

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 13-0444.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 13-1007**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Peniston,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hudak,**

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**House Committees**

Education  
Legislative Council  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

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

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**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created the early childhood and school readiness legislative commission (commission) in 2009, and the commission repealed on July 1, 2012.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.*

legislative studies. The commission repeals July 1, 2018.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **recreate and**  
3 **reenact, with amendments,** part 2 of article 6.5 of title 26 as follows:

4 PART 2

5 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL

6 READINESS LEGISLATIVE

7 COMMISSION

8 **26-6.5-201. Short title.** THIS PART 2 SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY  
9 BE CITED AS THE "EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS  
10 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ACT".

11 **26-6.5-202. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

13 (a) THE MOST ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT TIME TO DEVELOP  
14 CHILDREN'S SKILLS AND SOCIAL ABILITIES IS IN THE VERY EARLY YEARS  
15 WHEN DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION ACROSS ALL OF THE FOUR DOMAINS  
16 OF EARLY LEARNING, FAMILY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE,  
17 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH, CAN HAVE THE MOST  
18 EFFECT;



19 (b) CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND SOCIETY BENEFIT FROM QUALITY  
20 INVESTMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING.  
21 COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CHILDREN  
22 AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEED FOR EARLY  
23 NURTURING AND FOR EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING  
24 EXPERIENCES AND THE PHYSICAL HEALTH SUPPORTS THEY NEED TO HELP  
25 THEM ARRIVE AT SCHOOL THRIVING AND READY TO LEARN.

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, CHILD CARE, AND  
19 EARLY LEARNING.

20  

21 **26-6.5-203. Early childhood and school readiness legislative**  
22 **commission - creation - membership - duties - funding.** (1) (a) THERE  
23 IS CREATED A LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION FOR POLICY IMPROVEMENT  
24 RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS, INCLUDING THE  
25 AREAS OF HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, FAMILY  
26 SUPPORT, CHILD CARE, AND EARLY LEARNING, REFERRED TO IN THIS  
27 ARTICLE AS THE "COMMISSION".

1 (b) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF SIX MEMBERS, APPOINTED FOR  
2 TERMS OF THREE YEARS; EXCEPT THAT, OF THE MEMBERS FIRST  
3 APPOINTED, TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS,  
4 TWO MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR TWO-YEAR TERMS, AND TWO  
5 MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS. THE APPOINTING  
6 AUTHORITIES SHALL JOINTLY DETERMINE WHICH COMMISSION MEMBERS  
7 SERVE REDUCED TERMS. EACH COMMISSION MEMBER SERVES AT THE  
8 PLEASURE OF THE APPLICABLE APPOINTING AUTHORITY. VACANCIES SHALL  
9 BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT OF THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR  
10 THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE  
11 COMMISSION SHALL BE MADE ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2013, AS FOLLOWS:

12 (I) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT TWO SENATORS  
13 TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION, ONE OF WHOM SERVES ON THE SENATE  
14 EDUCATION COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE, AND ONE OF  
15 WHOM SERVES ON THE SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
16 COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE;

17 (II) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE  
18 SENATOR TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION WHO ALSO SERVES ON THE  
19 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE;

20 (III) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL  
21 APPOINT TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION, ONE OF  
22 WHOM SERVES ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE, AND ONE OF WHOM  
24 SERVES ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
25 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE;

26 AND

27 (IV) THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 SHALL APPOINT ONE REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION WHO  
2 ALSO SERVES ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE.

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

11 (d) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2-2-307,  
12 C.R.S., THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT RECEIVE  
13 COMPENSATION OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN  
14 FULFILLING THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

15 (2) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES  
16 ANNUALLY. THE COMMISSION SHALL STUDY ISSUES CONCERNING EARLY  
17 CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
18 HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, FAMILY  
19 SUPPORT, CHILD CARE, AND EARLY LEARNING. THE COMMISSION SHALL  
20 SOLICIT INPUT FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THOSE  
21 INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD AND  
22 SCHOOL READINESS ISSUES, TO AID THE COMMISSION IN ITS WORK. THE  
23 COMMISSION SHALL CONSULT WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP  
24 COMMISSION, CREATED IN SECTION 24-44.7-102, C.R.S., WITH REGARD TO  
25 POLICIES CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS.

26 (b) THE COMMISSION MAY ACCEPT IN-KIND DONATIONS IN THE  
27 FORM OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FROM ONE OR MORE NONPROFIT

1     **ORGANIZATIONS.**

2           (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
3     BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN JOINT RULE 24 (b)(1)(D). THE REPORT MAY  
4     INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT  
5     LIMITED TO LEGISLATION CONTINUING THE COMMISSION AND AN  
6     EXPLANATION OF THE ADDITIONAL TIME AND PROCEDURES THAT THE  
7     COMMISSION MAY REQUIRE TO ACHIEVE THE COMMISSION'S STUDY GOALS.  
8     LEGISLATION THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS SHALL BE TREATED AS  
9     LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY AN INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR THE  
10    PURPOSES OF THE INTRODUCTION DEADLINES AND BILL LIMITATIONS  
11    IMPOSED BY THE JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
12    REPRESENTATIVES.

13     

14           **26-6.5-204. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 2 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
15    JULY 1, 2018.

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

18           **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement program.**

19    (5) **School-readiness quality rating system.** The ~~state~~ early childhood  
20    and school-readiness LEGISLATIVE commission created ~~pursuant to section~~  
21    ~~26-6-304~~ IN SECTION **26-6.5-203** shall adopt a voluntary school-readiness  
22    quality rating system. ~~Such~~ THE rating system shall measure the level of  
23    preparedness of and quality of services provided by an early care and  
24    education provider to prepare children to enter elementary school. The  
25    school-readiness quality rating system shall:

26           (9) **Evaluation - report.** (b) On or before April 1, 2009, and on  
27    or before April 1 every three years thereafter, the state department, or any

1 private entity with which the state department is hereby authorized to  
2 contract for this purpose, shall submit a consolidated statewide report,  
3 based upon the reports prepared and submitted by the early childhood  
4 care and education councils, addressing the items set forth in paragraph  
5 (a) of this subsection (9) to the ~~state~~ early childhood and school-readiness  
6 LEGISLATIVE commission and to the members of the education  
7 committees of the house of representatives and the senate of the general  
8 assembly.

9 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-203, **amend**  
10 **as added by House Bill 13-1007** (2) (a) as follows:

11 **26-6.5-203. Early childhood and school readiness legislative**  
12 **commission - creation - membership - duties - funding.** (2) (a) The  
13 commission shall meet at least four times annually. The commission shall  
14 study issues concerning early childhood and school readiness, including  
15 but not limited to health care, mental health, parental involvement, family  
16 support, and early learning. The commission shall solicit input from  
17 members of the public, especially those individuals with expertise related  
18 to early childhood and school readiness issues, to aid the commission in  
19 its work. The commission shall consult with the early childhood  
20 leadership commission, created in section ~~24-44.7-102, C.R.S.~~  
21 26-6.2-103, with regard to policies concerning early childhood and school  
22 readiness.

23 **SECTION 4. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;  
24 except that section 3 of this act takes effect only if House Bill 13-1117 is  
25 enacted and becomes law, in which case section 3 of this act takes effect  
26 July 1, 2013.

27 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.