

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

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 09-0358.01 Brita Darling

**HOUSE BILL 09-1064**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kefalas,** Fischer, Frangas, Hullinghorst, Solano, Todd

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Sandoval,**

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**House Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**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.**

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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.)*

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.*

HOUSE  
Am ended 2nd Reading  
March 2, 2009



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 DURING EACH INTERIM AT LEAST  
10 FOUR TIMES [REDACTED] AND ADDITIONALLY AS CONVENED BY THE  
11 CHAIRPERSON.

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

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

26 (c) FOR THE PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT THE DUTIES OF THE TASK  
27 FORCE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAY

1 ACCEPT AND EXPEND FEDERAL MONEYS, GRANTS, GIFTS, DONATIONS,  
2 SERVICES, AND IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY  
3 FOR ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DUTIES OF THE  
4 TASK FORCE. ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MONEYS DONATED OR AWARDED  
5 PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (c) SHALL BE CONTINUOUSLY  
6 APPROPRIATED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PART 14.

7 (d) IN THE EVENT THE TASK FORCE DOES NOT RECEIVE MONEYS  
8 ALLOCATED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES  
9 FROM APPROPRIATIONS MADE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT TO  
10 PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (5) AND THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT  
11 MONEYS RECEIVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THROUGH GIFTS,  
12 GRANTS, AND DONATIONS PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (c) OF THIS  
13 SUBSECTION (5) TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE PURSUANT  
14 TO THIS SECTION, THE TASK FORCE SHALL NOT MEET DURING THE INTERIM  
15 UNTIL SUCH TIME AS SUFFICIENT MONEYS BECOME AVAILABLE.

16 (6) (a) THE TASK FORCE SHALL APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEES TO  
17 ADVISE THE TASK FORCE IN COMPLETING ITS DUTIES. THE CHAIRPERSON  
18 OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS FROM  
19 STAKEHOLDER GROUPS THAT INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO,  
20 RELEVANT EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES, COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES,  
21 BUSINESS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS,  
22 ADVOCATES, AND INDIVIDUALS DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THE WORK OF THE  
23 TASK FORCE.

24 (b) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL APPOINT A  
25 MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE TO CHAIR EACH SUBCOMMITTEE. MEMBERS  
26 OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES SHALL NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR THEIR  
27 SERVICES OR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.

1                   **2-2-1405. Economic opportunity poverty reduction task force**

2   **- duties.** (1) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ASSESS CURRENT STATE POLICIES  
3   AND PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND POVERTY  
4   REDUCTION AND, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2010, SHALL DEVELOP A  
5   STRATEGIC, INTEGRATED, AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THAT, ONCE  
6   IMPLEMENTED, WILL EXPAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN COLORADO  
7   AND, BY 2019, REDUCE BY AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT THE NUMBER OF  
8   COLORADANS, INCLUDING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, LIVING IN POVERTY.

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

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

12                   (I) BUILD FAMILY ASSETS AND FINANCIAL STABILITY;

13                   (II) INCREASE PRESCHOOL THROUGH POSTSECONDARY  
14   EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES;

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

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

19                   (V) ADDRESS WORK-SUPPORT ISSUES;

20                  (b) STUDY AND EVALUATE:

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

23                   (II) THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POVERTY;

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

26                   (IV) HOW VARIOUS ISSUES INTERACT TO IMPACT POVERTY, SUCH  
27   AS A LACK OF EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, HOUSING, INCOME, CHILD CARE,



1 AND FOOD SECURITY;

2 (V) THE COLORADO WORKS PROGRAM, WITH THE GOAL OF  
3 RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO INCREASE PATHWAYS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY;  
4 AND

5 (VI) THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WITH  
6 THE GOAL OF RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND  
7 SECURE ADDITIONAL FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH EDUCATION  
8 AND TRAINING; AND

9 (c) REVIEW FINDINGS AND MAKE LEGISLATIVE  
10 RECOMMENDATIONS, EACH YEAR, IF APPROPRIATE, TO THE LEGISLATIVE  
11 COUNCIL IN CONFORMANCE WITH RULE 24 OF THE JOINT RULES OF THE  
12 SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. LEGISLATION  
13 RECOMMENDED BY THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE TREATED AS LEGISLATION  
14 RECOMMENDED BY AN INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR PURPOSES  
15 OF ANY INTRODUCTION DEADLINES OR BILL LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE  
16 JOINT RULES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

17 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2010, AND ON OR BEFORE  
18 JANUARY 15 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE TASK FORCE SHALL PREPARE  
19 A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT INCLUDES A  
20 SUMMARY OF THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE TASK FORCE AND SUCH  
21 LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS IT  
22 DEEMS NECESSARY CONCERNING MATTERS STUDIED BY THE TASK FORCE.

23 (b) IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH (a)  
24 OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), THE INITIAL REPORT SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE  
25 JANUARY 15, 2010, SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, A  
26 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM IN COLORADO WITH  
27 RESPECT TO POVERTY, AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT POLICIES AND

1 PROCEDURES THAT ADDRESS POVERTY, AN OUTLINE OF THE ISSUES BEING  
2 ADDRESSED BY THE TASK FORCE, AND THE PROPOSED TIME FRAME FOR  
3 ADDRESSING THOSE ISSUES.

4 **2-2-1406. Repeal.** THIS PART 14 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
5 2014.

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