



SUPPORT

HB 1129: Evidence Based Practices for Offender Services

Senator Linda Newell
Representative Brittany Pettersen

- HB 1129 creates in statute an education and consultation center within the Division of Criminal Justice to help agencies and practitioners that serve offender populations implement evidence-based practices.
- HB 1129 is initiated and supported by the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.
- Evidence based practices in criminal justice are increasingly important in Colorado and nationwide as practitioners and policymakers look for ways to improve offender outcomes and contain correctional costs.
- HB 1129 codifies a current collaborative effort known as EPIC (Evidence-Based Practices Implementation for Capacity) between the Colorado Departments of Public Safety, Corrections, and Human Services and the Judicial Branch to increase the efficacy of professionals who work with various offender populations by providing education, skill-building, and consultation in evidence-based practices and the science of implementation.
- **Preliminary recidivism data show that among parolees whose supervising officer participated in EPIC, rearrest was delayed by 17.4%. Additional data analysis is underway and will be reported to the legislature, as required by HB 1129.**
- The techniques employed by the team of professionals at EPIC extends beyond traditional classroom instruction, and includes coaching, measurement feedback, direct skill practice, and continuous quality improvement options, all of which are based in research and implementation science. Research shows that traditional classroom training does not build skills or change behavior, but that coaching and practicing build skills that are readily applicable on the job.
- EPIC began with grant funds and in three years has educated and coached over 2,600 Colorado professionals from dozens of agencies in probation, parole, behavioral health, and community corrections.
- HB 1129 will provide the statutory recognition and funding for the EPIC project to reach additional criminal justice professionals and build on promising preliminary research findings.

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Supporters on back

Supporters of HB 13-1129

- Colorado Department of Corrections
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado State Judicial Branch- Probation
- Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice