

## **Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission**

### **Members of the Commission**

Representative Brittany Pettersen, Chair  
Senator Nancy Todd, Vice-Chair

Senator John Kefalas  
Senator Vicki Marble

Representative Beth McCann  
Representative James Wilson

### **Legislative Council Staff**

Kristen Koehler, Fiscal Analyst  
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***October 2014***

# Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission Report

## **Commission Charge**

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Pursuant to state law (Section 26-6.5-203, C.R.S.), the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC) must meet at least four times per year to study issues concerning early childhood and school readiness. Topics to be studied include: health care, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early learning. The commission is required to solicit input from the public, especially from those who have expertise in early childhood and school readiness issues. The commission is also required to meet with the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, which is a group focused on improving outcomes for young children from birth to age eight, to discuss policy concerning early childhood and school readiness.

## **Commission Activities**

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The ECSRLC held four meetings during the 2014 interim. Presentations were made by state departments, early childhood professionals, child care providers, medical professionals, foundations, the business community, and members of the public on a wide range of subjects related to early childhood, including:

- quality ratings and improvement for providers;
- poverty and other risk factors;
- mental, behavioral, and physical health in early childhood;
- links to the business community;
- professional development for educators; and
- family support.

The ECSRLC also divided itself into five working groups to focus on specific topics, solicit stakeholder feedback, and generate ideas for legislation. The working groups met throughout the month of August 2014, and several stakeholders participated in these discussions. The commission was divided into working groups as follows:

- Quality of Early Childhood Workforce;
- Early Childhood Collaborative Funding;
- Family Support;
- Kindergarten and School Readiness; and
- Mental, Physical, and Behavioral Health.

The following subsections discuss the ECSRLC's activities during the 2014 interim.

**Colorado's early childhood landscape.** Representatives of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS), the Colorado Children's Campaign, the Early Childhood Summit, and the Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado briefed the commission members on the landscape of early childhood care and education in Colorado. They discussed the needs of providers, teachers, and families, as well as current efforts underway by the CDE and DHS.

The commission members were also provided with an update regarding the implementation of recent legislation impacting early childhood care and education.

**Quality ratings and improvement.** The commission heard testimony from representatives of the CDE, DHS, and Qualistar Colorado about the Quality Ratings and Improvement System (QRIS) and the use of the system to assess the quality of early childhood care in Colorado. The new system builds upon licensure as a basic level of quality and rewards facilities with higher scores for providing smaller student to teacher ratios, a more highly educated faculty, bilingual instruction for students who need it, opportunities for parental engagement, and healthier food and environments, among other factors.

**Early childhood poverty and risk in Colorado.** The commission heard testimony from the DHS, nonprofit organizations, and early childhood providers on serving low-income and at-risk children. This testimony focused on assistance that low-income families may receive to access child care and how to provide services to meet the unique needs of both children and parents. Services discussed included the Nurse-Family Partnership, parent education, assistance to friend and family care providers, and Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). Some of the presenters discussed taking a two-generation approach to poverty and early childhood education that includes both parents and children.

**Early childhood mental, behavioral, and physical health.** A panel discussion was held that included representatives from the DHS and various health care providers and researchers who discussed the mental, behavioral, and physical health needs of children in early childhood. The commission heard about the lifelong mental and behavioral health impacts of adverse childhood experiences and how positive early interventions can be effective for many children. Testimony highlighted the experience of many children with mental and behavioral health issues who are expelled from child care settings. The commission also heard about childhood immunization efforts.

**Early childhood and the business community.** The commission heard from business groups, including Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC) and the Colorado Forum, as well as local government officials and foundations, on ways for business and community partnerships to improve early childhood education. The presenters discussed how early childhood education helps prepare the workers of the future and the availability of child care allows many parents to remain in the workforce. Testimony focused on ways for businesses, governments, and foundations to fund initiatives and work together to support early childhood.

