

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 01-0038.01 Jennifer Gilroy

HOUSE BILL 01-1014

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Alexander, Chavez, Johnson, and Tochtrop

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Linkhart

House Committees

Health, Environment, Welfare, & Institutions

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHILD CARE**

102 **COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO FOSTER CARE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Interim Committee on Foster Care. Creates an additional responsibility of the child care commission to study issues related to foster care.

Expands the duties of the child care commission to include the study of the following:

- Performance standards for foster care homes;
- Accreditation standards for child placement agencies that certify foster care homes;

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.

- The role of child placement agencies within the foster care system;
- The role of county departments of social services within the foster care system; and
- The needs of foster care children and how to best meet those needs through the foster care system.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** 26-6-302, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 **26-6-302. Legislative declaration.** (1) (a) The general assembly
5 hereby finds that the future of Colorado children is of primary concern to
6 the citizens of this state and that the quality of care provided to these
7 young children is an integral component in the development of happy,
8 functional, and contributing adults. However, the general assembly has
9 learned that the safety and quality of available child care is at issue in
10 Colorado. Reports ON CHILD CARE LICENSING by the state auditor's office
11 released in April of 1995 and in August of 1998 have identified several
12 areas in which the safety and quality of child care in Colorado has been
13 compromised. IN ADDITION, A REPORT ON CHILD WELFARE BY THE STATE
14 AUDITOR'S OFFICE IN AUGUST OF 1998, IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS WITH THE
15 STATE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AND INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY A LOCAL
16 METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER IN MAY OF 2000, SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED
17 SERIOUS THREATS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE COLORADO
18 FOSTER CARE SYSTEM.

19 (b) The general assembly further finds that, based upon the
20 evidence presented to the interim committee on child care established
21 pursuant to SJR 99-034 AND THE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON FOSTER CARE
22 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE

1 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTION, there are many
2 programs that should be considered, tested, evaluated, or established that
3 may better serve children in this state ~~and help~~ BY HELPING to provide
4 them with high quality, affordable child care AND SAFE FOSTER CARE
5 SERVICES. The general assembly recognizes that the interim ~~committee~~
6 COMMITTEES on child care AND FOSTER CARE addressed a wide range of
7 issues in proposed legislation but further notes that many issues were of
8 too great a nature to be thoroughly studied by the ~~committee~~ COMMITTEES
9 in the very limited time available to ~~it~~ THEM.

10 (c) Accordingly, the general assembly finds that it is appropriate
11 and in the best interests of the citizens of the state of Colorado to establish
12 a commission on child care to continue studying the critical issues
13 impacting child care AND FOSTER CARE SERVICES in the state of Colorado
14 in an effort to improve the quality of ~~child care~~ SUCH SERVICES provided
15 to the youngest citizens of the state.

16 **SECTION 2.** 26-6-305 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, is
17 amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PARAGRAPH to read:

18 **26-6-305. Child care commission - duties.** (1) The commission
19 shall have the following duties:

20 (f.5) TO STUDY AND EVALUATE THE STATE'S FOSTER CARE SYSTEM,
21 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

22 (I) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR FOSTER CARE HOMES AND
23 DIFFERENT ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES
24 THAT CERTIFY FOSTER CARE HOMES;

25 (II) THE ROLE OF CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES WITHIN THE FOSTER
26 CARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC
27 ISSUES:

- 1 (A) LICENSURE;
- 2 (B) NON-PROFIT STATUS;
- 3 (C) ACCREDITATION;
- 4 (D) INFORMATION GATHERING AND SHARING WITH RESPECT TO
- 5 OTHER CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES, FOSTER CARE FAMILIES, AND FOSTER
- 6 CARE CHILDREN;
- 7 (E) COSTS AND FUNDING; AND
- 8 (F) OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION;
- 9 (III) THE ROLE OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
- 10 WITHIN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE
- 11 FOLLOWING:
- 12 (A) FOSTER CARE CASELOADS;
- 13 (B) INVOLVEMENT WITH CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES;
- 14 (C) INFORMATION GATHERING AND SHARING WITH RESPECT TO
- 15 CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCIES, FOSTER CARE FAMILIES, AND FOSTER CARE
- 16 CHILDREN;
- 17 (D) COSTS AND FUNDING; AND
- 18 (E) OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION;
- 19 (IV) THE NEEDS OF FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND HOW TO BEST
- 20 MEET THOSE NEEDS THROUGH THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM; AND
- 21 (V) ANY OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM
- 22 THAT MAY ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE COMMISSION’S STUDY;

23 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,

24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate

25 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.