



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 03-026

BY SENATOR(S) Anderson, Andrews, Fitz-Gerald, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer, Entz, Evans, Gordon, Groff, Grossman, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hillman, Isgar, Johnson S., Jones, Keller, Kester, Lamborn, Linkhart, McElhany, Owen, Phillips, Reeves, Sandoval, Takis, Tapia, Taylor, Teck, Tupa, and Windels;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) King, Spradley, Veiga, Berry, Borodkin, Boyd, Briggs, Brophy, Butcher, Cadman, Carroll, Clapp, Cloer, Coleman, Crane, Decker, Fairbank, Frangas, Fritz, Garcia, Hall, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Johnson R., Judd, Larson, Lee, Lundberg, Madden, Marshall, May M., McCluskey, McFadyen, Merrifield, Miller, Mitchell, Paccione, Plant, Pommer, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Rippy, Romanoff, Rose, Salazar, Schultheis, Sinclair, Smith, Spence, Stafford, Stengel, Tochtrop, Vigil, Weddig, Weissmann, White, Wiens, Williams S., Williams T., Witwer, and Young.

CONCERNING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLORADO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, The Colorado Legislative Council was established by legislation sponsored by Senator Donald Brotzman and Representative Frank Hays, Jr., and was approved by the honorable Dan Thornton, Governor, on March 17, 1953; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Council was originally constituted as an eleven-member committee designated to be the fact-finding agency of the Colorado General Assembly and was authorized to oversee a research staff that could provide a nonpartisan source of unbiased information on topics of importance to the legislature; and

WHEREAS, More than 150 legislators and every member of legislative leadership have served as members of the Legislative Council over the last fifty years and have devoted their time, knowledge, and skill in providing direction to the Legislative Council staff; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Council has had only five directors of research in its fifty-year history, namely, Mr. Howard M. Stevens (1953), Mr. Shelby F. Harper (1954 to 1958), Mr. Lyle C. Kyle (1958 to 1985), Mr. David F. Morrissey (1985 to 1987), and Mr. Charles S. Brown, Jr. (1987 to the present); and

WHEREAS, In 1953, the Legislative Council staff consisted of a director of research, a research analyst, and an administrative secretary and was housed in offices in the southwest wing of the third floor of the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, One of the primary functions of the Legislative Council staff has been the staffing of interim study committees and preparing the final reports of such committees and other research publications and, in fulfilling this function, the Legislative Council staff has written more than 500 such reports since 1954; and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Council staff has had ongoing responsibilities in the citizens' initiative process, including the preparation, publication, and distribution of the Ballot Information Booklet (the "Blue Book") that is now constitutionally required to be provided to every registered voter household in the state; and

WHEREAS, In 1967-1968, the Legislative Council staff was given responsibility for the staffing of the committees of reference of the General Assembly during regular and special sessions of the legislature and has maintained that responsibility for the last thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has sought assistance from the Legislative Council staff on complex subjects related to state government and the general welfare of the state, including reorganization of state government, property tax reform, Congressional reapportionment and state legislative redistricting, and state revenue and taxation policy; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, the Legislative Council staff has extended its functions and services to include staffing of the Capital Development Committee (1985), preparing fiscal notes (1988), providing economic and revenue forecasting services (1989), developing an expanded new legislator orientation program (1994), and providing constituent services to members (1997); and

WHEREAS, The Legislative Council staff continues to promote efficiency in state government by maintaining a centralized accounting system for the General Assembly, a joint legislative library for the use of members and their staff, an in-house printing facility for on-demand reproduction of legislative documents, and by providing visitor services for the State Capitol; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly:

1. Commend the directors of research of the Legislative Council, past and present, for their dedication and devotion to providing an unbiased, nonpartisan source of information in support of the General Assembly's efforts to make sound public policy decisions.
2. Commend the staff of the Legislative Council, past and present, who have served the General Assembly and the state of Colorado in numerous and varied capacities over the last half-century and who continue to serve the needs of the legislature with integrity, impartiality, and professionalism at all times.
3. Congratulate the Legislative Council upon the fiftieth anniversary of its creation and for fifty years of service dedicated to supporting the General Assembly and the legislative process in Colorado.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be sent to each former director of research of the Legislative Council and to Mr. Charles S. Brown, Jr., current director of research, for presentation to the staff of the Legislative Council.

John Andrews
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Lola Spradley
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mona Heustis
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

Judith Rodrigue
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES