

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 14-0378.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 14-1117

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Schafer, Ginal, Landgraf, McCann, Singer, Wright, Fields, Becker, Kraft-Tharp

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts,

House Committees

Health, Insurance, & Environment

Senate Committees

Health & Human Services

Legislative Council

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE COLORADO PREMATURE BIRTH**
102 **COMMISSION.**

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/bills summaries>.)

The bill creates the Colorado premature birth commission (commission). The executive director of the department of public health and environment (director) is required to appoint no more than 12 members to the commission. The commission is directed to make recommendations and identify strategies to reduce premature births in

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
3rd Reading Unamended
February 17, 2014

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
February 14, 2014

Colorado. The bill requires the director to report these findings to the health committees of the general assembly. The commission is repealed after the report is made.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-1-128 as
3 follows:

4 **25-1-128. Prematurity birth commission - creation - legislative**
5 **declaration - members - purpose - repeal.** (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
6 FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

7 (a) PREMATURE BIRTH IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF NEWBORN
8 DEATHS;

9 (b) CHILDREN BORN PREMATURELY HAVE HIGHER RATES OF
10 LEARNING DISABILITIES, CEREBRAL PALSY, SENSORY DEFICITS, AND
11 RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES COMPARED TO CHILDREN BORN AT FULL TERM;

12 (c) ONE IN TEN COLORADO BABIES IS BORN PREMATURE;

13 (d) SIGNIFICANT RACIAL, ETHNIC, GEOGRAPHIC, AND
14 SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN THE RATE OF BABIES BORN PREMATURE
15 PERSIST IN COLORADO;

16 (e) PREMATURE BIRTH IS COSTLY TO BUSINESSES AND
17 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, WITH THE MEDICAL COSTS TO EMPLOYERS
18 INCREASING UP TO SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT WITH A PREMATURETY
19 DIAGNOSIS; AND

20 (f) TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF PREMATURE BIRTHS IN
21 COLORADO, PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES SHOULD INVOLVE IDENTIFYING AND
22 STRENGTHENING EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES
23 WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, CONSIDERING NEW AND PROMISING
24 APPROACHES TO PREVENTION OF PREMATURE BIRTHS.

1 (2) (a) THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE COLORADO PREMATURE
2 BIRTH COMMISSION, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE COMMISSION.

3 (b) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2014, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
4 DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH A COLORADO NONPROFIT
5 ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION FOCUS IS PRIMARILY PREMATURE BIRTH
6 ISSUES, SHALL APPOINT NO MORE THAN TEN MEMBERS TO THE COMMISSION
7 WITH THE GOAL OF SELECTING A BROAD REPRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUALS
8 WHO WORK IN THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH FIELD. IN MAKING THE
9 APPOINTMENTS, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
10 CONSIDER:

11 (I) STATE AGENCIES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN CHARGE
12 OF SYSTEMS AND SERVICES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE HEALTH,
13 EDUCATION, AND WELFARE OF WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN;

14 (II) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY;

15 (III) ETHNIC, RACIAL, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG THE
16 APPOINTED MEMBERS;

17 (IV) HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND
18 CHILDREN;

19 (V) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY
20 PREMATURE BIRTH; AND

21 (VI) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO
22 HOSPITALS.

23

24 (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE AND NO LATER
25 THAN JULY 31, 2014. AT THE FIRST MEETING, THE COMMISSION MEMBERS
26 SHALL ELECT A CHAIRPERSON WHO SHALL ACT AS THE PRESIDING OFFICER
27 OF THE COMMISSION, DETERMINE A MEETING SCHEDULE, AND GUIDE THE

1 DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE
2 PREMATURE BIRTHS. THE COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
3 COMPENSATION AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.

4 (3) (a) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2014, THE COMMISSION SHALL
5 MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AND IDENTIFY STRATEGIES TO REDUCE
6 PREMATURE BIRTHS IN COLORADO. THE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY INCLUDE
7 STATUTORY CHANGES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
8 POLICY CHANGES, EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS, OR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

9 (b) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2015, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
10 OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT THE COMMISSION'S
11 RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTED STRATEGIES TO THE SENATE HEALTH
12 AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; THE HOUSE HEALTH, INSURANCE, AND
13 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE; AND THE HOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE AND
14 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

15 (4) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2015.

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