



Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff

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MEMORANDUM

April 20, 2009

TO: Members of the Legislative Council

FROM: Christie Lee, Research Associate, 303-866-2756  
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SUBJECT: Proposals for 2009 Interim Study Committees

Attached please find summaries of the bills and resolutions creating interim study committees that will be reviewed at the Legislative Council meeting on Monday, April 20, 2009, upon adjournment of the 9:00 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting will be held in House Committee Room 0112. Each summary contains a brief description of the measure and a comment section for issues specific to each measure.

The following committees and studies are authorized for the 2009 interim.

**Legislative Service Agency Committees**

- Legislative Council/Executive Committee
- Joint Budget Committee
- Committee on Legal Services
- Legislative Audit Committee

**Ongoing Statutory Committees**

- Capital Development Committee
- Capitol Building Advisory Committee
- Health Care Task Force<sup>1</sup>
- Transportation Legislation Review Committee
- Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Reform Commission
- Water Resources Review Committee
- Study of the Treatment of the Mentally Ill in the Criminal Justice System

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<sup>1</sup> House Bill 09-1224 adds to the charge of the Health Care Task Force, requiring that the task force examine and make recommendations concerning issues related to the consideration of gender in setting rates and benefits offered for individual benefit plans.

## 2009 Proposed Studies

Measure	Sponsors	Topic	Number of Committee Members*	Duration**	Page Number
SB 09-281	Senator Shaffer Representative Weissmann	Worker Safety and Injury Compensation Study Group	10	2009 interim	4
HB 09-1064	Representative Kefalas Senator Sandoval	Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force	10	5 years	5
HB 09-1343	Representative Massey Senator Williams	Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Oversight Commission	10	5 years	7
HJR 09-1017	Representatives Reisberg and Roberts Senator Williams	Hospice and Palliative Care in Colorado	10	2009 interim	8
HJR 09-1020	Representative Middleton [None]	Interim Committee to Study School Finance	10	2009 interim	9
HJR 09-1022	Representative Frangas Senator Sandoval	Home Care Placement Agency Task Force	13	2009 interim	11
HJR 09-1025	Representative Schafer Senator Bacon	School Safety Interim Committee	16	2009 interim	12
HJR 09-1026	Representative Acree Senator Newell	Developmental Disability Waiting List Interim Committee	7	2009 interim	14

\*All legislators unless otherwise indicated.

\*\* Per Joint Rule 24A (d)(2), interim committees are limited to six meetings unless the interim committee chairman obtains prior approval from the Executive Committee.

**SB 09-281 by Senator Shaffer and Representative Weissmann**

**Worker Safety and Injury Compensation Study Group**

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Summary of Resolution

The bill creates the ten-member Worker Safety and Injury Compensation Study Group to study worker safety and the system of compensation for work-related injuries.

The interim committee is charged to study, make recommendations, and report findings on all matters relating to the operation of Pinnacol Assurance, employer insurance premiums for workers' compensation, and worker safety and compensation of injured workers. This includes, but is not limited to, both the feasibility of the continued operation and the public policy implications of Pinnacol Assurance as a division of state government or the feasibility and public policy implications of selling Pinnacol Assurance to a willing third-party buyer.

The committee is also charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly on changes to laws governing worker safety and work-related injury compensation.

The interim committee includes:

- five members of the Senate, three appointed by the Senate President and two appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and
- five members of the House of Representatives, three appointed by the Speaker of the House and two appointed by the House Minority Leader.

The chair of the interim committee is to be appointed by the Senate President and the vice-chair of the interim committee is to be appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Staffing

Staff from the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will assist the committee in its activities.

Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

Legislative members of the committee will be compensated at the rate of \$99 per day and reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses while attending committee meetings.

***Status: House Second Reading***

## HB 09-1064 by Representative Kefalas and Senator Sandoval

### Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force

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#### Summary of Legislation

The resolution creates a ten-member task force to assess current state practices that promote economic opportunity and poverty reduction and to develop a strategic, integrated, and comprehensive plan to expand economic opportunities in Colorado and, by 2019, to reduce by at least 50 percent the number of Coloradans, including children and families, living in poverty.

