

Second Regular Session

Sixty-second General Assembly

LLS NO. R00-0442.01 Debbie Haskins

STATE OF COLORADO

BY SENATORS Rupert and Wham;
also Representative Morrison.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 00-029

101 CONCERNING AN INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN.

1 WHEREAS, Many of today's children are faced with increasingly
2 complex issues that were unknown in previous generations; and

3 WHEREAS, The ability of our children to deal effectively with
4 these issues will determine the future of our society; and

5 WHEREAS, The past failure of our society to address these issues
6 adequately is evident in the emotional problems and antisocial behaviors
7 exhibited by many of our children when they reach adolescence and
8 adulthood; and

9 WHEREAS, If the state does not take steps to seek solutions to
10 these issues, it is likely that the incidence of crime and incarceration will
11 continue to rise at alarming rates; and

12 WHEREAS, There is presently a lack of coordination and
13 continuity among the various programs and services available to children
14 and their families to assist in resolving these issues; and

15 WHEREAS, The lack of coordination and continuity among such
16 programs results in program gaps, inconsistencies, duplication of
17 services, inefficiencies, and a fragmented approach to complex and
18 rapidly changing issues affecting children; and

19 WHEREAS, This state stands at a crossroads in which the decision
20 not to address children's issues exacts a dire societal and economic toll,
21 and, conversely, addressing such issues in a comprehensive manner will
22 be both cost effective and beneficial to children and to all citizens of this
23 state; now, therefore,

24 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly*
25 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

26 (1) That there shall be a legislative committee for children,

1 hereinafter referred to as the "committee", which shall meet in the interim
2 after the 2000 regular session of the Sixty-second General Assembly.

3 (2) The committee shall consist of eleven members as follows:

4 (a) Five senators appointed by the President of the Senate, no
5 more than three of whom shall be from the same political party. Of the
6 senators appointed, at least one member of each of the following standing
7 legislative committees shall be appointed: Education; Health,
8 Environment, Welfare, and Institutions; Judiciary; Finance; and
9 Appropriations.

10 (b) Six representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives, no more than four of whom shall be from the same
12 political party. Of the representatives appointed, at least one member of
13 each of the following standing legislative committees shall be appointed:
14 Education; Health, Environment, Welfare, and Institutions; Judiciary;
15 Finance; and Appropriations.

16 (c) The President of the Senate shall appoint a chair of the
17 committee and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
18 a vice-chair of the committee.

19 (3) That the committee shall have the following powers:

20 (a) To create subcommittees from the membership of the
21 committee to assist the committee in carrying out its duties;

22 (b) To suggest that standing committees of the General Assembly,
23 the Joint Budget Committee, and any agencies or entities of state
24 government study and report on designated policy matters relating to
25 children;

26 (c) To conduct such meetings and public hearings in the state as
27 shall be necessary;

28 (d) To perform such other duties as are required by the provisions
29 of this Resolution or as may be requested by the General Assembly.

30 (4) That the committee has the following duties:

31 (a) To study problems that jeopardize the healthy development
32 and well-being of the children of Colorado, including, but not limited to,
33 teen pregnancy, educational underachievement, lack of employment,
34 alcohol and drug abuse, crime, delinquency, emotional illness, mental
35 health issues, birth defects, lack of child care, homelessness, abuse and
36 neglect, violence, and poverty;

37 (b) To define and establish the components, guidelines, and
38 objectives of a comprehensive state policy to ensure and promote present
39 and future safety, health, welfare, and opportunities for all of Colorado's
40 children;

1 (c) To seek and suggest solutions to streamline and resolve
2 interdepartmental gaps, inconsistencies, duplication of services, and
3 inefficiencies through the development and implementation of
4 comprehensive policies encouraging interdepartmental cooperation and
5 coordination in the identification of family needs and the seamless
6 delivery of appropriate services to address those needs;

7 (d) To study and make a recommendation about the merits and
8 efficacy of creating a permanent legislative committee for children;

9 (e) To study any other issues relating to children that the
10 committee determines are necessary to be studied in the interim.

11 (5) That the staff of the Legislative Council, the Office of
12 Legislative Legal Services, and the Joint Budget Committee shall be
13 available to assist the committee in carrying out its duties. In addition,
14 executive departments affecting children shall be called upon to assist and
15 cooperate with the interim committee in carrying out the committee's
16 duties.

17 (6) That all actual and necessary expenses, including per diem,
18 incurred in the conduct of the interim study shall be approved by the
19 chairperson of the Legislative Council and paid by vouchers and warrants
20 drawn as provided by law from funds allocated to the Legislative Council
21 from appropriations made by the General Assembly.