

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 13-0965.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**HOUSE BILL 13-1291**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Duran,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kefalas,**

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**House Committees**

Public Health Care & Human Services  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN COLORADO, AND, IN**  
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, EXPANDING THE CAPACITY AND**  
103 **IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAMS THROUGH THE**  
104 **CREATION OF THE COLORADO INFANT AND TODDLER QUALITY**  
105 **AND AVAILABILITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

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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>.)*

The bill creates the Colorado early head start grant program (grant

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.*

program) in the office of early childhood programs in the department of human services (office). Eligibility for the grant program is limited to current grantees of the federal early head start program, and the goal is to increase the number of infants, toddlers under 3 years of age, and pregnant women served through qualified early head start programs. The office is directed to administer the grant program with the director of head start programs (director). The director shall establish an application process, including guidelines and award criteria for the grant program. In fiscal year 2013-14, grant proposals must be received on or before July 31, 2013, and grant awards must be made on or before September 1, 2013. For each subsequent fiscal year, subject to available appropriations, the proposal deadline is June 30, and grant awards are to be made on or before August 1. Grantees and the director are required to provide annual reports concerning the use of grant moneys. The Colorado early head start grant program fund is created.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) The first three years of life are a period of dynamic and  
5 unparalleled brain development in which children acquire the ability to  
6 think, speak, learn, and reason. During these first three years, children  
7 need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences  
8 to lay the foundation for future school success.

9 (b) Young children living in poverty are more likely to face  
10 challenges that can negatively impact their development and create  
11 disparities in their cognitive and social abilities long before they enter  
12 school;

13 (c) In 2011, an estimated twenty-one percent of all Colorado  
14 children, or nearly forty-two thousand children, under three years of age  
15 lived in poverty. Since 2000, the number of infants and toddlers living in  
16 poverty in Colorado has more than doubled, increasing by more than one  
17 hundred thirty percent.

1 (d) In an effort to ensure that all young children have the same  
2 opportunities to succeed in school and life, high quality early childhood  
3 education programs have been created to support the healthy development  
4 of low-income infants and toddlers;

5 (e) Research shows that high quality early childhood programs  
6 make a positive difference in areas associated with children's success in  
7 school, family self-sufficiency, and parental support of child  
8 development; and

9 (f) In Colorado in 2011, licensed child care center homes had the  
10 capacity to care for only nine percent of the infants in the state.

11 (2) The general assembly, therefore, declares that it is in the best  
12 interests of the children and people of the state of Colorado to provide  
13 state funding to expand and enhance high quality early childhood  
14 programs and services to meet the needs of more of our low-income  
15 infants and toddlers.

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 6.7 to title  
17 26 as follows:

18 **ARTICLE 6.7**

19 **Colorado Infant and Toddler Quality**  
20 **and Availability Grant Program**

21 **26-6.7-101. Short title.** THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY  
22 BE CITED AS THE "COLORADO INFANT AND TODDLER QUALITY AND  
23 AVAILABILITY GRANT PROGRAM".

24 **26-6.7-102. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE, UNLESS THE  
25 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

26 (1) "COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" OR "CCCAP"  
27 MEANS THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE STATE

1 DEPARTMENT.

2 (2) "COUNTY DEPARTMENT" MEANS A COUNTY OR DISTRICT  
3 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

4 (3) "EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL" MEANS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
5 COUNCIL ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 6.5 OF THIS  
6 TITLE.

7 (4) "EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
8 PROVIDER, HEAD START PROGRAM, OR FACILITY THAT PROVIDES CHILD  
9 CARE AND EDUCATION TO LOW-INCOME INFANTS AND TODDLERS, HAS A  
10 CONTRACT AS A PROVIDER THROUGH THE COLORADO CHILD CARE  
11 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND IS EITHER LICENSED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF  
12 ARTICLE 6 OF THIS TITLE OR PARTICIPATES IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL  
13 PROGRAM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 28 OF TITLE 22, C.R.S.

14 (5) "FUND" MEANS THE COLORADO INFANT AND TODDLER QUALITY  
15 AND AVAILABILITY GRANT PROGRAM FUND CREATED IN SECTION  
16 26-6.7-106.

17 (6) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE COLORADO INFANT AND  
18 TODDLER QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN  
19 SECTION 26-6.7-103.

20 (7) "TIERED REIMBURSEMENT" MEANS A PAY STRUCTURE THAT  
21 REFLECTS AN INCREASED RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR EARLY  
22 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS THAT RECEIVE MONEYS THROUGH CCCAP.

23 **26-6.7-103. Colorado infant and toddler quality and**  
24 **availability grant program - creation.** SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE  
25 APPROPRIATIONS, THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
26 THE COLORADO INFANT AND TODDLER QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY GRANT  
27 PROGRAM. THE GOAL OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO IMPROVE QUALITY IN

1 INFANT AND TODDLER CARE, PROVIDE TIERED REIMBURSEMENT TO  
2 HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS, AND INCREASE THE  
3 NUMBER OF LOW-INCOME INFANTS AND TODDLERS SERVED THROUGH  
4 HIGH-QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS PROMOTE  
5 VOLUNTARY PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. A PROGRAM IS CONSIDERED  
6 "HIGH-QUALITY" IF IT IS IN THE TOP TWO RATINGS OF THE STATE'S QUALITY  
7 RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM, ACCREDITED BY A NATIONAL  
8 ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN OR A NATIONAL  
9 ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE, OR IS AN EARLY HEAD START  
10 PROGRAM MEETING FEDERAL STANDARDS. EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS  
11 AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS MUST JOINTLY APPLY FOR MONEYS THROUGH  
12 THE GRANT PROGRAM, WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE  
13 DEPARTMENT. EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS THAT ARE WITHIN THE  
14 SERVICE AREA OF AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL AND WITHIN THE  
15 COUNTY JOINTLY APPLYING FOR THE GRANT MAY APPLY TO THE EARLY  
16 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL FOR MONEYS THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO ACHIEVE  
17 ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GRANT PROGRAM.

