

First Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 01-0315.01 Jeff Conway

HOUSE BILL 01-1103

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Groff

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None)

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**
102 **INVOLVING STUDENTS RESIDING IN THE ATTENDANCE AREAS OF**
103 **SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED AS HAVING POOR ACADEMIC**
104 **PERFORMANCE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

For budget years 2001-02 through 2006-07, requires the state department of education ("department"), in accepting school districts to participate in the Colorado preschool program, to:

- Give first priority to those school districts having at least 5% of their schools receiving an academic performance

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.

- grade of "D" or "F" for the previous school year; and
Requires the department to give the next highest priority to school districts serving the highest percentage of students that are eligible to receive head start services and that reside in the attendance area of a school receiving a grade of "D" or "F".

Directs the department to distribute available moneys in the appropriation to such school districts first.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that early childhood education is a critical
4 component of overall educational achievement for Colorado's students.
5 The general assembly further finds that early childhood education
6 programs yield a considerable return on a relatively modest monetary
7 investment. The general assembly further finds that a targeted investment
8 of moneys in identifiable areas of greatest need is the wisest use of limited
9 state resources. The general assembly therefore finds and declares that it
10 is in the best interests of the state and its children to prioritize and direct
11 important funding for early childhood education to the areas with the
12 greatest need.

13 **SECTION 2.** 22-28-104 (2) (d), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
14 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBPARAGRAPH to read:

15 **22-28-104. Establishment of public preschool programs.** (2) In
16 recognition of the fact that there are thousands of children in Colorado not
17 presently being served who would benefit from the state preschool
18 program, the number of children that may participate in the state
19 preschool program shall be increased:

20 (d) (III) FOR THE 2001-02 BUDGET YEAR THROUGH THE 2006-07
21 BUDGET YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE AVAILABLE MONEYS

1 ON A PRIORITY BASIS TO THOSE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IDENTIFIED IN SECTION
2 22-28-107 (3) AS HAVING FIRST PRIORITY TO RECEIVE FUNDING. IF ANY
3 MONEYS REMAIN IN THE APPROPRIATION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NEXT
4 DISTRIBUTE AVAILABLE MONEYS, IF ANY, TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS
5 IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 22-28-107 (3) AS HAVING NEXT HIGHEST PRIORITY.

6 **SECTION 3.** 22-28-107 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read:

8 **22-28-107. Eligibility of school districts for participation in**
9 **state preschool program - repeal.** (3) (a) The department shall evaluate
10 each school district's application, using the criteria established pursuant
11 to subsection (2) of this section as well as the proposal of the district for
12 the implementation of the district preschool program based upon the
13 criteria established pursuant to section 22-28-108.

14 (b) (I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO SCHOOL
15 DISTRICTS IDENTIFIED BY JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR AS HAVING AT LEAST FIVE
16 PERCENT OF THEIR SCHOOLS RECEIVING AN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
17 GRADE OF "D" OR "F" PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-604 (5) FOR THE
18 PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE THE NEXT HIGHEST
19 PRIORITY TO THOSE SCHOOL DISTRICTS SERVING THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE
20 OF STUDENTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE HEAD START SERVICES UNDER
21 THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE V OF THE FEDERAL "ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
22 ACT OF 1964", AS AMENDED, AND SERVICES UNDER THIS PART 1, THAT
23 RESIDE IN AN AREA IDENTIFIED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS AN
24 ATTENDANCE AREA OF A SCHOOL RECEIVING AN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
25 GRADE OF "D" OR "F" PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-604 (5). THIS
26 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007.

27 (II) The department shall give NEXT priority to school districts with

1 proposals that include exemplary plans for the coordination of the district
2 preschool program with family support services, to school districts with
3 proposals that indicate efforts to collaborate with public and private child
4 care agencies located in the school district, and to school districts with
5 proposals that demonstrate the greatest degree of community involvement.

6 (c) By November 1, 1988, and by a date to be determined by rule
7 and regulation of the department for each year thereafter, the department
8 shall determine the school districts that have been accepted for
9 participation in the state preschool program. To comply with the
10 limitations on the number of children that may participate in the state
11 preschool program, the department shall set for each participating school
12 district the maximum number of pupils in the district preschool program.

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