

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 07-0059.01 Jane Ritter

**HOUSE BILL 07-1062**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Solano,** and Todd

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Williams,**

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EARLY**  
102     **CHILDHOOD COUNCILS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission.** Allows counties to apply for local early childhood council designation and receive funds to address local needs and conditions. Repeals the pilot program for community consolidated child care services ("pilot program"). Incorporates existing pilot programs and early childhood councils or partnerships into a new and expanded integrated statewide system of early childhood councils ("council"). Directs the various

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.*

participating counties to designate a convening entity for each council, and requires the convening entity to approve council members. Mandates an application process to receive designation as a council. Outlines the essential community representation on a council, as well as suggested participation. Sets forth the duties of the councils, including but not limited to increasing and sustaining the quality, accessibility, capacity, and affordability of early childhood services for children 5 years of age or younger and their parents. Outlines the application process for funding. Creates the early childhood council advisory team, and outlines its functions.

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

2           **SECTION 1.** 26-6.5-101, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 to read:

4           **26-6.5-101. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
5 hereby finds and declares that there is a critical need to increase ~~full-year,~~  
6 ~~full-day child care~~ services for YOUNG children ~~whose parents~~ AND THEIR  
7 FAMILIES, INCLUDING THOSE FAMILIES WITH MEMBERS WHO are entering  
8 the workforce due to Colorado's reform of the welfare system,  
9 ~~transitioning~~ MAKING THE TRANSITION off OF welfare, or ~~in need of~~  
10 NEEDING child care assistance to avoid the welfare system. THE  
11 STATEWIDE NEED INCLUDES INCREASING AND SUSTAINING THE QUALITY,  
12 ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF SERVICES FOR  
13 CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TO HELP PARENTS RAISE THEIR CHILDREN  
14 TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT SCHOOL, AT WORK, AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

15           (2) Research demonstrates that there are positive outcomes for  
16 YOUNG children ~~in low-income~~ AND THEIR families who receive quality,  
17 INTEGRATED child care AND RELATED services in their early, preschool  
18 years, DELIVERED THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
19 SYSTEM THAT INCLUDES QUALITY CARE AND EDUCATION, FAMILY  
20 SUPPORT, HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

1 (3) Providers of half-day preschool and full-day child care  
2 services have to overcome barriers and inflexible requirements of the  
3 various sources of funding in order to design and implement programs  
4 that are more responsive to the needs of working families.

5 (4) ~~Consolidation of these~~ CONSIDERATION OF various STATE AND  
6 FEDERAL FUNDING sources ~~of funding from both state and federal sources~~  
7 would allow for an integrated delivery system of quality programs for  
8 YOUNG children ~~in low-income~~ AND THEIR families in Colorado's  
9 communities.

10 (5) AN INTEGRATED DELIVERY SYSTEM WOULD FURTHER ENHANCE  
11 THE ABILITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY THE BEST PRACTICES  
12 RELATIVE TO INCREASING AND SUSTAINING QUALITY AND TO MEETING THE  
13 DIVERSE NEEDS OF FAMILIES SEEKING CHILD CARE AND OTHER EARLY  
14 CHILDHOOD SERVICES.

15 (6) DISTINCTLY LOCAL NEEDS AND CONDITIONS REQUIRE THAT THE  
16 STATE DESIGN AND INTEGRATE A SYSTEM THAT HAS THE FLEXIBILITY TO  
17 ADAPT TO THOSE LOCAL NEEDS.

18 ~~(5)~~ (7) It is therefore in the state's best interest to establish a ~~pilot~~  
19 ~~program for community consolidated child care services~~ COMPREHENSIVE  
20 SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN THE  
21 AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND QUALITY OF EARLY  
22 CHILDHOOD SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, as provided in this article.

23 **SECTION 2.** Article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes,  
24 is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

25 **26-6.5-101.5. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
26 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

27 (1) "ADVISORY TEAM" MEANS THE COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD

1 COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-105.

2 (2) "COUNCIL" MEANS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL IDENTIFIED  
3 OR ESTABLISHED LOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE  
4 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING AND  
5 ULTIMATELY IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF EARLY  
6 CHILDHOOD SERVICES TO ENSURE THE SCHOOL READINESS OF CHILDREN  
7 FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER IN THE COMMUNITY. A COUNCIL MAY BE  
8 AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COUNCIL SO LONG AS NO  
9 MORE THAN ONE COUNCIL EXISTS IN A GIVEN SERVICE AREA.

10 (3) "COUNTY DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE COUNTY OR DISTRICT  
11 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

12 (4) "CSAP" MEANS THE COLORADO STUDENT ASSESSMENT  
13 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-409, C.R.S.

14 (5) "EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDER" OR "EARLY CARE  
15 AND EDUCATION FACILITY" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, PROVIDER, OR  
16 FACILITY THAT:

17 (a) IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE  
18 OR THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
19 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 28 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S.; AND

20 (b) PARTICIPATES IN LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS.

21 (6) "EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION COUNCIL" MEANS  
22 A COUNCIL THAT REPRESENTS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS  
23 IDENTIFIED OR ESTABLISHED LOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE  
24 STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-106. AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE  
25 AND EDUCATION COUNCIL SHALL PROVIDE SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY  
26 IMPROVEMENT FUNDING TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS  
27 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-106 (3) TO ENHANCE THE SCHOOL

1 READINESS OF CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

2 (7) "ELIGIBLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" MEANS A PUBLIC  
3 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THAT:

4 (a) (I) FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING  
5 SUBMISSION OF THE COUNCIL'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING PURSUANT TO  
6 SECTION 26-6.5-106, RECEIVES AN OVERALL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE  
7 RATING OF "LOW" OR "UNSATISFACTORY", PURSUANT TO SECTION  
8 22-7-604, C.R.S.; OR

9 (II) FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SUBMISSION  
10 OF THE COUNCIL'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING PURSUANT TO SECTION  
11 26-6.5-106, RECEIVES AN ACADEMIC GROWTH OF STUDENTS RATING OF  
12 "DECLINE" OR "SIGNIFICANT DECLINE", AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
13 22-7-604, C.R.S., AND, FOR THE SAME SCHOOL YEAR, RECEIVES AN  
14 OVERALL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE RATING OF "AVERAGE", PURSUANT TO  
15 SECTION 22-7-604, C.R.S.; AND

16 (b) AS OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE COUNCIL APPLIES FOR FUNDING  
17 THROUGH THE PROGRAM, IS RECEIVING MONEYS PURSUANT TO TITLE I OF  
18 THE FEDERAL "ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965",  
19 20 U.S.C. SEC. 6301 ET SEQ.

20 (8) "PILOT SITE AGENCY" MEANS A COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED  
21 CHILD CARE SERVICES PILOT SITE AGENCY AS IT EXISTED PRIOR TO THE  
22 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

23 (9) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
24 AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION  
25 26-1-107.

26 (10) "STATE DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
27 HUMAN SERVICES.

1           **SECTION 3. Repeal.** 26-6.5-102, Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
2 repealed as follows:

3           **26-6.5-102. Pilot program established.** ~~There is hereby~~  
4 ~~established a pilot program for community consolidated child care~~  
5 ~~services that shall be implemented and monitored by the state department~~  
6 ~~of human services, with input, cooperation, and support services from the~~  
7 ~~state department of education.~~

8           **SECTION 4.** 26-6.5-103, Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
9 REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

10           **26-6.5-103. Early childhood councils - established - rules.**

11 (1) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A STATEWIDE INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF  
12 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN THE  
13 AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND QUALITY OF EARLY  
14 CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE  
15 STATE. THE COUNCILS SHALL HAVE CONSISTENT FUNCTION AND  
16 STRUCTURE STATEWIDE AND SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE STATE  
17 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
18 ADVISORY TEAM, WITH INPUT, COOPERATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
19 FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
20 ENVIRONMENT.

21 (2) THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS MAY  
22 CONSIST OF NO MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS,  
23 INCLUDING EXISTING PILOT SITE AGENCIES WHOSE CONTRACTS ARE  
24 RENEWED AT THE TIME OF REVIEW, EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD  
25 COUNCILS, RENAMED THROUGH THIS ARTICLE AS "EARLY CHILDHOOD  
26 COUNCILS", AND NEW COUNCILS DESIGNATED AND CONVENED PURSUANT  
27 TO THIS ARTICLE, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE

1 GENERAL FUND.

2 (3) THE BOARD OR BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
3 SHALL DESIGNATE A CONVENING ENTITY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE BUT IS NOT  
4 LIMITED TO A LOCAL RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCY, A COUNTY  
5 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OR SOCIAL SERVICES, A LOCAL SCHOOL  
6 DISTRICT, A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, OR A COLORADO PRESCHOOL  
7 AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM COUNCIL. THE CONVENING ENTITY MAY  
8 CONVENE A COUNCIL EITHER AS PART OF A SINGLE COUNTY OR AS PART OF  
9 A MULTI-COUNTY REGIONAL NETWORK.

