

Second Regular Session

Sixty-second General Assembly

LLS NO. R00-1123.01 Julie Pelegrin

STATE OF COLORADO

BY REPRESENTATIVE Alexander;
also SENATOR Reeves.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 00-1047

101 CONCERNING AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO STUDY SUBSTANCE ABUSE
102 IN COLORADO.

1 WHEREAS, Substance abuse is a serious and expensive problem
2 for the citizens of Colorado; and

3 WHEREAS, In a recent national study creating alcohol and drug
4 problem indices, Colorado had the second worst alcohol abuse problem
5 in the nation and the fifteenth worst drug abuse problem in the nation;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Many of Colorado's "hardest-to-serve" clients on the
8 welfare, mental health, and corrections caseloads have alcohol and
9 substance abuse problems; and

10 WHEREAS, Seventy-five percent of adult offenders in prison and
11 eighty-five percent of juvenile offenders committed to the Division of
12 Youth Corrections have substance abuse treatment needs; and

13 WHEREAS, Many of Colorado's adolescents are smoking
14 cigarettes and marijuana, drinking alcohol, using cocaine and
15 methamphetamines, and experimenting with inhalants at higher levels
16 than their peers nationally; and

17 WHEREAS, A significant number of Colorado's youth need the
18 full continuum of substance abuse services, ranging from outpatient to
19 residential treatment programs, in their own communities; and

20 WHEREAS, The long-term economic costs to society of failing to
21 provide adequate substance abuse prevention, early intervention, and
22 treatment services result in significant medical consequences, premature
23 deaths, impaired productivity at work, increased crime and incarceration,
24 and higher incidents of welfare, motor vehicle accidents, and deaths; and

25 WHEREAS, One out of every seven dollars spent on health care
26 is spent to treat complications resulting from alcohol and drug problems;
27 and

1 WHEREAS, Citizens with both a drug or alcohol addiction and a
2 mental health disorder are more likely to be uninsured and rely on public
3 assistance and comprise a large percentage of the persons who seek
4 substance abuse treatment; and

5 WHEREAS, Medicaid funding in Colorado does not cover
6 substance abuse treatment except as a limited benefit for pregnant
7 women; now, therefore,

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

11 (1) That the General Assembly strongly encourages the
12 Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to coordinate the
13 formation of and the operation of an ad hoc working group to study
14 substance abuse in Colorado. In addition to representatives of the
15 Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the working group
16 could include representatives from the Department of Human Services,
17 including the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, the Department of
18 Public Health and Environment, interested members of the General
19 Assembly, and persons who are experienced and knowledgeable in the
20 field of substance abuse prevention and treatment.

21 (2) That the General Assembly requests that the ad hoc working
22 group formed to study substance abuse in Colorado consider at least the
23 following issues:

24 (a) The persons and demographics concerning those persons
25 affected by substance abuse;

26 (b) Effective prevention and treatment models for addressing
27 substance abuse;

28 (c) The identification of any potential cost savings or cost
29 avoidance to the state General Fund or publicly funded programs in the
30 health care, human services, public safety, adult corrections, or juvenile
31 justice systems;

32 (d) The availability of state General Fund moneys or moneys from
33 other sources to finance effective substance abuse treatment for the
34 Medicaid-eligible population, including women with dependent children
35 and adolescents;

36 (3) That the ad hoc working group is encouraged to submit a
37 written report on its findings and recommendations to the Health,
38 Environment, Welfare, and Institutions Committees of the Senate and the
39 House of Representatives by November 1, 2000.