

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 09-0358.01 Brita Darling

HOUSE BILL 09-1064

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Kefalas, Fischer, Frangas, Hullinghorst, Solano, Todd

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATING A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO STUDY**
102 **POVERTY ISSUES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **ESTABLISHING THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY POVERTY**
104 **REDUCTION TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCING**
105 **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY WHILE REDUCING CHILD AND FAMILY**
106 **POVERTY.**

Bill Summary

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

Creates the economic opportunity poverty reduction task force (task force), consisting of members of the general assembly. Specifies

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.

the terms of membership.

Specifies the duties of the task force, including assessing current policies and practices in Colorado that promote economic opportunity and poverty reduction and developing and implementing a strategic, integrated, and comprehensive plan to reduce the number of Coloradans living in poverty, especially families and children.

Authorizes the task force to make recommendations to the general assembly and propose legislation that advances economic opportunity while reducing poverty, especially child and family poverty.

Repeals the task force.

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

SECTION 1. Article 2 of title 2, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART to read:

PART 14

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY POVERTY

REDUCTION TASK FORCE ACT

2-2-1401. Short title. THIS PART 14 SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY POVERTY REDUCTION TASK FORCE ACT".

2-2-1402. Legislative declaration. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT:

(a) IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO PURSUE THE COMMON GOOD WHEREBY ALL COLORADO FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS HAVE IMPROVED ACCESS TO ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT HELP FAMILIES ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND FINANCIAL SECURITY WHILE REDUCING THE NUMBER OF COLORADANS LIVING IN POVERTY;

(b) POVERTY HAS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND THE STATE OF COLORADO. CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY OFTEN EXPERIENCE LOWER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND INCREASED HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS. THESE PROBLEMS

1 OFTEN CONTINUE INTO ADULTHOOD, RESULTING IN GREATER SOCIAL AND
2 ECONOMIC COSTS TO SOCIETY, INCLUDING INCREASED CRIME RATES,
3 HEALTH PROBLEMS, AND NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS ESTIMATED TO
4 COST THE UNITED STATES FIVE HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS IN LOST
5 EARNINGS EACH YEAR.

6 (c) MORE AND MORE MIDDLE-CLASS COLORADO FAMILIES ARE
7 LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK, ESPECIALLY IN THESE VERY DIFFICULT
8 ECONOMIC TIMES. BETWEEN THE YEARS 2000 AND 2007, THE
9 PERCENTAGE OF COLORADO CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY ROSE FROM TEN
10 TO SIXTEEN PERCENT, WHICH IS AN EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT INCREASE, THE
11 HIGHEST OF ANY STATE IN THE NATION. IN 2007, ONE HUNDRED
12 NINETY-TWO THOUSAND COLORADO CHILDREN LIVED IN POVERTY. OF
13 THESE CHILDREN, HALF LIVED IN EXTREME POVERTY WITH FAMILY
14 INCOMES EQUALING FIFTY PERCENT OR LESS OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY
15 LEVEL.

16 (d) MORE STATES ARE RECOGNIZING THAT REDUCING POVERTY BY
17 ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES IS A
18 CRITICAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUE. REDUCING POVERTY REQUIRES
19 STRATEGIC, INTEGRATED, AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES THAT
20 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SUCCESS,
21 INCLUDING CREATING QUALITY JOBS, PROVIDING WORK SUPPORTS,
22 PROMOTING GREATER COLLABORATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND
23 IMPLEMENTING TARGETED TAX POLICIES.

24 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS
25 NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS
26 CURRENT STATE POLICIES AND PRACTICES, ALONG WITH EVIDENCE-BASED
27 SOLUTIONS UTILIZED IN OTHER STATES, THAT PROMOTE ECONOMIC

1 OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION AND TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC,
2 INTEGRATED, AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO EXPAND ECONOMIC
3 OPPORTUNITIES IN COLORADO, WITH THE GOAL OF, BY 2019, REDUCING BY
4 AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT THE NUMBER OF COLORADANS, INCLUDING
5 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, LIVING IN POVERTY.

6 **2-2-1403. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 14, UNLESS THE
7 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

8 (1) "COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO WORKS
9 PROGRAM CREATED IN PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 26, C.R.S.