10 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE BY RULE THE  
11 CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR ESTABLISHING A SINGLE COUNCIL FOR AN AREA.

12 (5) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS REQUIRING  
13 AN EXISTING COUNCIL TO RECONFIGURE OR RECONVENE.

14 (6) NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS REQUIRING  
15 A COUNTY TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL OR TO BE A PART  
16 OF A MULTI-COUNTY COUNCIL.

17 **SECTION 5.** Article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes,  
18 is amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW  
19 SECTIONS to read:

20 **26-6.5-103.3. Early childhood councils - applications - rules.**

21 (1) A NEWLY ESTABLISHED OR NEWLY IDENTIFIED COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT  
22 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AN APPLICATION TO BECOME PART OF THE  
23 STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS. THE STATE  
24 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL  
25 DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE THE APPLICATION FORM AND CRITERIA AND AN  
26 EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS FOR JOINING THE STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF  
27 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN

1 COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR  
2 THE PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS.

3 (2) A NEW COUNCIL SHALL DESIGNATE ON ITS APPLICATION THE  
4 FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 5 (a) THE INTENDED SERVICE AREA;
- 6 (b) THE COUNTIES TO BE INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL;
- 7 (c) PARTICIPATING MANDATORY STAKEHOLDERS;
- 8 (d) THE ENTITY THAT SHALL SERVE AS THE ORIGINAL FISCAL  
9 AGENT FOR THE COUNCIL; AND

10 (e) THE SIGNATURES OF THE CHAIR OR CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OR  
11 BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTIES INVOLVED IN THE  
12 COUNCIL, THE LEGAL SIGNATORY FOR THE COUNTIES, AND THE PRESIDENT  
13 OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL.

14 (3) A PILOT SITE AGENCY OR OTHER EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD  
15 COUNCIL ██████ SEEKING TO BE NEWLY IDENTIFIED AS A COUNCIL SHALL  
16 DESIGNATE ON ITS APPLICATION A RESTATEMENT OF THE FOLLOWING  
17 INFORMATION:

- 18 (a) THE DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA;
- 19 (b) CURRENT MEMBERS;
- 20 (c) ANY ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDERS REQUIRED TO MEET THE  
21 MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 26-6.5-103.5;
- 22 (d) THE DESIGNATED FISCAL AGENT; AND

23 (e) SIGNATURES OF THE CURRENT ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP, THE  
24 FISCAL AGENT, THE CHAIR OR CHAIRS OF THE BOARD OR BOARDS OF  
25 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTIES INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL,  
26 AND THE PRESIDENT OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
27 INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL.



1 (4) EACH COUNCIL SHALL DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN BASED  
2 UPON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD NEEDS IN THE  
3 DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA THAT INCLUDES:

4 (a) A COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING A PLAN FOR HIRING  
5 A COUNCIL DIRECTOR;

6 (b) A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN AND AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR  
7 DEVELOPING A LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
8 TO IMPROVE AND COORDINATE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES; AND

9 (c) A PLAN FOR EVALUATING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND  
10 COUNCIL PROCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS AS IT RELATES TO THE COUNCIL'S  
11 STRATEGIC PLAN.

12 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
13 ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO DEFINE THE STANDARDS  
14 FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.  
15 ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPLICATION SHALL BE AUTOMATIC IF THE  
16 APPLICATION IS COMPLETE, THE SIGNATURES ARE IN ORDER, AND IT MEETS  
17 THE STANDARDS SET FORTH BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO  
18 THIS SUBSECTION (5).

19 **26-6.5-103.5. Early childhood councils - membership.** (1) TO  
20 THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, EACH COUNCIL SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF  
21 THE VARIOUS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE LOCAL  
22 COMMUNITY WHO ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE WELL-BEING OF  
23 CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER. [REDACTED]

24 (2) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, EACH COUNCIL, WHETHER  
25 NEWLY ESTABLISHED IN A COMMUNITY OR NEWLY IDENTIFIED TO SERVE AS  
26 A COUNCIL, SHALL WORK TOWARD CONSOLIDATING AND COORDINATING  
27 FUNDING, INCLUDING THE SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

1 FUNDING DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.5-106. TOGETHER, THE COUNCILS  
2 THROUGHOUT THE STATE SHALL SERVE TO CREATE A SEAMLESS SYSTEM  
3 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES REPRESENTING COLLABORATION AMONG  
4 THE VARIOUS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE EFFECTIVE  
5 DELIVERY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES TO CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF  
6 AGE OR YOUNGER IN A MANNER THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL NEEDS AND  
7 CONDITIONS.

