

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 24-0355.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 24-1170**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR YOUTH**  
102 **IN FACILITIES OPERATED BY THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES.**

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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 establishes in statute a bill of rights for youth who are the responsibility of the department of human services (department), whether the youth is detained or committed to the care and physical custody of a juvenile facility operated by the department.

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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.*

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 16, 2024

HOUSE  
Amended 3rd Reading  
February 26, 2024

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 23, 2024

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) The Colorado department of human services' division of youth  
5 services provides for the care and supervision of youth committed by a  
6 district court to the custody of the department of human services;

7 (b) The division of youth services operates 15 secure youth  
8 centers that serve youth between the ages of 10 and 21 who are  
9 pre-adjudicated or committed;

10 (c) In addition to residential programming, the division of youth  
11 services administers juvenile parole services throughout Colorado;

12 (d) The division of youth services' mission is to protect, restore,  
13 and improve public safety utilizing a continuum of care that provides  
14 effective supervision, promotes accountability to victims and  
15 communities, and helps youth lead constructive lives through positive  
16 youth development;

17 (e) Even in youth detention facilities, there are ways to provide the  
18 treatment and support that youth need when their exposure to violence has  
19 manifested in antisocial and sometimes unsafe behaviors;

20 (f) During the 2022 fiscal year, the division of youth services  
21 screened approximately 3,402 youth for secure detention and served 622  
22 youth in commitment; and

23 (g) The strategic plan for the division of youth services includes:

24 (I) Creating and nurturing a safe and trauma-responsive  
25 organizational culture;

26 (II) Creating and maintaining a highly skilled, engaged, and  
27 diverse workforce;

1 (III) Implementing interventions to reduce risk and improve youth  
2 outcomes; and

3 (IV) Ensuring that all division of youth services settings support  
4 physical safety and security.

5 (2) The general assembly therefore declares that it is in the best  
6 interests of the youth of Colorado to codify a bill of rights for youth in the  
7 care of the division of youth services, whether they are being detained or  
8 committed, to ensure these youth maintain certain rights regardless of  
9 who may be in any position of power or leadership within or over the  
10 division of youth services.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-2.5-1501, **amend**  
12 (1)(b)(IV) and (1)(b)(V); and **add** (1)(b)(VI) as follows:

13 **19-2.5-1501. Division of youth services - created - interagency**  
14 **agreements - duties of administrators of facilities in connection with**  
15 **voter registration and casting of ballots - reports - definitions.**

16 (1) (b) The purposes of the division are to:

17 (IV) Enable youth to develop healthy, supportive relationships  
18 with peers, adults, family, and members of their neighborhoods and  
19 communities; ~~and~~

20 (V) Provide youth with the tools necessary to become  
21 law-abiding, contributing members of the community upon their release;

22 AND

23 (VI) ENSURE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
24 UPHOLDS THE RIGHTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 19-2.5-1502.5  
25 AND 19-2.5-1511 FOR YOUTH DETAINED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND  
26 PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A FACILITY OPERATED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
27 OF HUMAN SERVICES.

1           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 19-2.5-1502.5  
2 as follows:

3           **19-2.5-1502.5. Bill of rights for youth in a juvenile facility.**

4           (1) TO REALIZE A VISION OF GREATER YOUTH SUCCESS AND SAFER  
5 COLORADO COMMUNITIES, THE STATE'S POLICY IS THAT A YOUTH  
6 DETAINED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A  
7 FACILITY, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-2.5-1502 (1), HAS THE RIGHT TO:

8           (a) BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY;

9           (b) BE FREE TO PRACTICE THE YOUTH'S RELIGIOUS FAITH,  
10 PROVIDED THAT THE PRACTICES OR ACTIVITIES DO NOT POSE A THREAT TO  
11 THE SAFETY, ORDER, OR SECURITY OF THE JUVENILE FACILITY;