**Professional development for early childhood educators.** The commission heard testimony from representatives of CDE, the Colorado Community College System, and the University of Colorado – Denver on early childhood educators' need for greater access to high-quality professional development programs. The offices of Educator Preparation and Early Learning and School Readiness within CDE provided information about the current availability and structure of professional development opportunities for early childhood educators.

**Family support for early childhood.** Representatives from Bright Beginnings, the Colorado Parent and Child Foundation, Invest in Kids, and the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education briefed the commission on the programs in Colorado providing support for families. Information was provided on the Nurse-Family Partnership, which is a program that introduces first-time parents to child health nurses who deliver support and knowledge to new mothers on how to have a healthy pregnancy, become a responsible parent, and care for their child.

Information was also provided on the Parents as Teachers program and the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters model. These two programs serve parents with low educational attainment.

**Early Childhood Leadership Commission.** The ECSRLC is required, under its statutory charge, to meet with the Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC), which is a group focused on improving outcomes for young children from birth to age eight, to discuss policies concerning early childhood and school readiness. The commission fulfilled this requirement during its third meeting, on September 2, 2014. Representatives of the ECLC discussed preschool and kindergarten slots, and the need to devote more slots to preschool students. They also discussed ways to improve the quality of unregulated family, friend, and neighbor care.

## **Commission Recommendations**

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As a result of commission discussion and deliberation, the ECSRLC recommends the following four bills for consideration in the 2015 legislative session.

**Bill A** — Current law requires that a recipient of assistance under the Colorado Works program must assign to the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS) his or her right to receive child support payments for the purposes of reimbursing the state for the assistance paid to the recipient. For families eligible to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) support, Bill A requires the DHS to pass through to the recipient the current child support payments collected by the state. The DHS must annually report to the Joint Budget Committee the amount of child support passed through to recipients. In addition, the amount of child support pass through will not be included as income in calculating the recipient's basic cash assistance payment under the Colorado Works program.

**Bill B** — This bill creates a new refundable income tax credit for certain early childhood education providers who hold a Colorado early childhood professional credential recognized by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). To be eligible for the income tax credit, the individual must also be:

- a) employed for at least six months during the year for which the credit is claimed by a child care center that accepts Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) children; *or*
- b) a child care home provider who has held a Family Child Care Home License issued by the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS) for at least six months, and do business as a family child care home provider for at least six months during the year for which the credit is claimed.

The credit is equal to:

- \$1,600 for a Level I Colorado early childhood professional credential;
- \$2,000 for a Level II Colorado early childhood professional credential; and
- \$2,500 for a Level III, or higher, Colorado early childhood professional credential.

The income tax credit is refundable and is not limited by the person's actual tax liability. The credit will be available beginning with the 2015 tax year, which commences on January 1, 2015.

**Bill C** — Current law authorizes funding for 20,160 children to participate in the Colorado Preschool Program as half-time or full-time preschool students. Additionally, current law authorizes funding for 8,200 children as Colorado Preschool Program students or as full-day kindergarten students, when combined with a school district's other funding for kindergarten students. This bill authorizes funding for an additional 3,000 children to participate in the program as either half-time or full-time preschool students only.

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**BILL A**

*Temporary storage location: S:\PUBLIC\LLS\2015A\Bills\Interim\Early Childhood and School  
Readiness Legislative Commission\Bill A\_15-0101.wpd*

LLS NO. 15-0101.01 Brita Darling x2241

**SENATE BILL**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kefalas and Marble, Todd**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Pettersen,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT FOR PURPOSES OF**  
102     **THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM.**

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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.>)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission.** Pursuant to the Colorado works program, while a recipient is receiving assistance, the recipient must assign to the department of human services (state department) his or her right to receive child support for purposes of

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.*

reimbursing the state for the assistance paid to the recipient. The bill requires the state department to pass through to the recipient current child support collected by the state department pursuant to the assignment. The state department shall annually report to the joint budget committee the amount of child support passed through to recipients. Further, the amount of the child support pass-through will not be included in income for purposes of calculating the amount of the applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance payment.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-108, **amend** (1)