8 (3) (a) EACH NEW COUNCIL SHALL CONSIST OF MEMBERS TO BE  
9 APPROVED INITIALLY BY THE CONVENING ENTITY AS DESIGNATED  
10 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103. EACH INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL SHALL  
11 DETERMINE SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS AND RULES FOR ROTATION OF  
12 TERMS.

13 (b) EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE  
14 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS FROM  
15 EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION, FAMILY SUPPORT, HEALTH, AND MENTAL  
16 HEALTH PROGRAMS WHO REFLECT LOCAL NEEDS AND CULTURAL  
17 DIVERSITY. THE MEMBERSHIP OF EACH EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL  
18 ALSO REPRESENT THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY WITHIN THE COUNTY OR  
19 COUNTIES INVOLVED IN THE COUNCIL. EACH COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE A  
20 MINIMUM OF TEN MEMBERS WITH REPRESENTATION FROM EACH OF THE  
21 FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDER GROUPS WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S SERVICE AREA:

22 (I) LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO COUNTY  
23 COMMISSIONERS, CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
24 BOARD MEMBERS, AND LOCAL COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN  
25 SERVICES;

26 (II) EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
27 LICENSED AND LEGALLY EXEMPT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, HEAD START

1 GRANTEES, AND DISTRICT PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS  
2 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 28 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S.;

3 (III) HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOCAL PUBLIC  
4 HEALTH AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD  
5 PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN AS PROVIDED FOR IN 42  
6 U.S.C. SEC. 1786, EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING AND DIAGNOSIS AND  
7 TREATMENT PROGRAMS AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW, AND PART B AND  
8 PART C OF THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION  
9 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004", 42 U.S.C. 1400 ET. SEQ., AS AMENDED;

10 (IV) PARENTS OF CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER;

11 (V) MENTAL HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
12 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE  
13 PROVIDERS;

14 (VI) RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT  
15 LIMITED TO CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES;

16 (VII) FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION, INCLUDING BUT  
17 NOT LIMITED TO HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS, FAMILY RESOURCE  
18 CENTERS, AND INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

19 (c) IN ADDITION, EACH COUNCIL MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED  
20 TO, REPRESENTATION FROM ANY COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING  
21 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S SERVICE AREA:

22 (I) CHILD CARE ASSOCIATIONS;

23 (II) MEDICAL AND DENTAL PROFESSIONALS;

24 (III) SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT ORGANIZATIONS;

25 (IV) HEAD START POLICY COUNCILS;

26 (V) A CHAMBER OR CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE;

27 (VI) LOCAL BUSINESSES;

1 (VII) FAITH-BASED AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;

2 (VIII) HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS; AND

3 (IX) LIBRARIES.

4

5 (4) EACH MEMBER OF A COUNCIL SHALL SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF  
6 UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION HE OR SHE  
7 REPRESENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND COLLABORATE ON THE WORK OF THE  
8 COUNCIL.

9 **26-6.5-103.7. Early childhood councils - duties.** (1) EACH  
10 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL HAVE, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING  
11 DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS:

12 (a) TO APPLY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING PURSUANT TO  
13 SECTION 26-6.5-104;

14 (b) TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN THE QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY,  
15 CAPACITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR  
16 CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER AND THEIR PARENTS. TO THIS  
17 END, EACH COUNCIL SHALL DEVELOP AND EXECUTE STRATEGIC PLANS TO  
18 RESPOND TO LOCAL NEEDS AND CONDITIONS.

19 (c) TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO  
20 MEASURE LOCAL PROGRESS BASED ON THE NEEDS AND GOALS SET  
21 FOR PROGRAM PERFORMANCE;

22 (d) TO REPORT ANNUALLY THE RESULTS OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY  
23 MEASUREMENTS DEFINED IN PARAGRAPH (c) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1);

24 (e) TO SELECT A FISCAL AGENT TO DISBURSE FUNDS AND SERVE AS  
25 THE EMPLOYER OF THE COUNCIL DIRECTOR, ONCE HIRED. THE FISCAL  
26 AGENT MAY OR MAY NOT BE A COUNTY.

27 (f) TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN AS DESCRIBED

1 IN SECTION 26-6.5-103.3 (4), INCLUDING A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION  
2 AND REPORT; AND

3 (g) TO ACTIVELY ATTEMPT TO INFORM AND INCLUDE SMALL OR  
4 UNDER-REPRESENTED EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE PROVIDERS IN EARLY  
5 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS.

6 **SECTION 6.** 26-6.5-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
7 REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

8 **26-6.5-104. Early childhood councils - waivers - rules -**  
9 **funding - application.** (1) A LOCAL COUNCIL MAY REQUEST A WAIVER  
10 OF ANY RULE THAT WOULD PREVENT A COUNCIL FROM IMPLEMENTING  
11 COUNCIL PROJECTS. THE LOCAL COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT THE REQUEST TO  
12 THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH SHALL WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH  
13 THE ADVISORY TEAM IN REVIEWING THE REQUEST. THE STATE  
14 DEPARTMENT SHALL GRANT WAIVERS UPON APPROVAL.

15 (2) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
16 ADVISORY TEAM, SHALL PROMULGATE RULES TO DEVELOP AND  
17 DISTRIBUTE TO COUNCILS THE APPLICATION FORM AND APPLICATION  
18 PROCESS TO BE USED BY EACH COUNCIL SEEKING TO RECEIVE COUNCIL  
19 INFRASTRUCTURE, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND  
20 EVALUATION FUNDING FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CASH FUND CREATED  
21 IN SECTION 26-6.5-110 AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES APPROPRIATED FOR  
22 EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES.

23 (b) APPLICATIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING FROM THE  
24 EARLY CHILDHOOD CASH FUND ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 26-6.5-110 AND  
25 OTHER FUNDING SOURCES APPROPRIATED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
26 SERVICES SHALL BE REVIEWED UPON RECEIPT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT,  
27 IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM CREATED IN SECTION

1 26-6.5-105.

2 **SECTION 7.** 26-6.5-105, Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
3 REPEALED AND REENACTED, WITH AMENDMENTS, to read:

4 **26-6.5-105. Early childhood council advisory team - creation**

5 **- duties.** (1) THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED, PURSUANT TO SECTION  
6 24-44.5-101, IN THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR THE  
7 COLORADO EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM TO PROVIDE  
8 ADVICE CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF, AND PROVIDE OPERATIONAL  
9 SUPPORT FOR, THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS CREATED PURSUANT TO  
10 SECTION 26-6.5-103. THE ADVISORY TEAM SHALL BE CONVENED BY THE  
11 OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, PURSUANT TO SECTION  
12 24-44.5-101, C.R.S., WITH INPUT, COOPERATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
13 FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC  
14 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.

15 (2) THE ADVISORY TEAM SHALL BE COMPRISED OF  
16 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS THAT MIRROR THE  
17 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ON LOCAL COUNCILS AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
18 26-6.5-103.5, WITH A MAJORITY OF STAKEHOLDERS FROM LOCAL  
19 COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE MEMBERS FROM LOCAL  
20 COUNCILS SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND  
21 GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE STATE, INCLUDING URBAN, RURAL, AND  
22 SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES FROM THE FRONT RANGE, EASTERN PLAINS,  
23 WESTERN SLOPE, AND MOUNTAIN COUNTIES. ADVISORY TEAM MEMBERS  
24 FROM THE STATE LEVEL SHALL BE APPOINTED BIENNIALLY BY THE OFFICE  
25 OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-44.5-102,  
26 C.R.S. ADVISORY TEAM MEMBERS FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL SHALL BE  
27 NOMINATED BY LOCAL COUNCILS TO SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS, WITH THE

1 INITIAL SELECTION OF MEMBERS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE OFFICE OF THE  
2 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-44.5-102, C.R.S.  
3 SELECTIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE  
4 SEATED ADVISORY TEAM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE  
5 DEPARTMENT. VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT OF THE  
6 ORIGINAL APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE  
7 UNEXPIRED TERM.

8 (3) THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY TEAM, IN  
9 COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE  
10 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO:

11 (a) DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR THE CREATION  
12 OF NEW OR NEWLY IDENTIFIED COUNCILS;

13 (b) DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR COUNCIL  
14 INFRASTRUCTURE, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND  
15 EVALUATION FUNDING AS RELATED TO SECTION 26-6.5-103.3 (4) (c);

16 (c) ADVISING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A  
17 STATEWIDE EVALUATION TO INTEGRATE AND ANALYZE THE LOCAL  
18 COUNCIL EVALUATION. THE ADVISORY TEAM SHALL COLLABORATE WITH  
19 THE DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
20 AND ENVIRONMENT ON THE STATEWIDE EVALUATION.