12           (c) BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR,  
13 RELIGION, SEX, PREGNANCY, DISABILITY, AGE, MARITAL STATUS,  
14 ETHNICITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER **ORIENTATION**, OR SEXUAL  
15 IDENTITY;

16           (d) RECEIVE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS RELATED TO A  
17 DISABILITY;

18           (e) VOTE IF THE YOUTH HAS THE LEGAL RIGHT TO DO SO; AND

19           (f) BE FREE FROM CORPORAL PUNISHMENT; HARASSMENT; MENTAL  
20 OR PHYSICAL ABUSE; INTIMIDATION; PROPERTY DAMAGE; HUMILIATION; OR  
21 INTERFERENCE WITH THE NORMAL BODILY FUNCTIONS OF EATING,  
22 SLEEPING, OR USING THE BATHROOM.

23           (2) IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER RIGHTS GRANTED PURSUANT TO  
24 THIS SECTION, A YOUTH DETAINED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND  
25 PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A JUVENILE FACILITY OPERATED BY THE  
26 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES HAS THE RIGHT TO:

27           (a) HAVE REASONABLE ACCESS TO MEDIA AND INFORMATION

1 ABOUT THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE FACILITY, BOTH LOCALLY AND  
2 NATIONALLY;

3 (b) REVIEW THE YOUTH'S OWN RECORD, AS ALLOWED BY LAW;

4 (c) HAVE REASONABLE ACCESS TO PHONE CALLS TO APPROVED  
5 FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND OTHER SUPPORTS;

6 (d) EXERCISE PHYSICALLY ON A DAILY BASIS, IN ACCORDANCE  
7 WITH THE YOUTH'S PREFERENCES, IF REASONABLE AND PRACTICABLE;

8 (e) BE INFORMED OF FACILITY RULES WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS  
9 AFTER THE YOUTH'S PLACEMENT IN THE FACILITY AND HAVE THE SAME  
10 RULES AVAILABLE ON THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES' WEBSITE, AT THE  
11 JUVENILE FACILITY, AND UPON REQUEST TO THE YOUTH'S PARENT OR  
12 LEGAL GUARDIAN;

13 (f) BE FREE FROM MANDATORY UNPAID WORK OUTSIDE OF BASIC  
14 YOUTH RESPONSIBILITIES SUCH AS DAILY CLEAN-UP AND MAINTENANCE OF  
15 LIVING AREAS; AND

16 (g) LIVE IN A TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT INFORMED BY  
17 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES.

18 (3) IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER RIGHTS GRANTED PURSUANT TO  
19 THIS SECTION, A YOUTH DETAINED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND  
20 PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A JUVENILE FACILITY OPERATED BY THE  
21 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES HAS THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS RELATED  
22 TO MEDICAL CARE:

23 (a) ACCESS TO A HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO  
24 HOURS AFTER A REQUEST FOR CARE, OR SOONER IF THE CIRCUMSTANCES  
25 WARRANT, TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY CARE;

26 (b) ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN  
27 SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AFTER A REQUEST FOR CARE, OR SOONER IF THE

1 CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR MEDICALLY  
2 NECESSARY CARE;

3 (c) UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES  
4 QUALIFIED HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER, ACCESS TO NECESSARY AND  
5 APPROPRIATE MEDICATIONS, INCLUDING MEDICATIONS FOR SUBSTANCE  
6 WITHDRAWAL AND MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT;

7 (d) THE RIGHT TO REFUSE THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANY  
8 PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT;

9 (e) ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE RELATED TO PREGNANCY AND  
10 REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, INCLUDING PRENATAL, PERINATAL, AND  
11 POSTNATAL CARE;

12 (f) THE RIGHTS PROVIDED TO A PREGNANT OR POSTPARTUM  
13 JUVENILE PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-2.5-1118.5, INCLUDING, BUT NOT  
14 LIMITED TO, THE RIGHT TO ACCESS A PREGNANCY TEST AND KEEP THE  
15 RESULTS CONFIDENTIAL; THE RIGHT TO HAVE THE PREGNANCY AND  
16 POSTPARTUM PERIODS CONSIDERED IN SEEKING A STAY OF EXECUTION OF  
17 SENTENCE; AND A CONSIDERATION OF SENTENCE REDUCTION;

18 (g) FREEDOM FROM LEG AND WAIST RESTRAINTS WHILE PREGNANT  
19 AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER DELIVERY; AND

20 (h) ACCESS TO GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE.

