First Regular Session
Sixty-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 03-0742.01 Beth Braby **SENATE BILL 03-160**

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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Hefley

Senate Committees **House Committees**
Health, Environment, Welfare & Institutions

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CHILD CARE COMMISSION, AND, IN CONNECTION**
102 **THEREWITH, MODIFYING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE**
103 **COMMISSION AND CHANGING THE NAME OF THE COMMISSION TO**
104 **THE SCHOOL READINESS COMMISSION.**

Bill Summary

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

On and after July 1, 2003, changes the name of the child care commission to the school readiness commission ("commission"). Requires the commission to perform additional duties related to school readiness. Expands the membership of the commission from 15 to 25 members. Requires the commission to report to the general assembly on

or before November 1, 2003, and on or before November 1 every other year thereafter, concerning the matters studied by the commission and any recommendations to the general assembly. Authorizes the commission to accept grants, gifts, and donations, and creates the school readiness cash fund. Extends the repeal date of the commission from July 1, 2004, to July 1, 2010, and requires a sunset review prior to July 1, 2010.

Makes conforming amendments.

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

SECTION 1. 26-6-301, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

26-6-301. Short title. This part 3 shall be known and may be cited as the ~~"Child Care~~ "SCHOOL READINESS Commission Act".

SECTION 2. 26-6-302 (1) (c), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 26-6-302 (1) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

26-6-302. Legislative declaration. (1) (c) Accordingly, the general assembly finds that it is appropriate and in the best interests of the citizens of the state of Colorado to establish a commission ~~on child care~~ to continue studying the critical issues impacting child care in the state of Colorado in an effort to improve the quality of child care provided to the youngest citizens of the state.

(d) IN ADDITION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION FILED WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6-306, AS WELL AS RECENT STATE AND NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDIES, INDICATE THAT CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO CHILDREN'S SCHOOL READINESS. THESE STUDIES SHOW THAT QUALITY CHILD CARE RESULTS IN CHILDREN BEING BETTER PREPARED TO ENTER ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL READY TO LEARN. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT THIS COMMISSION, WITH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, SHOULD STUDY THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THESE ISSUES AND SCHOOL READINESS, DEVELOP EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA, AND WORK WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELFARE AND EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF COLORADO TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF CARE THAT IS LOCALLY DRIVEN WITH STATE GUIDANCE.

SECTION 3. 26-6-303 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 26-6-303 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION, to read:

26-6-303. Definitions. As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise provides:

(3) "Commission" means the ~~child care~~ SCHOOL READINESS commission created in section 26-6-304.

(4) "SCHOOL READINESS" MEANS THE ABILITY OF A CHILD TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL BASED ON THE CHILD'S PHYSICAL HEALTH AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT, AND COGNITION AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT FROM BIRTH TO AGE EIGHT.

SECTION 4. 26-6-304 (1) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 26-6-304 (1) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH, to read:

26-6-304. School readiness commission - created. (1) (a) In order to provide legislative oversight and the continued study and further development of recommendations for improvements in the delivery of child care in the state of Colorado AND IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOL READINESS THROUGH QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE

STATE OF COLORADO, there is hereby created in the state department the ~~child care~~ SCHOOL READINESS commission. The commission shall consist of fifteen members to be appointed for terms of three years; except that, of the members first appointed, five members shall be appointed for one year, five members for two years, and five members for three years. The appointing authorities shall jointly determine which commission members shall serve reduced terms; except that the members described in paragraph (b) of this subsection (1) shall be included in the group of members first appointed for two years. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the original appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term. Initial appointments shall be made to the commission no later than August 1, 2000.

(d) ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2003, THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE TEN ADDITIONAL MEMBERS, EACH OF WHOM SHALL SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS. NO MORE THAN SIX OF THE TEN ADDITIONAL MEMBERS SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY. THESE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION APPOINTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS (b) AND (c) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), AS FOLLOWS:

(I) A CITIZEN AT-LARGE;

(II) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A LARGE CORPORATION;

(III) A PARENT WHO IS A CHILD CARE CONSUMER;

(IV) AN ADMINISTRATOR IN HIGHER EDUCATION;

(V) TWO PERSONS WHO ARE ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN;

(VI) A SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR;

(VII) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED CHILD CARE SERVICES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION

26-6.5-102; AND

(VIII) A MEMBER OF A PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION.

