



Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff

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MEMORANDUM

July 27, 2011

TO: Members of the Legislative Task Force to Study School Discipline

FROM: Kelli Kelty, Senior Research Assistant, 303-866-3518
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SUBJECT: Overview of the Legislative Task Force to Study School Discipline

This memorandum provides an overview of the membership of the Legislative Task Force to Study School Discipline, with a focus on the charge of the task force, bill limits, and bill request deadlines applicable to the task force.

Task Force Membership

Senator Linda Newell
Chair

Senator Evie Hudak
Senator Keith King

Representative B.J. Nikkel
Vice-Chair

Representative Claire Levy
Representative Libby Szabo

In addition to the six legislative members of the task force, the chair and vice-chair are authorized to jointly select up to ten nonvoting members with experience and knowledge in the areas of school discipline and juvenile justice to serve on the task force. Nonvoting members serve without reimbursement for expenses or per diem. The chair and vice-chair have selected the following 10 individuals to serve as nonvoting members of the task force:

- *Stephanie Garcia*, representing school districts;
- *Lori Smith*, representing teachers and administrators;
- *Yvette Plummer*, representing parents;
- *Sgt. Doug Ross*, representing law enforcement agencies;
- *Chief John Jackson*, representing law enforcement agencies;
- *Stan Garnett*, representing district attorneys;
- *Kim Dvorchak*, representing criminal defense attorneys;
- *Ben Cairns*, representing restorative justice practitioners;
- *Marco Nuñez*, representing community organizations; and
- *Marjorie "Peg" Rudden*, representing child advocate organizations.

Meeting Dates

The task force is scheduled to meet on the following dates during the 2011 interim:

Wednesday, July 27, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., HCR 0112

Wednesday, August 24, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., HCR 0112

Tuesday, August 30, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., HCR 0112

Monday, September 12, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., HCR 0112

Wednesday, October 12, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., HCR 0112

Tuesday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., HCR 0112

The sixth meeting of the task force may not be necessary if the committee takes a final vote on proposed legislation during the fifth meeting.

Task Force Details and Charge

Pursuant to Senate Bill 11-133, the Legislative Task Force to Study School Discipline is required to hold at least four public meetings. Additional public meetings may be held at the discretion of the chair. At the meetings, the task force is required to take public testimony on and discuss the following topics:

- current school discipline practices and statutes concerning zero-tolerance practices in Colorado schools;
- the use of law enforcement tickets, arrests, and other juvenile justice sanctions for school-based behaviors in elementary and secondary public schools in Colorado; and
- the interaction of school discipline practices with the juvenile justice system in Colorado.

The task force may also solicit and receive written comments from members of the public.

In addition, the task force is required to review any available, non-identifying Colorado data collected by the Department of Education, school districts, or law enforcement agencies in studying issues relating to zero-tolerance laws and practices and the use of juvenile justice sanctions for school-based adolescent behaviors. The task force may also solicit information from the National Conference of State Legislatures, other national research organizations, and other states or organizations that have studied or introduced legislation concerning evidence-based practices for addressing school discipline issues.

Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill limits. The task force may recommend no more than eight bills to the Legislative Council, unless the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council approves a greater number. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session.¹

Legislative Council review. The Legislative Council is tentatively set to review interim committee recommendations on *November 8, 2011*. 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.² Bill sponsors do not need to be members of the Legislative Task Force to Study School Discipline.

Requirements for bill drafts. Requests for bill drafts must be made no later than the *Monday, September 12, 2011*, meeting of the task force to allow sufficient time for drafting and final consideration by the members. Final proposed legislation must be approved on or before the final meeting of the task force, which is scheduled for *Tuesday, October 18, 2011*, in order to be considered at the *November 8, 2011*, meeting of the Legislative Council.

¹Joint Rule 24 (b)(1)(D)

²Joint Rule 24 (b)(1)(E)