21 (d) ADVISING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN  
22 EVALUATION OF THE BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE LOCAL  
23 COUNCILS, INCLUDING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATE  
24 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, IN  
25 SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF THE COUNCILS;

26 (e) ADVISING ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
27 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNCILS RELATED TO DEVELOPING A

1 LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO IMPROVE  
2 AND COORDINATE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES; AND

3 (f) (I) TOGETHER WITH LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS,  
4 DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF  
5 COUNTY-LEVEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE USE OF  
6 MONEYS FROM THE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CREATED IN PART  
7 8 OF ARTICLE 2 OF THIS TITLE. THE ADVISORY TEAM SHALL CONDUCT THE  
8 REVIEW AND ANALYSIS FROM THE PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007, AND  
9 ENDING DECEMBER 1, 2008.

10 (II) ONLY THOSE COUNTIES THAT RECEIVE CHILD CARE  
11 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MONEYS AND THAT ARE A PART OF AN EARLY  
12 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE ADVISORY TEAM'S REVIEW  
13 AND ANALYSIS.

14 (III) THE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS SHALL ASSESS COUNTY POLICIES  
15 AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
16 MONEYS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THOSE POLICIES AND  
17 PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE USE OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR  
18 NEEDY FAMILIES CHILD CARE TRANSFERS AND RESERVES, PROVIDER  
19 REIMBURSEMENT RATES, PARENTAL CO-PAYMENTS, ELIGIBILITY, AND  
20 REDETERMINATION.

21 (IV) BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS, ON  
22 OR BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 2008, THE ADVISORY TEAM SHALL RECOMMEND  
23 TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAYS TO IMPLEMENT NEW OR IMPROVE  
24 EXISTING CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
25 AT THE STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL LEVELS TO MORE EFFICIENTLY AND  
26 EFFECTIVELY IMPROVE THE QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND  
27 AFFORDABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES.



1 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 2008, THE ADVISORY TEAM SHALL ALSO  
2 RECOMMEND TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT A PLAN TO INTEGRATE CHILD  
3 CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION  
4 AT THE COUNTY LEVEL WITH LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS. NO  
5 LATER THAN JANUARY 30, 2009, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT  
6 THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY TEAM TO A JOINT MEETING OF  
7 THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND  
8 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

9 **SECTION 8. Repeal.** 26-6.5-106 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
10 is repealed as follows:

11 **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement**  
12 **program. (2) Definitions.** ~~As used in this section, unless the context~~  
13 ~~otherwise requires:~~

14 ~~(a) Repealed.~~

15 ~~(b) "Early care and education providers" and "early care and~~  
16 ~~education facilities" mean school districts, providers, or facilities:~~

17 ~~(I) That are licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 6 of this title or~~  
18 ~~that participate in the Colorado preschool and kindergarten program~~  
19 ~~pursuant to article 28 of title 22, C.R.S.; and~~

20 ~~(H) That participate in local community early childhood care and~~  
21 ~~education councils.~~

22 ~~(HH) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2005, p. 892, § 2, effective June~~  
23 ~~2, 2005.)~~

24 ~~(c) "Early childhood care and education councils" means councils~~  
25 ~~representative of public and private stakeholders identified or established~~  
26 ~~locally in communities throughout the state pursuant to subsection (3.5)~~  
27 ~~of this section for the purpose of developing and ultimately implementing~~

1 a comprehensive early childhood system to ensure the school readiness  
2 of young children in the community. "Early childhood care and education  
3 councils" shall provide school-readiness quality improvement funding to  
4 early care and education providers pursuant to subsection (3) of this  
5 section to enhance the school readiness of children five years of age and  
6 younger.

7 (d) "Eligible elementary school" means a public elementary school  
8 that:

9 (I) (A) For the school year immediately preceding submission of  
10 the early childhood care and education council's application for funding,  
11 has an overall academic performance rating of "low" or "unsatisfactory",  
12 pursuant to section 22-7-604, C.R.S.; or

13 (B) For the school year immediately preceding submission of the  
14 early childhood care and education council's application for funding, has  
15 been assigned a rating for academic growth of students of "decline" or  
16 "significant decline", as described in section 22-7-604, C.R.S., and, for  
17 the same school year, has an overall academic performance rating of  
18 "average", pursuant to section 22-7-604, C.R.S.; and

19 (H) As of the date on which the early childhood care and  
20 education council applies for funding through the program, is receiving  
21 moneys pursuant to Title I of the federal "Elementary and Secondary  
22 Education Act of 1965", 20 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq.

23 (e) "Pilot site agencies" means the community consolidated child  
24 care pilot site agencies established pursuant to section 26-6.5-103.