The committee is charged with, but not limited to, considering the following issues:

- study and evaluate best policies and practices that:
  - ▶ build family assets and financial stability;
  - ▶ increase preschool through postsecondary educational opportunities;
  - ▶ expand the work force with quality jobs that meet private sector needs;
  - ▶ make work pay through the use of fair and sustainable targeted tax policies; and
  - ▶ address work-support issues;
- study and evaluate:
  - ▶ federally supported and state-supported programs that serve persons living in poverty;
  - ▶ the economic impact of poverty;
  - ▶ current policies and services that affect persons living below the self-sufficiency standard;
  - ▶ how various issues interact to impact poverty, such as a lack of education, health care, housing, income, child care, and food security;
  - ▶ the Colorado works program, with the goal of recommending changes to increase pathways to self-sufficiency; and
  - ▶ the supplemental nutrition assistance program, with the goal of recommending changes to increase participation and secure additional federal dollars for assistance with education and training; and
- review findings and make legislative recommendations, each year, if appropriate, to the Legislative Council, in the manner of an interim committee.

Each meeting must include an opportunity for public comment on items related to the committee's agenda.

The task force includes:

- five members of the Senate, three appointed by the Senate President and two appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and
- five members of the House of Representatives, three appointed by the Speaker of the House and two of appointed by the House Minority Leader.

The Speaker of the House and the Senate President are to jointly designate a chairperson. Appointments to the task force must be made by July 1, 2009. The bill directs the task force to meet at least four times each interim. The task force must prepare a written report that includes a summary of the work accomplished by the task force and legislative recommendations to the General Assembly by January 15, 2010, and every January 15 thereafter. Additionally, the committee must submit any recommended legislation by November 15, 2009. Under the bill, the task force is set to repeal on July 1, 2014.

#### Staffing

Staff from the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will assist the committee in carrying out its duties. The task force may also accept staff support from public and private entities.

#### Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

Members of the task force will serve without compensation, but will be reimbursed for all necessary and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. However, members cannot receive reimbursement for more than six meetings in any fiscal year.

The Legislative Council may accept and expend federal moneys, grants, gifts, donations, services, and in-kind donations from any public or private entity for any direct or indirect costs associated with the duties of the task force. If the task force does not receive moneys allocated to the Legislative Council for legislative studies, the task force will not meet during the interim until sufficient moneys become available.

***Status:*** *Senate State, Veteran, and Military Affairs Committee*

## HB 09-1343 by Representative Massey and Senator Williams

### Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Oversight Commission

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#### Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a ten-member legislative oversight commission for the continued study of issues related to early childhood and school readiness, including the areas of health, mental health, parental involvement, child care, and education.

The commission includes:

- five members of the Senate, three appointed by the Senate President and two appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and
- five members of the House of Representatives, three appointed by the Speaker of the House and two appointed by the House Minority Leader.

The Speaker of the House is directed to appoint the first chair of the commission and the Senate President is to appoint the first vice chair. Appointments to the commission must be made by July 1, 2009. The commission is directed to meet at least once each month during the legislative interim, beginning on or before August 1, 2009, and additional times as the commission deems necessary. The commission must submit a written report to the General Assembly by January 15, 2010, and each year thereafter. Additionally, the committee must submit any recommended legislation by November 15, 2009. Under the bill, the commission is set to repeal on July 1, 2014.

#### Staffing

Staff from the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will assist the committee in carrying out its duties if money are allocated to the Legislative Council for legislative studies. If moneys are not allocated, the Director of the Legislative Council and the Director of the Office of Legislative Legal Services may supply staff assistance only if sufficient moneys are credited to the Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission Cash Fund for staffing needs.

#### Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

Members of the task force will serve without compensation, but will be reimbursed for all necessary and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, provided that sufficient gifts, grants, or donations have been received and credited to the Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission Cash Fund.

*Status: House Education*

## HJR 09-1017 by Representatives Riesberg and Roberts and Senator Williams

### Interim Committee to Study Hospice and Palliative Care in Colorado

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#### Summary of Legislation

The resolution creates a ten-member interim committee to study hospice and palliative care, including barriers and disincentives that prohibit or prevent patients from receiving hospice and palliative care during chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

The interim committee may consider, but is not limited to, the following:

- the barriers to accessing and utilizing hospice and palliative care in urban and rural areas of Colorado;
- the economics and cost savings of hospice and palliative care, including the cost savings of Medicaid residential level of hospice care in a hospice facility;
- coverage of hospice and palliative care under private health insurance and Medicaid plans, including the Colorado Indigent Care Program;
- oversight of the quality of hospice and palliative care programs in the state;
- factors contributing to ethical dilemmas at the end of life and methods to reduce those factors, including clarifying laws and regulations governing advance directives; and
- factors limiting the efficacy of the provision of hospice and palliative care, including laws and regulations pertaining to the legal pronouncement of death.

The interim committee includes:

- five members of the Senate, three members appointed by the Senate President and two appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
- five members of the House of Representatives, three members appointed by the Speaker of the House and two members appointed by the House Minority Leader.