3 (b) as follows:

4 **26-2-108. Granting of assistance payments and social services.**

5 (1) (b) (I) In determining the amount of assistance payments to be  
6 granted, due account shall be taken of any income or property available  
7 to the applicant and any support, either in cash or in kind, that the  
8 applicant may receive from other sources, pursuant to rules of the state  
9 department. Effective July 1, 2000, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, a  
10 county may pay families that are eligible for temporary assistance for  
11 needy families (TANF), as defined in section 26-2-703 (19), an amount  
12 that is equal to the state and county share of child support collections as  
13 described in section 26-13-108 (1). Such payments shall not be  
14 considered income for the purpose of grant calculation. However, such  
15 income shall be considered income for purposes of determining  
16 eligibility. If a county chooses to pay child support collections directly to  
17 a family that is eligible for temporary assistance for needy families  
18 (TANF), as defined in section 26-2-703 (19), the county shall report such  
19 payments to the state department for the month in which they occur and  
20 indicate the choice of this option in its performance contract for Colorado  
21 works. For the purposes of determining eligibility for public assistance or

1 the amount of assistance payments, compensation received by the  
2 applicant pursuant to the "Colorado Crime Victim Compensation Act",  
3 part 1 of article 4.1 of title 24, C.R.S., shall not be considered as income,  
4 property, or support available to such applicant.

5 (II) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016, A COUNTY SHALL PAY FAMILIES  
6 THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES  
7 (TANF), AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-2-703 (19), AN AMOUNT THAT IS  
8 EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS AS  
9 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-13-108 (1). SUCH PAYMENTS SHALL NOT BE  
10 CONSIDERED INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING A RECIPIENT'S BASIC  
11 CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF THIS ARTICLE. THE  
12 COUNTY SHALL REPORT THE AMOUNT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS  
13 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE MONTH IN WHICH THEY OCCUR. FOR  
14 THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR  
15 THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS, COMPENSATION RECEIVED BY  
16 THE APPLICANT PURSUANT TO THE "COLORADO CRIME VICTIM  
17 COMPENSATION ACT", PART 1 OF ARTICLE 4.1 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S., SHALL  
18 NOT BE CONSIDERED AS INCOME, PROPERTY, OR SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO  
19 SUCH APPLICANT.

20 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-111, **amend** (3)  
21 (b); and **add** (3) (a.5) as follows:

22 **26-2-111. Eligibility for public assistance - rules - repeal.**  
23 **(3) Colorado works program.** (a.5) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION  
24 OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY TO THE  
25 RECIPIENT THE CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE  
26 ASSIGNMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISREGARD THE AMOUNT  
27 OF CHILD SUPPORT PAID TO THE RECIPIENT PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH



1 (a.5) IN CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF THE RECIPIENT'S BASIC CASH  
2 ASSISTANCE GRANT PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF THIS ARTICLE.

3 (b) The application shall contain a statement explaining this  
4 assignment AND THE PAYMENT TO THE RECIPIENT OF CHILD SUPPORT  
5 PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a.5) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3).

6 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-709, **amend** (1)  
7 (a) (II) and (1) (a) (III); and **add** (1) (a) (IV) as follows:

8 **26-2-709. Benefits - cash assistance - programs - rules.**

9 (1) **Standard of need - basic cash assistance grant.** (a) The state  
10 department shall promulgate rules determining the standard of need for  
11 eligibility for a basic cash assistance grant, whether an applicant or  
12 participant meets the standard of need, and the amount of the basic cash  
13 assistance grant. In addition to any other rules necessary for the  
14 implementation of this part 7, the state department's rules shall:

15 (II) Establish criteria for determining whether an applicant or  
16 participant meets the standard of need, including but not limited to what  
17 constitutes countable and excludable income for the purposes of  
18 eligibility for a basic cash assistance grant; ~~and~~

