

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 25-0508.01 Shelby Ross x4510

**HOUSE BILL 25-1160**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Garcia Sander and Lukens,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Michaelson Jenet,**

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**House Committees**  
Health & Human Services

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING CREATING THE YOUTH PREVENTION MENTAL HEALTH**  
102                    **PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE STUDENTS ACCESS TO AN ONLINE**  
103                    **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PREVENTION TOOL.**

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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://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill creates the youth prevention mental health pilot program (pilot program) in the behavioral health administration (BHA) to provide 42,000 students access to an electronic multicomponent behavioral health prevention tool (prevention tool).

No later than January 1, 2026, the bill requires the BHA to enter

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

into a contract with a third party to administer the pilot program. The third party must have the capability to provide access to a prevention tool that includes access to online behavioral health educational resources, peer-to-peer support services, and online private counseling sessions with a behavioral health professional.

The pilot program repeals on June 30, 2027.

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 27-50-806** as follows:

**27-50-806. Youth prevention mental health pilot program - created - appropriation - report - rules - repeal.** (1) (a) THERE IS CREATED IN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION A YOUTH PREVENTION MENTAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FORTY-TWO THOUSAND STUDENTS ACCESS TO AN ELECTRONIC MULTICOMPONENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PREVENTION TOOL.

(b) THE PILOT PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE STUDENTS FROM AT LEAST ONE URBAN COUNTY, ONE RURAL COUNTY, AND ONE SUBURBAN COUNTY.

(c) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE BHA MAY EXPAND THE PILOT PROGRAM TO SERVE MORE THAN FORTY-TWO THOUSAND STUDENTS OR TO OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE.

(2) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026, THE BHA SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A THIRD PARTY TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM AND SHALL COMPLY WITH THE "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES 101 TO 112 OF TITLE 24, IN SELECTING AND CONTRACTING WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR.

(3) THE THIRD PARTY SELECTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION MUST HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO AN ELECTRONIC MULTICOMPONENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PREVENTION TOOL

1 THAT INCLUDES:

2 (a) ACCESS TO ONLINE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATIONAL  
3 RESOURCES;

4 (b) PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING A  
5 PRE-MODERATED ONLINE PEER CHAT SPACE; AND

6 (c) ONLINE PRIVATE COUNSELING SESSIONS WITH A BEHAVIORAL  
7 HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSED IN COLORADO.

8 (4) THE BHA SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR IMPLEMENTING  
9 THIS SECTION, INCLUDING ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS  
10 FOR A THIRD PARTY TO ENSURE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE  
11 ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM AND A PROCESS FOR SELECTING  
12 A THIRD PARTY TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

13 (5) IN ITS 2027 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEES OF  
14 REFERENCE MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE BHA SHALL  
15 INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT PROGRAM AND WHETHER  
16 ANY CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT WOULD  
17 INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND SHALL INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION  
18 OF WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED. AT A MINIMUM,  
19 THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

20 (a) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO  
21 WERE PROVIDED ACCESS TO THE ELECTRONIC MULTICOMPONENT TOOL  
22 THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM;

23 (b) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO  
24 UTILIZED THE ELECTRONIC MULTICOMPONENT TOOL;

25 (c) THE TOTAL AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS PILOT PROGRAM  
26 PARTICIPANTS UTILIZED THE ELECTRONIC MULTICOMPONENT TOOL;

27 (d) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND

1 THE HOURS OF DIRECT PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED  
2 THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM;

3 (e) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT  
4 REFERRALS TO CRISIS SERVICES THAT OCCURRED THROUGH THE PILOT  
5 PROGRAM; AND

6 (f) USER SATISFACTION WITH THE ELECTRONIC MULTICOMPONENT  
7 TOOL AND OTHER SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM.

8 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2027.

9 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
10 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
11 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
12 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
13 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
14 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
15 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
16 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
17 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.