No more than three of the five Senate members can be from the same political party, and no more than three of the five House members can be from the same political party.

#### Staffing

In conducting the study, the interim committee may consult, as necessary, with appropriate local, state, and federal agencies and interested members of the public. The study does not require any additional staff for any state agency or any additional appropriation for any such state agency. Although it is not mentioned in the resolution, it is expected that staff from the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will assist the committee in carrying out its duties



## Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

All expenditures incurred in the conduct of the study must be approved by the chairperson of the Legislative Council and paid by vouchers and warrants drawn as provided by law from funds allocated to the Legislative Council from appropriations made by the General Assembly.

*Status: House Health and Human Services*

## **HJR 09-1020 by Representative Middleton**

### ***Interim Committee to Study School Finance***

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#### Summary of Legislation

The resolution creates a ten-member interim committee to study the funding for students in public schools statewide, to determine necessary modifications to the "Public School Finance Act of 1994" to fund education reform, and to determine appropriate funding factors and formulas and the allocation of resources that will ensure that all students in public schools in the state are receiving a thorough and uniform education.

The interim committee may consider, but is not limited to, the following:

- the impact of recent state and federal education reforms on the ability of school districts and the state to meet their legal and constitutional obligations with respect to public education under the current school finance funding structure;
- whether, in the pursuit of academic achievement, there are any legislative or constitutional barriers working in concert with the current "Public School Finance Act of 1994" that have created difficulties for school districts or the state to meet their obligations to all students attending public schools;
- the components of a new school finance act that would maximize the ability of school districts and the state to better meet and exceed education standards for all students attending public schools;
- methods to ensure that funding for public schools is focused on keeping students in school through graduation and on adequately preparing students who are ready to attend college, participate in career or technical training, or enter the workforce;
- incentives to increase attendance rates and retain students over the course of a school year;
- incentives to encourage school districts to work with all schools within the district's jurisdiction, including charter schools, on-line schools, and alternative schools, to provide the curricula to ensure that each student attains the level of academic achievement and preparation that the student

- needs to continue into his or her chosen post-graduation path;
- methods to provide appropriate support and funding for learning to proficiency, as opposed to funding based on increments of time spent in the classroom;
  - possible strategies to align resource allocation more closely with individual student needs, including, but not necessarily limited to, an examination of the methods of identifying at-risk students; and
  - investments in effective strategies to bring about education reform and increased student achievement, including, but not necessarily limited to, concurrent enrollment, implementing a longer school day or school year, and early graduation.

The interim committee includes:

- five members of the Senate, three members appointed by the Senate President, one of which will be the vice-chair, and two appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and
- five members of the House of Representatives, three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of which will be appointed chair, and two members appointed by the House Minority Leader.

The interim committee must submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Education committees by January 15, 2010. Legislative Council Staff will have the authority to solicit input from the members of the public, especially those members of the public with expertise related to school finance issues, to aid the committee in its work.

### Staffing

Staff from the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will assist the committee in its activities.

### Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

Legislative members of the committee will be compensated at the rate of \$99 per day and reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses while attending committee meetings.

*Status: House Education*

## HJR 09-1022 by Representative Frangas and Senator Sandoval

### Home Care Placement Agency Task Force

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#### Summary of Legislation

The resolution creates a 13-member task force to study home care placement agencies and home care workers placed through home care placement agencies.

The task force must solicit and accept reports and public testimony and consider, but need not be limited to, the following issues:

- how to protect consumers of home care services provided by home care workers who are referred by home care placement agencies, including but not limited to considering whether to license home care placement agencies;
- how to protect consumers of home care services from problems with the home care workers who are referred by home care placement agencies, including, but not limited to, whether to establish minimum standards for home care placement agencies; and
- how to protect consumers of home care services that are currently provided through either a home care agency or a referral by a home care placement agency, including but not limited to considering research of national trends and methods as they pertain to the industry of long-term care and affordable alternatives.

The task force includes:

- one member of the Senate appointed by the Senate President and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, both of whom will serve as co-chairpersons of the task force;
- one member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader and one member of the House appointed by the House Minority Leader;
- five members of the public appointed jointly by the co-chairpersons of the task force, three of whom must have direct knowledge and experience working with home care placement agencies and two of whom must be either consumers or representatives of consumers seeking home care services; and
- one member each from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Regulatory Agencies, and the Department of Public Health and Environment.

All appointments to the task force must be made on or before July 1, 2009. The task force must meet at least three times between July 1, 2009, and August 31, 2009, and cannot meet more than six times during the 2009 interim. The task force may make legislative recommendations to the Health Care Task Force. Each meeting must include an opportunity for public comment on items related to the task force's agenda.