21 (4) IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER RIGHTS GRANTED PURSUANT TO  
22 THIS SECTION, A YOUTH DETAINED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND  
23 PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A JUVENILE FACILITY OPERATED BY THE  
24 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES HAS THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS RELATED  
25 TO LEGAL ISSUES:

26 (a) ACCESS TO THE YOUTH'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE,  
27 UNENCUMBERED ACCESS TO COURTS, CONFIDENTIAL PHONE CALLS AND

1 VISITS WITH THE YOUTH'S LEGAL COUNSEL, AND THE TIMELY DELIVERY OF  
2 LETTERS TO THE YOUTH'S LEGAL COUNSEL;

3 (b) UNIMPEDED PHONE ACCESS TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD  
4 PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN HOTLINE AND THE AGENCY DESIGNATED  
5 PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR  
6 INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 10801 ET SEQ.,  
7 AS AMENDED, AS THE STATE'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM;

8 (c) THE RIGHT TO FILE A GRIEVANCE WITH STAFF OR A COMPLAINT  
9 WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN OR THE AGENCY  
10 DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL "PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY  
11 FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 10801 ET  
12 SEQ., AS AMENDED, AS THE STATE'S PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM  
13 AND NOT TO BE SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT OR RETALIATION AS A RESULT;

14 (d) THE RIGHT TO FILE A GRIEVANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
15 DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES' POLICIES IF THE YOUTH FEELS ANY OF THE  
16 RIGHTS ACCORDED TO THE YOUTH PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN  
17 VIOLATED AND NOT TO BE SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT OR RETALIATION AS  
18 A RESULT; AND

19 (e) THE RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS IN A DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING.

20 (5) IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER RIGHTS GRANTED PURSUANT TO  
21 THIS SECTION, A YOUTH DETAINED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND  
22 PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A JUVENILE FACILITY OPERATED BY THE  
23 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES HAS THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

24 (a) TO NOT BE PLACED IN HOUSING UNITS SOLELY ALLOCATED TO  
25 GROUPS OF YOUTH BASED ON THE YOUTH'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR  
26 STATUS AS A TRANSGENDER, NON-BINARY, OR INTERSEX YOUTH;

27 (b) FREEDOM FROM SEARCHES THAT ARE INTENDED SOLELY TO

- 1 DETERMINE THE YOUTH'S PHYSICAL ANATOMY;
- 2 (c) AFTER REVIEW AND APPROVAL, USE OF THE YOUTH'S  
3 PREFERRED NAME AND GENDER, EVEN IF NOT LEGALLY UPDATED;
- 4 (d) THE PROVISION OF CLOTHING THAT FITS APPROPRIATELY; IS IN  
5 ACCORDANCE WITH THE YOUTH'S GENDER IDENTITY; AND ENSURES THE  
6 YOUTH'S SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND COMFORT;
- 7 (e) FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, PROVIDED THE EXPRESSION DOES  
8 NOT INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHTS OR SAFETY OF OTHERS OR THE SAFETY  
9 OF THE FACILITY;
- 10 (f) PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF THE YOUTH'S CHOOSING, INCLUDING  
11 FACIAL AND HEAD HAIR, REGARDLESS OF THE YOUTH'S GENDER OR GENDER  
12 IDENTITY, PROVIDED THAT IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH SAFETY AND  
13 ALLOWS FOR REASONABLE IDENTIFICATION BY STAFF;
- 14 (g) PARTICIPATION IN ALL ACTIVITIES, REGARDLESS OF THE  
15 YOUTH'S GENDER IDENTITY, UNLESS THE ACTIVITY IS A  
16 GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROGRAM AND THE FACILITY DIRECTOR DETERMINES  
17 THAT PARTICIPANTS OF DIFFERING GENDERS WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE TO THE  
18 GROUP;
- 19 (h) SEARCHES THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE YOUTH'S PRIVACY  
20 AND DIGNITY AND ACCESS TO WRITTEN POLICIES CONCERNING WHO MAY  
21 PERFORM SEARCHES AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING POLICIES ON CROSS-GENDER  
22 SEARCHES OF TRANSGENDER YOUTH;
- 23 (i) AFTER REVIEW AND APPROVAL, AN INTAKE AND SEARCH WITH  
24 AN EMPLOYEE MATCHING THE YOUTH'S GENDER IDENTITY;
- 25 (j) COMPLETION OF A FORM WITH THE YOUTH UPON INTAKE THAT  
26 DETAILS THE YOUTH'S GENDER IDENTITY;
- 27 (k) CONFIDENTIALITY CONCERNING THE YOUTH'S GENDER



