

Second Regular Session
Sixty-eighth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 12-0693.01 Bob Lackner x4350

HOUSE BILL 12-1245

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Fields, Ferrandino

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING OPTIONS REGARDING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR
102 GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

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 a 13-member group purchase of health care insurance by government employees task force (task force) to meet in the 2012 interim to study issues involving the pooling of resources among state and local government employees in the state to purchase health care insurance and related products, report its findings and recommendations,

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.

and, if appropriate, propose statutory modifications.

The bill specifies the required qualifications of the members of the task force and additional requirements governing the appointing authorities and procedures of the task force.

The task force is required to study, make recommendations, and report findings on all matters relating to the group purchase of health care insurance by government employees, including, without limitation, innovative solutions and strategies for leveraging the purchasing power of state and local governments to expand health care coverage for the employees of such governments and their families at the lowest cost to the taxpayer while addressing any impediments to such goals provided by federal or state law.

The task force is required to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the relevant committees of the general assembly by December 15, 2012. The task force is required to meet at least 4 times, with the first meeting occurring no later than August 1, 2012. Meetings of the task force are public meetings. The task force is required to solicit and accept reports and public testimony and may request other sources to provide testimony, written comments, and other relevant data to the task force.

Members of the task force will serve without compensation and will not be reimbursed for their expenses. Any staff assistance required by the task force shall be performed by existing employees of the department of personnel within existing appropriations.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-50-619 as
3 follows:

4 **24-50-619. Group purchase of health care insurance by**
5 **government employees - task force - legislative declaration - report**
6 **- repeal.** (1) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES,
7 AND DECLARES THAT:

8 (I) THE COST OF THE AVERAGE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM
9 CONTRIBUTION PER STATE EMPLOYEE IS GROWING, WHILE THE OVERALL
10 COST OF HEALTH BENEFITS CONTINUES TO RISE FOR BOTH STATE AND
11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, PUTTING ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON

1 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS;

2 (II) ACKNOWLEDGING THE COLORADO STATE BUDGET'S
3 LIMITATIONS AND THE GROWING COST OF HEALTH CARE, THE GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY SHOULD PURSUE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR CONTAINING
5 COSTS WHILE ENHANCING HEALTH OUTCOMES;

6 (III) SUCH SOLUTIONS SHOULD SPECIFICALLY INVOLVE WAYS TO
7 EXPAND PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE'S GROUP BENEFIT PLANS, LEVERAGE
8 THE BUYING POWER OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN CONNECTION
9 WITH THE PURCHASE OF HEALTH CARE INSURANCE AND RELATED
10 PRODUCTS, CONTROL HEALTH CARE COSTS, AND ENHANCE POSITIVE
11 HEALTH CARE OUTCOMES FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND

12 (IV) GROUP PURCHASE OF HEALTH CARE INSURANCE COVERAGE
13 ON THE PART OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WILL
14 MATERIALLY ADVANCE THE ABILITY OF THE STATE TO SATISFY THE
15 ASPIRATIONS OF THIS PART 6 AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 24-50-602.

16 (b) BY ENACTING THIS SECTION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTENDS
17 THAT THE STATE PARTNER WITH ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING
18 REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES, SPECIAL DISTRICTS,
19 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER PRIVATE ENTITIES, TO RESEARCH
20 INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES FOR, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON,
21 WAYS THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAY POOL THEIR RESOURCES
22 TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE WITH HEALTH CARE
23 BENEFITS COMPARABLE TO THOSE ENJOYED BY THEIR PRIVATE-SECTOR
24 COUNTERPARTS, MEANINGFUL HEALTH CARE CHOICES, AND ALL OF THE
25 ADVANTAGES OF COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AT THE
26 LOWEST COST TO THE TAXPAYER.

