

Second Regular Session
Sixty-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R02-0734.01 Jerry Barry

HJR02-1017

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1017

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE**
102 **ATTACK THAT OCCURRED AT COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL ON**
103 **APRIL 20, 1999.**

1 WHEREAS, It has been almost three years since the attack
2 occurred at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999; and

3 WHEREAS, Although several investigations into the events that
4 occurred prior to, on, and after that day have been conducted and are
5 ongoing, many questions remain unanswered; and

6 WHEREAS, None of the entities investigating those events had the
7 power to compel testimony of witnesses; and

8 WHEREAS, The people of the state of Colorado need an
9 impartial, full investigation into these events to bring closure to the
10 incident; and

11 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has the authority to give to a
12 committee the power to compel the testimony of witnesses through

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.

1 subpoenas and the production of documents pursuant to subpoenas duces
2 tecum; and

3 WHEREAS, The General Assembly also has the authority to
4 prescribe the conditions under which witnesses may testify to respect the
5 feelings of the victims of these incidents; now, therefore,

6 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third*
7 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
8 *herein:*

9 (1) That there is hereby created a legislative committee,
10 hereinafter referred to as the "committee", to investigate and act as a
11 fact-finder concerning the attack that occurred at Columbine High School
12 on April 20, 1999, and the events surrounding that attack, and to
13 recommend any legislative changes found necessary as a result of its
14 investigation. The committee shall meet during the 2002 regular session
15 of the Sixty-third General Assembly and in the interim after such session.

16 (2) (a) That the committee shall consist of six members as
17 follows:

18 (I) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by
19 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

20 (II) Three members of the Senate, two of whom shall be appointed
21 by the President of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the
22 Minority Leader of the Senate.

23 (b) No more than three members of the committee shall be from
24 the same political party.

25 (3) That the committee shall have, at a minimum, the following
26 duties:

27 (a) To select legal counsel to conduct an investigation into the
28 attack occurring at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999, and the
29 events leading up to that attack, and to direct the investigation by such
30 legal counsel;

31 (b) With the assistance of the legal counsel selected, to collect
32 documents and testimony concerning the events surrounding the attack at
33 Columbine High School on April 20, 1999;

34 (c) To authorize the issuance of subpoenas or subpoenas duces
35 tecum pursuant to subsection (6) of this Resolution; and

36 (d) To issue a report of its findings, which may include
37 recommended legislation, to the General Assembly and the public on or
38 before December 1, 2002.

39 (4) That, pursuant to section 2-3-1001, Colorado Revised Statutes,
40 the Committee on Legal Services is directed to retain and pay the
41 compensation of the legal counsel selected pursuant to subsection (3) (a)

1 of this Resolution from moneys allocated to the Committee on Legal
2 Services for legal fees from appropriations made by the General
3 Assembly.

4 (5) That, pursuant to section 2-2-313, Colorado Revised Statutes,
5 all testimony of witnesses shall be taken as depositions by legal counsel
6 retained on behalf of the committee pursuant to subsection (4) of this
7 Resolution. Written transcripts of all such depositions shall be prepared
8 and shall be made available to the public once the final report of the
9 committee is submitted.

10 (6) That, pursuant to Rule 33 of the Joint Rules of the Senate and
11 the House of Representatives, the General Assembly hereby vests in the
12 committee the power to subpoena witnesses, to take testimony under
13 oath, and to assemble records, documents, and other evidence by
14 subpoena duces tecum. The issuance of any subpoena shall be approved
15 by a majority of the members of the committee. No person who was a
16 student enrolled at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999, shall be
17 compelled to testify.

18 (7) That the members of the committee shall be compensated as
19 provided in section 2-2-307, Colorado Revised Statutes, for attendance
20 at meetings of the committee.

21 (8) That the Legislative Council staff and the Office of Legislative
22 Legal Services staff shall be available to assist the committee in carrying
23 out its duties.

24 (9) That all expenditures, except for the compensation and
25 expenses of the legal counsel retained pursuant to subsection (4) of this
26 Resolution, incurred while conducting this study shall be approved by the
27 chair of the Legislative Council and paid by vouchers and warrants drawn
28 as provided by law from moneys allocated to the Legislative Council for
29 legislative studies from appropriations made by the General Assembly.

30 (10) That the committee shall make a report to the General
31 Assembly no later than December 1, 2002.

32 (11) That the committee shall not be considered an interim
33 committee pursuant to Rule 24A of the Joint Rules of the Senate and
34 House of Representatives; however, any bill recommended by the
35 committee shall be exempt from the five-bill limit established in Rule 24
36 (b) (1) (A) of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives.