A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE CHILD CARE NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN AS THE PARENTS SEEK TO ADVANCE THEIR EDUCATION.

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.)

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The bill creates a task force to address the child care needs of low-income parents of young children as the parents seek to advance their education. The task force consists of the leaders, or their designees, of the departments of labor and employment, higher education, education,
and human services; parents and representatives of organizations, appointed by the governor; and employees of county departments of human services or social services, selected by the executive director of the department of human services. The task force must identify and reduce, if possible, barriers to obtaining child care from the range of available federal, state, and private child care sources, determine whether the parents' child care needs can be met through existing sources, review and streamline the processes for providing child care for parents while they obtain education or training, communicate the availability of child care from public and private sources to parents who are seeking education or training, and recommend legislative changes, if necessary. By March 1, 2017, the task force must submit a report of its activities to the general assembly, and before July 1, 2017, the task force must submit the report to the early childhood and school readiness legislative commission. The task force is repealed, effective July 1, 2017.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 24-46.3-106 as follows:

24-46.3-106. Low-income parents of young children seeking education - child care needs - task force created - report - repeal.

(1) There is hereby created a task force to develop strategies and procedures for state and local agencies and institutions of higher education to use in coordinating efforts, and to identify resources, to address the child care needs of low-income parents of young children as the parents seek to advance their education. The task force consists of the following members:

(a) The executive director, or his or her designee, of the department of labor and employment, the department of higher education, and the department of human services;

(b) The commissioner of education or his or her designee;

and

(c) The following persons appointed by the governor:
(I) Up to seven, but no fewer than five, parents who have sought or completed education and training while parenting young children;

(II) Two persons who represent organizations that serve parents of young children in the areas of employment and training;

(III) Two persons who are licensed child care providers;

(IV) Two persons who are directors of workforce development providers as described in section 22-10-103 (11) (c), C.R.S.; and

(d) Two persons selected by the executive director of the department of human services who are employed by county departments of human services or social services and work in child care issues.

(2) (a) The governor shall appoint, and the executive director of the department of human services shall select, the members of the task force as soon as possible after the effective date of this section. In appointing members, the governor, to the extent practicable, shall ensure that the appointed task force membership reflects the ethnic, racial, and gender diversity within the state and includes persons from areas around the state.

(b) The task force shall hold its first meeting no later than September 1, 2016, at the call of the executive director of the department of higher education, or a designee. At the first meeting, the members of the task force shall select members to serve as chair and vice-chair. The task force shall meet as often
AS NECESSARY AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES.

(c) The members of the task force serve without per diem
and without reimbursement for costs. The participating
departments shall provide staff, as necessary, to assist the task
force in fulfilling its duties.

(3) The task force shall accomplish the following duties,
taking into account the full range of public and private child
care resources available to low-income parents of young
children:

(a) Identify and to the extent possible reduce barriers
that prevent low-income parents of young children from
securing the necessary child care services to enable them to
obtain education or training;

(b) Determine whether the child care needs of low-income
parents who are seeking education and training are adequately
met through the combination of existing state, federal, and
campus-based child care programs and funding sources and
student financial assistance;

(c) Review, coordinate, and streamline the administrative
processes for providing child care to low-income parents of
young children as the parents seek to advance their education;

(d) Create a plan for communicating to low-income
parents of young children the availability of and processes for
obtaining child care services while the parents are seeking
additional education and training;

(e) Develop recommendations for any legislation that
may be necessary to implement the requirements specified in
PARAGRAPHS (a) TO (d) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3).


(5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.

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