19 (III) Establish the calculation for determining the amount of an  
20 eligible applicant's or participant's basic cash assistance grant, which  
21 calculation shall include an earned income disregard which shall be  
22 applied to the gross countable earned income of an applicant or  
23 participant who is employed. The earned income disregard shall promote  
24 work and self-sufficiency and shall benefit the applicant or participant by  
25 reducing the unintended economic consequences of becoming employed.  
26 The rules promulgated by the state department pursuant to this  
27 subparagraph (III) shall not establish an earned income disregard that

1 results in an applicant or participant having fewer financial resources  
2 available to him or her than a similarly situated applicant or participant  
3 would have had under the earned income disregard pursuant to section  
4 26-2-709 as it existed on July 1, 2009; AND

5 (IV) ESTABLISH THE CALCULATION FOR DETERMINING THE  
6 AMOUNT OF THE BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT, WHICH CALCULATION  
7 SHALL DISREGARD CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS MADE TO A  
8 PARTICIPANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-2-111 (3) (a.5).

9 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-13-108, **amend**  
10 (3) as follows:

11 **26-13-108. Recovery of public assistance paid for child**  
12 **support and maintenance - interest collected on support obligations**  
13 **- designation in annual general appropriations act.** (3) (a) Effective  
14 July 1, 2000, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, a county may pay families  
15 that are eligible for temporary assistance for needy families, pursuant to  
16 part 7 of article 2 of this title, an amount that is equal to the state and  
17 county share of child support collections as described in subsection (1) of  
18 this section. Such payments shall not be considered income for the  
19 purpose of grant calculation. However, such income shall be considered  
20 income for purposes of determining eligibility. If a county chooses to pay  
21 child support collections directly to a family that is eligible for temporary  
22 assistance for needy families, pursuant to part 7 of article 2 of this title,  
23 the county shall report such payments to the state department for the  
24 month in which the payments are made and shall indicate the choice of  
25 this option in its performance contract for Colorado works.

26 (b) (I) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016, A COUNTY SHALL PAY  
27 FAMILIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY

1 FAMILIES, PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF THIS TITLE, AN AMOUNT  
2 THAT IS EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF CURRENT CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS  
3 AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION. SUCH PAYMENTS  
4 SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF CALCULATING THE  
5 BASIC CASH ASSISTANCE GRANT PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF  
6 THIS TITLE. THE COUNTY SHALL REPORT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE  
7 AMOUNT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH IN WHICH THE  
8 PAYMENTS ARE MADE.

9 (II) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY REPORT TO THE  
10 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE THE AMOUNT OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED  
11 AND PAID BY THE COUNTIES TO FAMILIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR  
12 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES, PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF  
13 ARTICLE 2 OF THIS TITLE.

14 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** (1) This  
15 act takes effect January 1, 2016; except that, if a referendum petition is  
16 filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against  
17 this act or an item, section, or part of this act within the ninety-day period  
18 after final adjournment of the general assembly, then the act, item,  
19 section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the  
20 general election to be held in November 2016 and, in such case, will take  
21 effect on January 1, 2016, or on the date of the official declaration of the  
22 vote thereon by the governor, whichever is later.

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**BILL B**

LLS NO. 15-0102.01 Nicole Myers x4326

**HOUSE BILL**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Pettersen,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Todd and Kefalas,**

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**House Committees**

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR CERTAIN**  
102     **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**

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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.>)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.** For income tax years commencing on or after January 1, 2015, the bill allows an income tax credit to a taxpayer who is an early childhood education provider if the taxpayer holds a Colorado early childhood professional credential issued by the Colorado department of

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education and is either:

- Employed by a child care center that accepts children through the Colorado child care assistance program and has been employed at one such child care center for at least 6 months during the year for which the credit is claimed; or
- Is a family child care home provider who has held a family child care home license issued by the Colorado department of human services for at least 6 months when the credit is claimed and who has done business as a family child care home provider for at least 6 months during the year for which the credit is claimed.