10 (2) "FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL" MEANS THE POVERTY GUIDELINES
11 UPDATED PERIODICALLY IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER BY THE UNITED
12 STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UNDER THE
13 AUTHORITY OF 42 U.S.C. 9902 (2).

14 (3) "POVERTY" MEANS LIVING AT OR BELOW ONE HUNDRED
15 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

16 (4) "SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD" MEANS A MEASURE OF THE
17 INCOME NEEDED BY A FAMILY OF A GIVEN COMPOSITION IN A GIVEN PLACE
18 TO ADEQUATELY MEET ITS BASIC NEEDS WITHOUT PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
19 ASSISTANCE.

20 (5) "SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" MEANS
21 THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CREATED
22 IN 7 U.S.C. SEC. 2011 ET SEQ.

23 (6) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY POVERTY
24 REDUCTION TASK FORCE CREATED IN SECTION 2-2-1404.

25 **2-2-1404. Economic opportunity poverty reduction task force**
26 **- creation - membership.** (1) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE ECONOMIC
27 OPPORTUNITY POVERTY REDUCTION TASK FORCE TO ASSESS CURRENT

1 STATE PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY
2 REDUCTION AND TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC, INTEGRATED, AND
3 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO EXPAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN
4 COLORADO AND, BY 2019, TO REDUCE BY AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT THE
5 NUMBER OF COLORADANS, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, LIVING IN
6 POVERTY.

7 (2) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF TEN MEMBERS OF THE
8 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

9 (I) FIVE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THREE OF
10 WHOM ARE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES AND TWO OF WHOM ARE APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY
12 LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND

13 (II) FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, THREE OF WHOM ARE
14 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND TWO OF WHOM ARE
15 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE.

16 (b) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
17 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ANNUALLY SHALL JOINTLY DESIGNATE ONE
18 MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE TO SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK
19 FORCE. THE FIRST CHAIRPERSON SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES, AND, THEREAFTER, THE POSITION OF TASK FORCE
21 CHAIR SHALL ALTERNATE BETWEEN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
22 THE SENATE.

23 (3) EACH MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE A TWO-YEAR
24 TERM, COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2009; EXCEPT THAT THE SPEAKER OF THE
25 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL
26 JOINTLY SELECT FIVE OF THE MEMBERS INITIALLY APPOINTED TO SERVE
27 INITIAL ONE-YEAR TERMS. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE TASK FORCE

1 SHALL BE MADE BY JULY 1, 2009. MEMBERS MAY SERVE FOR UNLIMITED
2 CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

3 (4) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2-2-307
4 (3), THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
5 COMPENSATION BUT SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR ALL NECESSARY AND
6 ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES;
7 EXCEPT THAT MEMBERS SHALL RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR NO MORE
8 THAN SIX MEETINGS IN ANY FISCAL YEAR.

9 (b) THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES PER YEAR
10 AND ADDITIONALLY AS CONVENED BY THE CHAIRPERSON.

11 (5) (a) THE RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
12 AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES SHALL
13 MAKE AVAILABLE THE STAFF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND OF THE
14 OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES TO ASSIST THE TASK FORCE IN
15 CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS SECTION. IN ADDITION, THE TASK
16 FORCE MAY ALSO ACCEPT STAFF SUPPORT FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
17 ENTITIES.

18 (b) ALL EXPENDITURES INCURRED FOR THE DIRECT OR INDIRECT
19 COSTS OF CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE PURSUANT TO
20 THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF
21 THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND PAID BY VOUCHERS AND WARRANTS TO BE
22 DRAWN AS PROVIDED BY LAW FROM MONEYS ALLOCATED TO THE
23 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES FROM APPROPRIATIONS
24 MADE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

25 (c) FOR THE PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF THE TASK
26 FORCE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAY
27 ACCEPT AND EXPEND FEDERAL MONEYS, GRANTS, GIFTS, DONATIONS,

1 SERVICES, AND IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY
2 FOR ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DUTIES OF THE
3 TASK FORCE.

4 (d) THE STATE DEMOGRAPHER APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE
5 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS SHALL PROVIDE TO THE
6 TASK FORCE NONPARTISAN DATA RELATING TO THE ISSUES STUDIED BY
7 THE TASK FORCE AND ASSIST THE TASK FORCE WHEN REQUESTED.

