

First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 13-0444.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 13-1007

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Peniston,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hudak,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING RECREATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL
102 READINESS LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The general assembly originally created the early childhood and school readiness legislative commission (commission) in 2009, and the commission repealed on July 1, 2012. The bill recreates the commission as it previously existed, but the commission will be staffed by legislative staff and will be eligible for funding through the appropriation for

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 (c) HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION
2 DURING THE CRUCIAL GROWTH YEARS FROM BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE
3 IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO SUCCEED WHEN THEY START
4 KINDERGARTEN AND AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION;

5 (d) RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES THAT PARENTAL SUPPORT AND
6 INVOLVEMENT, COMBINED WITH A HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL EDUCATION
7 PROGRAM, INCREASES STUDENTS' SCHOOL READINESS AND ACHIEVEMENT
8 IN KINDERGARTEN AND SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTES TO OVERCOMING THE
9 EFFECTS OF STUDENTS' VARYING SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES; AND

10 (e) RESEARCH FURTHER SHOWS THAT IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL
11 PERFORMANCE THROUGH IMPROVED SCHOOL READINESS COSTS MUCH LESS
12 THAN SPECIAL EDUCATION, REMEDIATION, AND GRADE RETENTION.

13 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES THEREFORE THAT IT IS
14 IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE
15 COMMISSION TO MEET ON A REGULAR BASIS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO
16 STUDY ISSUES AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATION CONCERNING EARLY
17 CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE, MENTAL
18 HEALTH, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, FAMILY SUPPORT, AND EARLY
19 LEARNING.

20 **26-6.5-203. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 2, UNLESS THE
21 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

22 (1) "CHILD CARE" MEANS CARE PROVIDED TO A CHILD BY A CHILD
23 CARE FACILITY REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF THIS
24 ARTICLE OR BY A FACILITY DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6-103 THAT IS NOT
25 REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED. THE TERM "CHILD CARE", AS USED IN THIS
26 PART 2, DOES NOT INCLUDE CARE PROVIDED TO A CHILD BY THAT CHILD'S
27 PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.

1 (2) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL
2 READINESS LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
3 SECTION 26-6.5-204.

4 **26-6.5-204. Early childhood and school readiness legislative**
5 **commission - creation - membership - duties - funding.** (1) (a) THERE
6 IS CREATED A LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION FOR POLICY IMPROVEMENT
7 RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS, INCLUDING THE
8 AREAS OF HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, FAMILY
9 SUPPORT, CHILD CARE, AND EARLY LEARNING.

10 (b) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TEN MEMBERS, APPOINTED FOR
11 TERMS OF THREE YEARS; EXCEPT THAT, OF THE MEMBERS FIRST
12 APPOINTED, THREE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS,
13 THREE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR TWO-YEAR TERMS, AND FOUR
14 MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS. THE APPOINTING
15 AUTHORITIES SHALL JOINTLY DETERMINE WHICH COMMISSION MEMBERS
16 SERVE REDUCED TERMS. VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT
17 OF THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE
18 UNEXPIRED TERM. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
19 MADE ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2013, AS FOLLOWS:

20 (I) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT THREE
21 SENATORS TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION, AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF
22 THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT TWO SENATORS TO SERVE ON THE
23 COMMISSION; AND

24 (II) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL
25 APPOINT THREE REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION, AND
26 THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL
27 APPOINT TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION.

1 (c) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL
2 SELECT THE FIRST CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE
3 SENATE SHALL SELECT THE FIRST VICE-CHAIR. THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR
4 SHALL ALTERNATE ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES.
5 THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH SUCH
6 ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL RULES AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE
7 OPERATION OF THE COMMISSION.

8 (d) THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL RECEIVE
9 COMPENSATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AS
10 PROVIDED IN SECTION 2-2-307, C.R.S.

11 (2) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES
12 ANNUALLY. THE COMMISSION SHALL STUDY ISSUES CONCERNING EARLY
13 CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
14 HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, FAMILY
15 SUPPORT, AND EARLY LEARNING. THE COMMISSION SHALL SOLICIT INPUT
16 FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH
17 EXPERTISE RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS
18 ISSUES, TO AID THE COMMISSION IN ITS WORK.

19 (b) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF AND THE OFFICE OF
20 LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES SHALL ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN
21 CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES.

22 (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
23 BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN JOINT RULE 24 (b)(1)(D). THE REPORT MAY
24 INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT
25 LIMITED TO LEGISLATION CONTINUING THE COMMISSION AND AN
26 EXPLANATION OF THE ADDITIONAL TIME AND PROCEDURES THAT THE
27 COMMISSION MAY REQUIRE TO ACHIEVE THE COMMISSION'S STUDY GOALS.

1 LEGISLATION THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS SHALL BE TREATED AS
2 LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY AN INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR THE
3 PURPOSES OF THE INTRODUCTION DEADLINES AND BILL LIMITATIONS
4 IMPOSED BY THE JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES.

6 (3) THE CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE ALL
7 REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES THAT THE COMMISSION INCURS.
8 THE APPROVED EXPENSES SHALL BE PAID BY VOUCHERS AND WARRANTS
9 DRAWN AS PROVIDED BY LAW FROM MONEYS ALLOCATED TO THE
10 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES FROM APPROPRIATIONS
11 MADE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

12 **26-6.5-205. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 2 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE
13 JULY 1, 2018.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-106, **amend**
15 (5) introductory portion and (9) (b) as follows:

16 **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement program.**

17 (5) **School-readiness quality rating system.** The ~~state~~ early childhood
18 and school-readiness LEGISLATIVE commission created ~~pursuant to section~~
19 ~~26-6-304~~ IN SECTION 26-6.5-204 shall adopt a voluntary school-readiness
20 quality rating system. ~~Such~~ THE rating system shall measure the level of
21 preparedness of and quality of services provided by an early care and
22 education provider to prepare children to enter elementary school. The
23 school-readiness quality rating system shall:

24 (9) **Evaluation - report.** (b) On or before April 1, 2009, and on
25 or before April 1 every three years thereafter, the state department, or any
26 private entity with which the state department is hereby authorized to
27 contract for this purpose, shall submit a consolidated statewide report,

1 based upon the reports prepared and submitted by the early childhood
2 care and education councils, addressing the items set forth in paragraph
3 (a) of this subsection (9) to the ~~state~~ early childhood and school-readiness
4 LEGISLATIVE commission and to the members of the education
5 committees of the house of representatives and the senate of the general
6 assembly.

7 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.