The amount of the income tax credit allowed is:

- \$1,600 for a taxpayer who holds a level I Colorado early childhood professional credential;
- \$2,000 for a taxpayer who holds a level II Colorado early childhood professional credential; or
- \$2,500 for a taxpayer who holds a level III or higher Colorado early childhood professional credential.

Upon request by the department of revenue, a taxpayer who claims the income tax credit is required to submit proof that the child care center by which he or she is employed accepts children through the Colorado child care assistance program.

If the income tax credit allowed exceeds the amount of income taxes otherwise due on the taxpayer's income in the income tax year for which the credit is being claimed, the amount of the credit not used shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 39-22-538 as  
3 follows:

4 **39-22-538. Credit for early childhood education providers.**

5 (1) (a) FOR INCOME TAX YEARS COMMENCING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1,  
6 2015, A CREDIT AGAINST THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS ARTICLE IS ALLOWED  
7 TO A TAXPAYER WHO IS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDER AND  
8 WHO SATISFIES THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

9 (I) THE TAXPAYER HOLDS A COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
10 PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL ISSUED BY THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF

1 EDUCATION; AND

2 (II) THE TAXPAYER IS EITHER:

3 (A) EMPLOYED BY A CHILD CARE CENTER THAT ACCEPTS CHILDREN  
4 THROUGH THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CREATED IN  
5 PART 8 OF ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 26, C.R.S., AND HAS BEEN EMPLOYED AT  
6 ONE SUCH CHILD CARE CENTER FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS DURING THE  
7 YEAR FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED; OR

8 (B) IS A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDER WHO HAS HELD A  
9 FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME LICENSE ISSUED BY THE COLORADO  
10 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 6 OF  
11 TITLE 26, C.R.S., FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS WHEN THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED  
12 AND WHO HAS DONE BUSINESS AS A FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDER  
13 FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS DURING THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS  
14 CLAIMED.

15 (b) A TAXPAYER WHO SATISFIES THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN  
16 PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1) MAY CLAIM AN INCOME TAX  
17 CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT AS FOLLOWS:

18 (I) ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A TAXPAYER WHO  
19 HOLDS A LEVEL ONE COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL  
20 CREDENTIAL;

21 (II) TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR A TAXPAYER WHO HOLDS A  
22 LEVEL TWO COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL;  
23 OR

24 (III) TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A TAXPAYER  
25 WHO HOLDS A LEVEL THREE OR HIGHER COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
26 PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL.

27 (2) A TAXPAYER WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A CHILD CARE CENTER AND

1 WHO CLAIMS THE CREDIT ALLOWED IN THIS SECTION SHALL, UPON  
2 REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, SUBMIT PROOF THAT THE  
3 CHILD CARE CENTER ACCEPTS CHILDREN THROUGH THE COLORADO CHILD  
4 CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

5 (3) IF THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT ALLOWED IN THIS SECTION  
6 EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF INCOME TAXES OTHERWISE DUE ON THE  
7 TAXPAYER'S INCOME IN THE INCOME TAX YEAR FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS  
8 BEING CLAIMED, THE AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT NOT USED AS AN OFFSET  
9 AGAINST INCOME TAXES IN THE CURRENT INCOME TAX YEAR SHALL BE  
10 REFUNDED TO THE TAXPAYER.

