shall include six nonvoting members, as follows:

(I) One member who is a licensed school counselor, to be appointed by the Governor;

(II) One member who is a licensed school educator and experienced in working with children with disabilities, as defined in Section 22-20-103 (5) (a), to be appointed by the Governor;

(III) One member who is a parent of a student who
ATTENDED OR WHO IS ATTENDING A SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT SERVING FIVE THOUSAND STUDENTS OR LESS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(IV) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A PARENT OF A STUDENT WHO ATTENDED OR WHO IS ATTENDING A SCHOOL OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT SERVING MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND STUDENTS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

(V) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A SUPERINTENDENT OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR; AND

(VI) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR JUVENILES AND JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

(c) EACH APPOINTING PARTY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) SHALL MAKE HIS OR HER APPOINTMENT OR APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2015.

(d) EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE MAY SERVE INDEFINITELY AT THE DISCRETION OF HIS OR HER APPOINTING PARTY.

(3) THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY ELECT ONE MEMBER TO SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE AND ONE MEMBER TO SERVE AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE.

(4) NONLEGISLATIVE MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES. THE LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY RECEIVE PER DIEM AND NECESSARY TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES AS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHO ATTEND INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-2-307, C.R.S.

(5) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF AND THE STAFF OF THE
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES SHALL ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(6) THIS ARTICLE IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. (1) For the 2015-16 state fiscal year, $25,857 is appropriated to the legislative department. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation as follows:

(a) $16,881 for use by the legislative council, which amount is based on an assumption that the legislative council will require an additional 0.3 FTE; and

(b) $8,976 for use by the general assembly.

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