8 (6) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEES TO
9 ADVISE THE TASK FORCE IN COMPLETING ITS DUTIES. THE CHAIRPERSON
10 OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM
11 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS THAT INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,
12 RELEVANT EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES, COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES,
13 BUSINESS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS,
14 ADVOCATES, AND INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THE WORK OF THE
15 TASK FORCE.

16 (b) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL APPOINT A
17 MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE TO CHAIR EACH SUBCOMMITTEE. MEMBERS
18 OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES SHALL NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR THEIR
19 SERVICES OR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.

20 **2-2-1405. Economic opportunity poverty reduction task force**
21 **- duties.** (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ASSESS CURRENT STATE POLICIES
22 AND PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY
23 REDUCTION AND, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2010, SHALL DEVELOP A
24 STRATEGIC, INTEGRATED, AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THAT, ONCE
25 IMPLEMENTED, WILL EXPAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN COLORADO
26 AND, BY 2019, REDUCE BY AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT THE NUMBER OF
27 COLORADANS, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, LIVING IN POVERTY.

1 (2) TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE
2 TASK FORCE, AT A MINIMUM, SHALL:

3 (a) STUDY AND EVALUATE BEST POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT:

4 (I) BUILD FAMILY ASSETS AND FINANCIAL STABILITY;

5 (II) INCREASE PRESCHOOL THROUGH POSTSECONDARY
6 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES;

7 (III) EXPAND THE WORK FORCE WITH QUALITY JOBS THAT MEET
8 PRIVATE SECTOR NEEDS;

9 (IV) MAKE WORK PAY THROUGH THE USE OF FAIR AND
10 SUSTAINABLE TARGETED TAX POLICIES; AND

11 (V) ADDRESS WORK-SUPPORT ISSUES;

12 (b) STUDY AND EVALUATE:

13 (I) FEDERALLY SUPPORTED AND STATE-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS
14 THAT SERVE PERSONS LIVING IN POVERTY;

15 (II) THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POVERTY;

16 (III) CURRENT POLICIES AND SERVICES THAT AFFECT PERSONS
17 LIVING BELOW THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD;

18 (IV) HOW VARIOUS ISSUES INTERACT TO IMPACT POVERTY, SUCH
19 AS A LACK OF EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, HOUSING, INCOME, CHILD CARE,
20 AND FOOD SECURITY;

21 (V) THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, WITH THE GOAL OF
22 RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO INCREASE PATHWAYS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY;
23 AND

24 (VI) THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WITH
25 THE GOAL OF RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND
26 SECURE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH EDUCATION
27 AND TRAINING; AND

1 (c) REVIEW FINDINGS AND MAKE LEGISLATIVE
2 RECOMMENDATIONS, EACH YEAR, IF APPROPRIATE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE
3 COUNCIL IN CONFORMANCE WITH RULE 24 OF THE JOINT RULES OF THE
4 SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. LEGISLATION
5 RECOMMENDED BY THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE TREATED AS LEGISLATION
6 RECOMMENDED BY AN INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR PURPOSES
7 OF ANY INTRODUCTION DEADLINES OR BILL LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE
8 JOINT RULES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

9 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2010, AND ON OR BEFORE
10 JANUARY 15 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE TASK FORCE SHALL PREPARE
11 A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT INCLUDES A
12 SUMMARY OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE TASK FORCE AND SUCH
13 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS IT
14 DEEMS NECESSARY CONCERNING MATTERS STUDIED BY THE TASK FORCE.

15 (b) IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH (a)
16 OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), THE INITIAL REPORT SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE
17 JANUARY 15, 2010, SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, A
18 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM IN COLORADO WITH
19 RESPECT TO POVERTY, AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT POLICIES AND
20 PROCEDURES THAT ADDRESS POVERTY, AN OUTLINE OF THE ISSUES BEING
21 ADDRESSED BY THE TASK FORCE, AND THE PROPOSED TIME FRAME FOR
22 ADDRESSING THOSE ISSUES.

23 **2-2-1406. Repeal.** THIS PART 14 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
24 2019.

25 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
26 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.