

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R01-0902.01 Julie Hoerner

SJR01-017

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fitz-Gerald

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None)

Senate Committees

Business, Labor, and Finance

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 01-017

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY**
102 **HEALTH CARE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PROVIDING**
103 **THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE THE RURAL HEALTH CARE**
104 **MARKET TO ADDRESS NETWORK ADEQUACY, INCLUDING THE**
105 **SHORTAGE OF PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS; COST FACTORS**
106 **DRIVING HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM RATES FOR ALL TYPES OF**
107 **CONSUMERS; AND THE FRAGILITY OF SMALL BUSINESS IN**
108 **OBTAINING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.**

1 WHEREAS, Coloradans are faced with increasing premiums for
2 health insurance, and the sources and cures of such increases need to be
3 addressed; and

4 WHEREAS, Many employers, particularly small employers, have
5 experienced significant increases in premium rates in the last year, thus
6 making health insurance coverage increasingly unaffordable; and

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.

1 WHEREAS, Rural areas of the state are faced with limited access
2 to appropriate health care providers to meet the requirements of a strong
3 provider network; and

4 WHEREAS, Health insurance carriers and health care providers
5 have faced increased difficulty entering into and maintaining mutually
6 agreeable contracts for the coverage of health care services, and such
7 contracts directly impact access and affordability to health care services;
8 now, therefore,

9 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-third General Assembly*
10 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

11 (1) That there shall be a legislative committee formed to study and
12 evaluate health care insurance issues affecting the small group market,
13 access to health care treatment and health insurance in rural areas, and the
14 cost factors driving health insurance premiums, hereinafter referred to as
15 the "interim committee", which shall meet in the interim after the 2001
16 regular session of the Sixty-third General Assembly.

17 (2) That the interim committee shall consist of ten members as
18 follows:

19 (a) Five senators appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
20 whom shall be the chair of the Senate Business, Labor, and Finance
21 Committee and who shall serve as the chair of the interim committee, no
22 more than three members shall be from the same political party, and the
23 President of the Senate shall consult with the minority leader of the Senate
24 in the appointment of at least one member to the interim committee;

25 (b) Five representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives, one of whom shall be the chair of the House Business
27 Affairs, and Labor Committee and who shall serve as the vice-chair of the
28 interim committee, no more than three of whom shall be from the same
29 political party, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
30 consult with the minority leader of the House of Representatives in the
31 appointment of at least one member to the interim committee.

32 (3) That the interim committee shall review the following issues
33 related to the cost of and access to health insurance:

34 (a) Unbiased data and data analysis related to any issues evaluated
35 by the interim committee;

36 (b) How the relationship between health care providers and
37 carriers is affecting access to and costs of health insurance coverage,
38 particularly in rural areas;

39 (c) General cost factors driving the rising health insurance
40 premium rates for consumers of health insurance in all markets;

41 (d) How health insurance coverage may be offered to all small
42 businesses at more affordable rates;

1 (e) How more affordable access to health insurance for all small
2 employers may be improved;

3 (f) Network adequacy, including a shortage of primary care
4 providers;

5 (g) The extent to which previous statutory reforms to small group
6 laws have impacted the small group market; and

7 (h) Any other topic related to health insurance coverage deemed
8 necessary by the interim committee.

9 (4) (a) That the interim committee shall hold meetings, take public
10 testimony, and sponsor discussions at various locations throughout the
11 state with any interested party, including, but not limited to, consumers,
12 providers of health care services, pharmacists, small business
13 representatives, and insurance carriers.

14 (b) That the interim committee shall conduct six meetings in rural
15 areas of Colorado and two meetings in the Denver metropolitan area. All
16 interim committee hearings shall be concluded by October 1, 2001.

17 (5) That appointments to the interim committee shall be made by
18 July 1, 2001. The first meeting of the interim committee shall occur
19 during the week of July 15, 2001.

20 (6) That the staff of the Legislative Council and the Office of
21 Legislative Legal Services shall be available to assist the interim
22 committee in carrying out its duties.

23 (7) That the interim committee shall make recommendations
24 regarding the issues reviewed and, if necessary, recommend legislation.
25 Legislation recommended by the committee shall be treated as legislation
26 recommended by any other legislative interim committee for purposes of
27 any introduction deadlines or bill limitations imposed by the joint rules of
28 the Senate and the House of Representatives.

29 (8) (a) That the legislative members of the interim committee shall
30 be compensated as provided in section 2-2-307, Colorado Revised
31 Statutes, for attendance at meetings of the interim committee.

32 (b) That the interim committee may accept and expend gifts,
33 grants, donations, and federal funds for the purposes of this interim
34 committee.

35 (9) That the actual and necessary expenses, including per diem,
36 incurred in the conduct of the interim committee shall be approved by the
37 chairperson of the Legislative Council and paid by vouchers and warrants
38 drawn as provided by law from funds allocated to the Legislative Council
39 from appropriations made by the General Assembly.