25 (f) "Program" means the school-readiness quality improvement  
26 program created pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

27 **SECTION 9.** 26-6.5-106 (3) and (5) (a) (IV), Colorado Revised

1 Statutes, are amended to read:

2 **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement program.**

3 (3) **School-readiness quality improvement program created.** On and  
4 after January 1, 2003, and continuing thereafter subject to sufficient and  
5 available federal funding, there is hereby created the school-readiness  
6 quality improvement program, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE  
7 "PROGRAM", pursuant to which the state department of human services  
8 shall award three years of school-readiness quality improvement funding  
9 to eligible early childhood care and education councils identified or  
10 established throughout the state pursuant to subsection (3.5) of this  
11 section. School-readiness quality improvement funding shall be awarded  
12 to improve the school-readiness of children five years of age and younger  
13 who are enrolled in early care and education facilities. School-readiness  
14 quality improvement funding shall be awarded to eligible early childhood  
15 care and education councils based upon allocations made at the discretion  
16 of the state department and subject to available federal funding. Nothing  
17 in this section or in any rules promulgated pursuant to this section shall  
18 be interpreted to create a legal entitlement in any early childhood care and  
19 education council to school-readiness quality improvement funding  
20 pursuant to the program. Moneys awarded through the program shall be  
21 used to improve the school readiness of children, five years of age and  
22 younger, cared for at such facilities, who ultimately attend eligible  
23 elementary schools.

24 (5) **School-readiness quality rating system.** The state early  
25 childhood and school-readiness commission created pursuant to section  
26 26-6-304 shall adopt a voluntary school-readiness quality rating system.  
27 Such rating system shall measure the level of preparedness of and quality

1 of services provided by an early care and education provider to prepare  
2 children to enter elementary school. The school-readiness quality rating  
3 system shall:

4 (a) Measure such elements of quality of an early care and  
5 education facility as:

6 (IV) Provider training and education, including recognized  
7 credentials through the state department's voluntary credentialing system  
8 developed pursuant to section ~~26-6.5-103(8)~~ 26-6.5-107; and

9 **SECTION 10.** Article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes,  
10 is amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW  
11 SECTIONS to read:

12 **26-6.5-107. Voluntary child care credentialing system - rules.**

13 THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A STATEWIDE  
14 VOLUNTARY CHILD CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM THAT RECOGNIZES THE  
15 TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF PERSONS PROVIDING  
16 EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION. THE USE OF THE VOLUNTARY  
17 CHILD CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE  
18 LIMITED TO, THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS. THE VOLUNTARY CHILD  
19 CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM SHALL BE A MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF  
20 GRADUATED CREDENTIALS THAT REFLECTS THE INCREASED TRAINING,  
21 EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND COMPETENCIES OF PERSONS  
22 WORKING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE  
23 VARIOUS COUNCILS. THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE SUCH RULES  
24 AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
25 VOLUNTARY CHILD CARE CREDENTIALING SYSTEM.

26 **26-6.5-108. Evaluation.** (1) NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2010,  
27 THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM,

1 SHALL, THROUGH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS, CONTRACT WITH  
2 A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO PREPARE AN INDEPENDENT  
3 EVALUATION OF THE SYSTEM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS TO  
4 DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM IN SERVING CHILDREN  
5 AND FAMILIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE EVALUATION SHALL BE  
6 COMPLETED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2010, AND SHALL BE REPEATED  
7 EVERY THREE YEARS THEREAFTER.

8 (2) THE EVALUATION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

9 (a) AN AGGREGATE EVALUATION OF LOCAL EVALUATION PLAN  
10 DATA AS INTEGRATED AND ANALYZED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN  
11 COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, INCLUDING AN EVALUATION  
12 OF THE OVERALL [REDACTED] PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND COUNCIL PROCESS  
13 AND EFFECTIVENESS;

14 (b) AN EVALUATION OF STATE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE,  
15 INCLUDING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STATE  
16 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ADVISORY TEAM, IN MEETING  
17 THE NEEDS OF THE COUNCILS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-105 (3) (d);

18 (c) AN EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF COMBINING THE  
19 FUNDING SOURCES AVAILABLE UNDER THIS ARTICLE;

20 (d) AN EVALUATION OF THE BARRIERS TO DELIVERY OF QUALITY  
21 EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES; AND

22 [REDACTED]  
23 (e) AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF WAIVERS ISSUED PURSUANT  
24 TO SECTION 26-6.5-104.