The task force must submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees on or before November 15, 2009. In addition, the task force must make any recommendations as it deems necessary to the General Assembly concerning matters studied.

#### Staffing

The resolution specifies that the Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services *will not* provide staff support to assist in the activities of the task force.

#### Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

The members of the task force will not be compensated for or reimbursed for expenses in relation to their duties on the task force.

*Status: House Health and Human Services*

### **HJR 09-1025 by Representative Schafer and Senator Bacon**

#### *Interim Committee to Study School Safety*

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#### Summary of Legislation

The resolution creates a 16-member interim committee to study safety issues as they apply to students who have been receiving their education outside the traditional public school systems, who are integrating back into the mainstream public school student population, and who, based on records of past behavior, may pose safety risks to the school community.

The committee must solicit and accept reports and public testimony and consider, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- review of safe school laws and students' rights to a public education in a safe environment;
- the strengths and deficiencies of existing agencies and systems as they pertain to school safety;
- provisions for evaluating a student with a record of behavioral or mental health disorders that may pose a safety risk to the student or the school community;
- the procedures and costs for conducting a risk assessment of a student with a past record of behavioral or mental health disorders that may pose a safety risk to the student or the school community; and
- a discussion of the statutory changes needed to increase and enhance safety for students and the school community while ensuring a quality public education for students.

The interim committee includes:

- two members of the Senate, one appointed by the Senate President and one appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;
- two members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the House Minority Leader;
- twelve members appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President to reflect the following representation:
  - ▶ one member from the Department of Education, with expertise in special education and community-based treatment facilities;
  - ▶ two members who represent administrators in the public education system, one from a rural school district and one from an urban school district;
  - ▶ one member who represents the interests of children in the foster care system;
  - ▶ one member who represents the interests of community-based approved facility schools;
  - ▶ one member who represents the Office of the Child's Representative;
  - ▶ three members from the Department of Human Services, one from the Office of Behavioral Health and Housing, one from the Office of Children, Youth, and Family Services, and one member from the Division of Youth Corrections;
  - ▶ two members who represent the law enforcement interests of the counties, one from a rural county and one from an urban county; and
  - ▶ one member from the Judicial Department with expertise in the juvenile courts.

All appointments to the committee must be made on or before June 1, 2009. The committee cannot meet more than six times, beginning in July 2009, during the 2009 interim. Each meeting of the committee must include an opportunity for public comment on the items related to the committee's agenda. The committee must make a report to the Legislative Council by November 15, 2009. The report may include recommendations for legislation, including, but not limited to, legislation continuing the committee, and an outline of additional time and processes that may be necessary to achieve the committee's study goals.

#### Staffing

Staff from the Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services will assist the committee in its activities.

#### Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

Legislative members of the committee will be compensated at the rate of \$99 per day and reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses while attending committee meetings.

*Status: House Education*

## HJR 09-1026 by Representative Acree and Senator Newell

### Interim Committee to Study School Safety

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#### Summary of Legislation

The resolution creates a seven-member interim committee to study the waiting lists for the home- and community-based services waivers for children with developmental disabilities.

The committee must solicit and accept reports and public testimony and consider, but need not be limited to, the following issues:

- why such large waiting lists exist for these home- and community-based services waivers for children with chronic, long-term disabilities and a discussion of strategies and solutions for reducing the waiting lists; and
- any other issues related directly to children's home- and community-based services waivers.

The interim committee includes:

- three members of the Senate, two appointed by the Senate President and one appointed by the Senate Minority Leader; and
- four members of the House of Representatives, two appointed by the Speaker of the House and two appointed by the House Minority Leader.

All appointments to the committee must be made on or before July 1, 2009. The committee cannot meet more than six times, beginning in July 2009, during the 2009 interim. Each meeting of the committee must include an opportunity for public comment and testimony on the items related to the committee's agenda.

The committee must submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including specific recommendations for reducing the waiting lists for children's home- and community-based services waivers, to the House and Senate Health and Human Services committees on or before December 15, 2009. The committee must make a report to the Legislative Council by November 15, 2009. The report may include recommendations for legislation, including but not limited to legislation continuing the committee, and an outline of additional time and process that may be necessary to achieve the committee's study goals.

#### Staffing

The Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services will provide staff support to assist in the activities of the committee only to the extent possible within existing appropriations.

Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

Members of the committee will not be compensated for or reimbursed for expenses in relation to their duties on the committee

*Status: House Health and Human Services*