27 (2) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE GROUP PURCHASE OF HEALTH

1 CARE INSURANCE BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TASK FORCE, REFERRED TO
2 IN THIS SECTION AS THE "TASK FORCE", WHICH SHALL MEET IN THE
3 INTERIM AFTER THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH
4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO STUDY ISSUES INVOLVING THE POOLING OF
5 RESOURCES AMONG GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE TO PURCHASE
6 HEALTH CARE INSURANCE AND RELATED PRODUCTS, REPORT ITS FINDINGS
7 AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AND, IF APPROPRIATE, PROPOSE STATUTORY
8 MODIFICATIONS CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE AND AIMS SPECIFIED IN
9 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

10 (3) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THIRTEEN MEMBERS AS
11 FOLLOWS:

12 (a) THE DIRECTOR, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE, TO BE APPOINTED BY
13 THE GOVERNOR;

14 (b) THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE,
15 TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

16 (c) A REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNTY TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC., TO
17 BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

18 (d) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF LOCAL
19 BOARDS OF EDUCATION ACROSS THE STATE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE
20 MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE;

21 (e) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLORADO EMPLOYER BENEFIT
22 TRUST, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES;

24 (f) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLORADO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'
25 RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER
26 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;

27 (g) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLORADO COUNTY OFFICIALS AND

1 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE
2 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

3 (h) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A COUNTY IN THE STATE WITH ONE
4 THOUSAND OR MORE EMPLOYEES THAT SELF-INSURES ITS EMPLOYEES'
5 HEALTH CARE COVERAGE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

6 (i) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A MUNICIPALITY IN THE STATE WITH ONE
7 THOUSAND OR MORE EMPLOYEES THAT SELF-INSURES ITS EMPLOYEES'
8 HEALTH CARE COVERAGE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

9 (j) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A SPECIAL DISTRICT IN THE STATE WITH
10 THREE HUNDRED OR MORE EMPLOYEES THAT SELF-INSURES ITS
11 EMPLOYEES' HEALTH CARE COVERAGE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY
12 LEADER OF THE SENATE;

13 (k) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
14 IN THE STATE THAT SELF-INSURES ITS EMPLOYEES' HEALTH CARE
15 COVERAGE, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

16 (l) AN EMPLOYEE OF STATE GOVERNMENT, TO BE APPOINTED BY
17 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND

18 (m) AN EMPLOYEE OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TO BE APPOINTED
19 BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

20 (4) ALL APPOINTMENTS TO THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE MADE BY
21 JUNE 15, 2012.

22 (5) THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS,
23 AND REPORT FINDINGS ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE GROUP
24 PURCHASE OF HEALTH CARE INSURANCE BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES,
25 INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND
26 STRATEGIES FOR LEVERAGING THE PURCHASING POWER OF STATE AND
27 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO EXPAND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR THE

1 EMPLOYEES OF SUCH GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THE LOWEST
2 COST TO THE TAXPAYER WHILE ADDRESSING ANY IMPEDIMENTS TO SUCH
3 GOALS PROVIDED BY FEDERAL OR STATE LAW.

4 (6) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS
5 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
6 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE HEALTH AND
7 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, AND THE LOCAL
8 GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
9 SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, BY DECEMBER 15, 2012. UPON
10 REQUEST OF A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE, SUMMARIES OF DISSENTING
11 OPINIONS SHALL BE PREPARED AND ATTACHED TO THE FINAL REPORT OF
12 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

13 (7) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES, WITH
14 THE FIRST MEETING OCCURRING NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2012.

15 (b) MEETINGS OF THE TASK FORCE ARE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

16 (8) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SOLICIT AND ACCEPT REPORTS AND
17 PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND MAY REQUEST OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING BUT
18 NOT LIMITED TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES,
19 REPRESENTATIVES FROM STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CONSUMER
20 ADVOCATE AND OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND APPROPRIATE
21 TRADE GROUPS, TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY, WRITTEN COMMENTS, AND
22 OTHER RELEVANT DATA TO THE TASK FORCE.

23 (9) (a) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
24 COMPENSATION AND SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR
25 EXPENSES.

26 (b) ANY STAFF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BY THE TASK FORCE SHALL
27 BE PERFORMED BY EXISTING EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

1 PERSONNEL WITHIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS.

2 (10) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014.

3 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.