11 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
12 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
13 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
14 5, 2015, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2015); except that, if a  
15 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
16 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
17 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
18 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
19 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
20 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**BILL C**

*Temporary storage location: S:\PUBLIC\LLS\2015A\Bills\Interim\Early Childhood and School  
Readiness Legislative Commission\Bill C\_15-0104.wpd*

LLS NO. 15-0104.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Petterson, McCann**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kefalas and Todd,**

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**House Committees**

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN**  
102             **THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AS PRESCHOOL**  
103             **STUDENTS.**

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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>.)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.** The statute currently authorizes funding for 20,160 children to participate in the Colorado preschool program as half-time or full-time

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Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.



preschool students. In addition, the statute authorizes funding for 8,200 children as Colorado preschool program students or as full-day kindergarten students, when combined with a school district's other funding for kindergarten students. The bill funds an additional 3,000 children only as half-time or full-time preschool students.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-28-104, **amend**  
3 (2) (a) (III); and **add** (2) (a) (IV) and (2) (a) (V) as follows:

4 **22-28-104. Establishment of public preschool programs.**

5 (2) (a) (III) For the 2008-09 budget year and each budget year thereafter  
6 THROUGH THE 2013-14 BUDGET YEAR, twenty thousand one hundred sixty  
7 children may annually participate in the Colorado preschool program.

8 (IV) FOR THE 2013-14 AND 2014-15 BUDGET YEARS, TWENTY  
9 THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY CHILDREN, IN ADDITION TO THE NUMBER  
10 OF CHILDREN AUTHORIZED IN SECTION 22-28-104.3, MAY ANNUALLY  
11 PARTICIPATE IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM.

12 (V) FOR THE 2015-16 BUDGET YEAR AND EACH BUDGET YEAR  
13 THEREAFTER, TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY CHILDREN,  
14 IN ADDITION TO THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AUTHORIZED IN SECTION  
15 22-28-104.3, MAY ANNUALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL  
16 PROGRAM.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-28-104.3, **amend**  
18 (1) (a) as follows:

19 **22-28-104.3. Early childhood at-risk enhancement (ECARE).**

20 (1) (a) ~~Notwithstanding~~ IN ADDITION TO the number of children who may  
21 annually participate in the Colorado preschool program pursuant to  
22 section 22-28-104 (2) (a):

23 (I) For the 2013-14 budget year, an additional three thousand two

1 hundred children may participate in the Colorado preschool program. for  
2 a total of twenty-three thousand three hundred sixty children who may  
3 participate in the Colorado preschool program for the 2013-14 budget  
4 year.

5 (II) For the 2014-15 budget year and each budget year thereafter,  
6 an additional ~~five~~ EIGHT thousand TWO HUNDRED children may annually  
7 participate in the Colorado preschool program. for a total of twenty-eight  
8 thousand three hundred sixty children who may annually participate in the  
9 Colorado preschool program.

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

State Representative  
CHERYLIN PENISTON  
Colorado State Capitol  
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Denver, Colorado 80203  
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Vice-Chairman:  
Education Committee  
Member:  
Transportation & Energy  
Committee

**COLORADO**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
DENVER  
80203

**To:** Legislative Council

**Requested by:** Representative Cherylin Peniston

**Re:** Request for interim study committee regarding commission on early childhood and school readiness.

**Date:** 4/17/2014

**Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.**

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study early childhood issues and school readiness during the interim between the 2014 and 2015 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission."

The policy issues to be studied are listed in section 26-6.5-203 (2) (a), C.R.S. These issues shall include, but are not limited to: health care, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early learning.

The interim study committee would need to meet four times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of six members of the General Assembly selected as follows and as noted in section 26-6.5-203 (1) (b), C.R.S.:

- Three members of the Senate, with two appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom serves on the Senate Education Committee, or any successor committee, and one of whom serves on the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, or any successor committee, and one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who also serves on the Senate Education Committee, or any successor committee.
- Three members of the House of Representatives, with two appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom serves on the Education Committee of the House of Representatives, or any successor committee, and one of whom serves on the Public Health Care and Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives, or any successor committee, and one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who also serves on the Education Committee of the House of Representatives, or any successor committee.

Nonlegislative members will not have a role in the interim study committee.

A task force is not necessary to assist the interim study committee in studying the scope of policy issues described above.

The interim study committee will need five bills to address the issues it studies.

**Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request**

Identify any agencies (other than legislative service agencies) that may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee: Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rep. Cherylin Peniston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Representative Cherylin Peniston