25 [REDACTED]  
26 **26-6.5-109. Early childhood cash fund - creation.** (1) THERE  
27 IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CASH

1 FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE AS THE "FUND", THAT SHALL CONSIST  
2 OF SUCH MONEYS AS MAY BE APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE  
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CREDITED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO  
4 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. THE MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE  
5 SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
6 DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
7 THIS ARTICLE.

8 (2) THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO SEEK AND ACCEPT  
9 GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SOURCES FOR  
10 THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE. ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FUNDS  
11 RECEIVED THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS SHALL BE  
12 TRANSMITTED TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO SHALL CREDIT THE SAME  
13 TO THE FUND. THE MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL  
14 APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
15 FOR THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
16 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE.

17 (3) ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND NOT EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES  
18 OF THIS ARTICLE MAY BE INVESTED BY THE STATE TREASURER AS  
19 PROVIDED BY LAW. ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE  
20 INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED  
21 TO THE FUND.

22 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND UP TO, BUT NOT  
23 EXCEEDING, FIVE PERCENT OF THE MONEYS ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED  
24 FROM THE FUND TO OFFSET THE COSTS INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS  
25 ARTICLE.

26 (5) ANY UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING  
27 IN THE FUND AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND

1 AND SHALL NOT BE CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR  
2 ANOTHER FUND.

3 (6) THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO A  
4 SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACT WITH ANY COUNCIL TO INCREASE AND SUSTAIN  
5 THE QUALITY, ACCESSIBILITY, CAPACITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF EARLY  
6 CHILDHOOD SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS.

7 **SECTION 11.** 26-6-304 (1) (b) (II), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
8 is amended to read:

9 **26-6-304. Early childhood and school readiness commission -**  
10 **created.** (1) (b) The governor shall appoint nine members of the  
11 commission, no more than five of whom shall be from the same political  
12 party, who shall be representative of the cultural and geographic diversity  
13 of the state and at least one of whom shall have experience working with  
14 children with disabilities. The members of the commission appointed by  
15 the governor shall also be representative of the following interests,  
16 organizations, state agencies, and boards:

17 (II) ~~The community consolidated child care services pilot program~~  
18 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS established pursuant to article 6.5 of this  
19 title;

20 **SECTION 12.** 26-6.5-104.5, Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read:

22 **26-6.5-104.5. Quality evaluation and improvement of early**  
23 **childhood care and education programs - use of Colorado works**  
24 **moneys.** Counties are urged to partner with ~~non-profit~~ FOR-PROFIT or  
25 not-for-profit organizations that evaluate the quality of early childhood  
26 care and education programs in the ~~pilot site agencies~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD  
27 COUNCILS and assign ratings thereto in an effort to assess the success of

1 such programs and to improve the ultimate delivery of early childhood  
2 care and education. Counties so partnering are further encouraged to  
3 match private investments in such early childhood care and education  
4 programs with county block grant moneys for Colorado works pursuant  
5 to part 7 of article 2 of this title and federal child care development funds  
6 in an effort to improve the overall quality of those programs. COUNTIES  
7 SO PARTNERING ARE FURTHER ENCOURAGED TO EXPEND LOCAL FUNDS TO  
8 PROMOTE THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ARTICLE AND IMPROVE THE DELIVERY  
9 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES, INCLUDING THE CONTINUATION OF THOSE  
10 FUNDING SOURCES DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT PILOT SITE AGENCY  
11 ACTIVITIES.

12 **SECTION 13.** Title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
13 **BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE** to read:

14 **ARTICLE 44.5**

15 **Early Childhood Council Advisory Team**

16 **24-44.5-101. Early childhood council advisory team -**  
17 **establishment.** THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
18 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM  
19 TO PROVIDE ADVICE CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EARLY  
20 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL CREATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103, C.R.S.  
21 THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM SHALL BE CONVENED  
22 BY THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, WITH INPUT,  
23 COOPERATION, AND SUPPORT SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF  
24 HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT.

25 **24-44.5-102. Early childhood council advisory team -**  
26 **membership - duties.** THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM  
27 SHALL BE COMPRISED OF MEMBERS AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 26-6.5-105



1 (2), C.R.S., WITH THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MAKING THE  
2 INITIAL APPOINTMENTS AND APPOINTING STATE LEVEL MEMBERS  
3 BIENNIALY. THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHALL WORK IN  
4 COLLABORATION WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM  
5 AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO FULFILL THE DUTIES  
6 AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL ADVISORY TEAM AS  
7 SET FORTH IN SECTION 26-6.5-105 (3), C.R.S.

8 **SECTION 14. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
9 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
10 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.