SECTION 5. 26-6-305 (1) (n), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 26-6-305 (1) is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW PARAGRAPHS, to read:

26-6-305. School readiness commission - duties. (1) The commission shall have the following duties:

(n) To JOINTLY evaluate and make ~~recommendations how~~ DECISIONS WITH the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, AND THE state department ~~and county departments use~~ CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF federal child care development funds and other federal moneys toward the improvement of child care AND SCHOOL READINESS in the state of Colorado;

(o) TO EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS OF SCHOOL READINESS;

(p) TO STUDY THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SYSTEM AND TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE FINANCIAL AND PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS;

(q) TO DEVELOP A LONG-RANGE PLAN CONCERNING GOALS AND STRATEGIES TO ENSURE SCHOOL READINESS, AND TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICIES AND RULES DESIGNED TO MEET THESE GOALS AND IN IMPLEMENTING THE LONG-RANGE PLAN.

SECTION 6. 26-6-306 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

26-6-306. Report - proposed legislation. (1) The ~~child care~~ SCHOOL READINESS commission shall report to the members of the general assembly on or before November 1, ~~2001~~ 2003, and on or before November first ~~each year~~ EVERY TWO YEARS thereafter, ~~for the following two years,~~ concerning the matters it has studied and addressed. The report shall include recommendations of the ~~child care~~ SCHOOL READINESS commission. The state department shall work with the commission in preparing the report.

SECTION 7. Part 3 of article 6 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

26-6-306.5. School readiness commission - authority to seek and accept gifts, grants, or donations - creation of fund. THE COMMISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 3. ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FUNDS RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE SAME TO THE SCHOOL READINESS CASH FUND, WHICH FUND IS HEREBY CREATED AND REFERRED TO IN THIS PART 3 AS THE "FUND". THE MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE HEREBY CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART 3. ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER FUND.

ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AS OF JULY 1, 2010, SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND.

SECTION 8. 26-6-307, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

26-6-307. Repeal of part - subject to sunset law. (1) This part 3 is repealed, effective July 1, ~~2004~~ 2010.

(2) PRIOR TO THE REPEAL DATE SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE SCHOOL READINESS COMMISSION CREATED BY THIS PART 3 SHALL BE REVIEWED AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2-3-1203, C.R.S.

SECTION 9. 2-3-1203 (3) (w), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBPARAGRAPH to read:

2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees. (3) The following dates are the dates for which the statutory authorization for the designated advisory committees is scheduled for repeal:

(w) July 1, 2010:

(V) THE SCHOOL READINESS COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION 26-6-304, C.R.S.

SECTION 10. The introductory portion to 26-6.5-106 (5) and 26-6.5-106 (9) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes, are amended to read:

26-6.5-106. School-readiness child care subsidization program. (5) **School-readiness rating system.** The state ~~child care~~ SCHOOL READINESS commission created pursuant to section 26-6-304 shall adopt a voluntary school-readiness rating system. Such rating system shall measure the level of preparedness of and quality of services provided by a child care provider to prepare children to enter elementary school. The school-readiness rating system shall:

(9) **Evaluation - report.** (b) On or before October 1, 2005, the

state department, or any private entity with which the state department is hereby authorized to contract for this purpose, shall submit a consolidated statewide report, based upon the reports prepared and submitted by the county departments and pilot site agencies, addressing the items set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection (9) to the state ~~child care~~ SCHOOL READINESS commission and to the members of the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate of the general assembly. The general assembly shall review the appropriateness of continuing school-readiness subsidies pursuant to this section during the 2006 regular session.

SECTION 11. Effective date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

SECTION 12. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.