

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 12-0622.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 12-1218

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Peniston, Massey, Hamner, Solano

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hudak, King K., Hodge, Steadman, Williams S.

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House Committees

Education

Appropriations

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING EXTENDING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL  
102 READINESS LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Under existing law, the early childhood and school readiness legislative commission (commission) will repeal July 1, 2012. The bill extends the repeal date to July 1, 2017, authorizes reimbursement for the members of the commission, and authorizes the legislative staff to work with the commission. The commission will meet at least 4 times per year.

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.*

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

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-6.5-201.5 as  
3 follows:

4           **26-6.5-201.5. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

6           (a) THE MOST ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT TIME TO DEVELOP  
7 CHILDREN'S SKILLS AND SOCIAL ABILITIES IS IN THE VERY EARLY YEARS  
8 WHEN DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION ACROSS ALL OF THE FOUR DOMAINS  
9 OF EARLY LEARNING, FAMILY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE,  
10 SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH, AND MENTAL HEALTH CAN HAVE THE MOST  
11 EFFECT;

12           (b) CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND SOCIETY BENEFIT FROM QUALITY  
13 INVESTMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING.  
14 COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CHILDREN  
15 AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEED FOR EARLY  
16 NURTURING AND FOR EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING  
17 EXPERIENCES AND THE PHYSICAL HEALTH SUPPORTS THEY NEED TO HELP  
18 THEM ARRIVE AT SCHOOL THRIVING AND READY TO LEARN.

19           (c) HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION  
20 DURING THE CRUCIAL GROWTH YEARS FROM BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE  
21 IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO SUCCEED WHEN THEY START  
22 KINDERGARTEN AND AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION;

23           (d) RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES THAT A HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL  
24 EDUCATION PROGRAM, COMBINED WITH PARENTAL SUPPORT AND  
25 INVOLVEMENT, INCREASES STUDENTS' SCHOOL READINESS AND  
26 ACHIEVEMENT IN KINDERGARTEN AND SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTES TO

1 OVERCOMING THE EFFECTS OF STUDENTS' VARYING SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
2 CIRCUMSTANCES; AND

3 (e) RESEARCH FURTHER SHOWS THAT IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL  
4 PERFORMANCE THROUGH IMPROVED SCHOOL READINESS COSTS MUCH LESS  
5 THAN SPECIAL EDUCATION, REMEDIATION, AND GRADE RETENTION.

6 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES THEREFORE THAT IT IS  
7 IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE STATE TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE  
8 COMMISSION TO MEET ON A REGULAR BASIS TO STUDY ISSUES AND  
9 RECOMMEND LEGISLATION CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL  
10 READINESS, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH, PARENTAL  
11 INVOLVEMENT, FAMILY SUPPORT, AND EARLY LEARNING.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-203, **amend**  
13 (2) (a) and (2) (b); **repeal and reenact, with amendments,** (1) (d), (2)  
14 (d), and (3); and **add** (2) (e) as follows:

15 **26-6.5-203. Early childhood and school readiness legislative**  
16 **commission - creation - membership - duties.** (1) (d) THE MEMBERS OF  
17 THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPENSATED FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS  
18 OF THE COMMITTEE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 2-2-307, C.R.S.

19 (2) (a) ~~Beginning on or before August 1, 2009,~~ The commission  
20 shall meet at least ~~six~~ FOUR times annually. ~~and as needed thereafter;~~  
21 ~~except that the commission shall not meet during the 2010 interim.~~

22 (b) The commission shall study issues concerning early childhood  
23 and school readiness, including but not limited to health care, mental  
24 health, parental involvement, family support, and early learning. ~~The~~  
25 ~~commission may recommend legislative changes which shall be treated~~  
26 ~~as bills recommended by an interim legislative committee for purposes of~~  
27 ~~any introduction deadlines or bill limitations imposed by the joint rules~~

1 of the general assembly.

2 (d) THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF AND THE OFFICE OF  
3 LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES SHALL ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN  
4 CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES.

5 (e) THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
6 BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN JOINT RULE 24 (b)(1)(D). THE REPORT MAY  
7 INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT  
8 LIMITED TO LEGISLATION CONTINUING THE COMMISSION AND AN  
9 EXPLANATION OF THE ADDITIONAL TIME AND PROCEDURES THAT THE  
10 COMMISSION MAY IMPLEMENT TO ACHIEVE THE COMMITTEE'S STUDY  
11 GOALS. LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE  
12 TREATED AS LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED BY ANY OTHER INTERIM  
13 COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANY INTRODUCTION DEADLINES OR BILL  
14 LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES.

16 (3) THE CHAIR OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE ALL  
17 REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION.  
18 THE APPROVED EXPENSES SHALL BE PAID BY VOUCHERS AND WARRANTS  
19 DRAWN AS PROVIDED BY LAW FROM MONEYS ALLOCATED TO THE  
20 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES FROM APPROPRIATIONS  
21 MADE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 26-6.5-204  
23 as follows:

24 **26-6.5-204. Repeal of part.** This part 2 is repealed, effective July  
25 1, ~~2012~~ 2017.

26 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

- 1 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
- 2 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.