18 **26-6.7-104. Eligibility for grants - applications - deadlines.**

19 (1) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AN APPLICATION PROCESS  
20 AND ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM,  
21 INCLUDING NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE MONEYS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
22 COUNCILS AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, PROPOSAL  
23 REQUIREMENTS, AND AWARD CRITERIA.

24 (2) AN APPLICANT TO THE GRANT PROGRAM IS ELIGIBLE FOR A  
25 GRANT AWARD PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE IF:

26 (a) THE APPLICATION IS MADE JOINTLY BETWEEN AN EARLY  
27 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL AND A COUNTY DEPARTMENT. IF AN EARLY

1 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SERVES MORE THAN ONE COUNTY, IT MAY SUBMIT A  
2 SINGLE APPLICATION THAT COMBINES MULTIPLE COUNTIES IN ITS SERVICE  
3 AREA.

4 (b) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS TO WHICH THE GRANT  
5 MONEYS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED HAVE CONTRACTS WITH CCCAP;

6 (c) THE APPLICATION DEMONSTRATES A NEED AND PROVIDES A  
7 PLAN TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND INCREASE THE CAPACITY FOR EARLY  
8 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN ITS SERVICE AREA. THE GOAL OF THE GRANT  
9 PROGRAM IS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS  
10 SERVED THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS. THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
11 PROGRAMS MAY BE HOME-BASED OR CENTER-BASED;

12 (d) IT PROVIDES A PLAN DETAILING HOW IT WILL PROVIDE TIERED  
13 REIMBURSEMENT; AND

14 (e) IT MEETS ANY OTHER CRITERIA SET FORTH IN THE APPLICATION  
15 PROCESS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

16 (3) (a) IN FISCAL YEAR 2013-14, GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST BE  
17 RECEIVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2013. THE  
18 STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINE WHICH  
19 APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE GRANTS AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.  
20 GRANT AWARDS MUST BE MADE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2013,  
21 THROUGH THE FUND.

22 (b) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE  
23 APPROPRIATIONS, GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE  
24 DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30 OF THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR. THE  
25 STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINE WHICH  
26 APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE GRANTS AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH GRANT.  
27 GRANT AWARDS MUST BE MADE ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1 THROUGH THE

1 FUND.

2 (c) IF IN ANY FISCAL YEAR THE FULL APPROPRIATION BY THE  
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM IS NOT DISPERSED AS  
4 SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), THE STATE  
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW PROPOSALS AND AWARD GRANTS AS THE  
6 APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED AND NOT REQUIRE THE APPLICATIONS TO BE  
7 HELD UNTIL THE NEXT GRANT CYCLE.

8 **26-6.7-105. Colorado infant and toddler quality and**  
9 **availability grant program fund.** THERE IS HEREBY CREATED IN THE  
10 STATE TREASURY THE COLORADO INFANT AND TODDLER QUALITY AND  
11 AVAILABILITY GRANT PROGRAM FUND, CONSISTING OF ANY MONEYS THAT  
12 MAY BE APPROPRIATED TO THE FUND BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE  
13 MONEYS IN THE FUND ARE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE  
14 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE DIRECT AND  
15 INDIRECT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE. THE  
16 STATE TREASURER MAY INVEST ANY MONEYS IN THE FUND NOT EXPENDED  
17 FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE AS PROVIDED BY LAW. THE STATE  
18 TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME DERIVED FROM THE  
19 INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT OF MONEYS IN THE FUND TO THE FUND. ANY  
20 UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEYS REMAINING IN THE FUND AT  
21 THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR REMAIN IN THE FUND AND SHALL NOT BE  
22 CREDITED OR TRANSFERRED TO THE GENERAL FUND OR ANOTHER FUND.  
23 THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND UP TO THREE PERCENT OF THE  
24 MONEYS ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED FROM THE FUND TO OFFSET THE COSTS  
25 INCURRED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE.

26 **26-6.7-106. Reporting requirements.** (1) NO LATER THAN FOUR  
27 MONTHS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A GRANT, THE EARLY CHILDHOOD

1 COUNCIL THAT RECEIVED THE GRANT SHALL PROVIDE THE STATE  
2 DEPARTMENT WITH AN ANNUAL REPORT CONCERNING THE OUTCOMES OF  
3 THE GRANT. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

4 (a) A SUMMARY OF DATA RECEIVED FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD  
5 PROGRAMS THAT RECEIVED GRANT MONEYS;

6 (b) THE NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS UNDER THREE YEARS  
7 OF AGE SERVED BECAUSE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IN HOME-BASED  
8 PROGRAMS AND THE NUMBER SERVED IN CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS;

9 (c) THE LENGTH OF TIME SERVICES WERE PROVIDED;

10 (d) A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS MADE  
11 USING GRANT MONEYS;

12 (e) A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE GRANTEE'S PROGRAM MET THE  
13 STATED OUTCOMES IN ITS APPLICATION;

14 (f) A SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED THROUGH THE  
15 GRANT PROGRAM; AND

16 (g) ANY OTHER DATA REQUIRED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

17 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2014, AND EACH DECEMBER 1  
18 THEREAFTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A WRITTEN REPORT  
19 ON THE GRANT PROGRAM TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN  
20 SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE  
21 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY  
22 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF THE  
23 DATA RECEIVED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
24 TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS AND GRANT MONEYS AWARDED, AND THE  
25 TOTAL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS UNDER  
26 THREE YEARS OF AGE SERVED BY THE GRANT PROGRAM.

27 **SECTION 3. 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.