1 IDENTITY AND MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY, IN ACCORDANCE  
2 WITH EXISTING LAW; AND

3 (1) ACCESS TO SEPARATE SHOWERS AND BATHROOMS CONSISTENT  
4 WITH THE YOUTH'S GENDER IDENTITY.

5 (6) IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER RIGHTS GRANTED PURSUANT TO  
6 THIS SECTION, A YOUTH DETAINED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND  
7 PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF A JUVENILE FACILITY OPERATED BY THE  
8 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES HAS THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS RELATED  
9 TO EDUCATION:

10 (a) ACCESS TO GRADE-LEVEL WORK AND TRANSFERABLE CREDIT  
11 FOR EDUCATIONAL COURSES THAT WILL COUNT TOWARD A DIPLOMA,  
12 WHETHER THE YOUTH IS FROM A FACILITY OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
13 OF HUMAN SERVICES OR A PUBLIC SCHOOL;

14 (b) THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE CLASSES, TO THE EXTENT  
15 FEASIBLE, THAT PREPARE THE YOUTH FOR THE YOUTH'S DESIRED FUTURE,  
16 INCLUDING COURSES REQUIRED FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION, IF THAT IS THE  
17 YOUTH'S GOAL;

18 (c) IF THE YOUTH IS COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND PHYSICAL  
19 CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND HAS OBTAINED  
20 A GED OR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY  
21 EDUCATION;

22 (d) THE FULL, FAIR, AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, TO  
23 THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, IN EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS,  
24 INCLUDING A SCHOOL-TO-WORK ALLIANCE PROGRAM, IF ELIGIBLE. BEFORE  
25 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MAY DENY A YOUTH THE RIGHT TO  
26 EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
27 SERVICES SHALL PRESENT SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY THE DENIAL

1 OF THIS RIGHT.

2 (e) FOR A YOUTH WITH A DISABILITY RECOGNIZED BY SECTION 504  
3 OF THE FEDERAL "REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973", 29 U.S.C. SEC. 794, AS  
4 AMENDED; THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION  
5 ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED; OR COLORADO'S  
6 "EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ACT", ARTICLE 20 OF TITLE 22,  
7 ACCESS TO A FREE AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION.

8 (7) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL UPDATE THE  
9 HANDBOOK USED BY THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES TO INCLUDE THE  
10 BILL OF RIGHTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTIONS (1) THROUGH (6) OF THIS  
11 SECTION. THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES SHALL ENSURE THAT EVERY  
12 YOUTH WHO IS COMMITTED TO THE CARE AND PHYSICAL CUSTODY OF THE  
13 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES RECEIVES A COPY OF THE HANDBOOK,  
14 INCLUDING THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

15 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
18 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
19 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
20 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
21 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
22 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
23 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.