

CHAPTER 345

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

HOUSE BILL 17-1106

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pettersen and Wilson, Arndt, Becker K., Bridges, Coleman, Danielson, Esgar, Exum, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Lee, Lontine, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Rosenthal, Salazar, Singer, Valdez, Weissman, Winter, Young, Duran; also SENATOR(S) Martinez Humenik and Todd, Aguilar, Donovan, Fenberg, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Merrifield, Moreno, Zenzinger.

AN ACT**CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION.**

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.2-101, **amend** (1)(a), (1)(c), (2)(a), (2)(b) introductory portion, and (3) as follows:

26-6.2-101. Legislative declaration. (1) The general assembly hereby finds that:

(a) Public investments for pregnant women and young children from birth to eight years of age AND THEIR FAMILIES fall behind investments for older Colorado children and lag behind national trends;

(c) While there are several planning efforts related to early childhood services and collaborative bodies within state and local governments, there is no single venue to allow high-level decision-making among policy makers, to collectively study recommendations, TO FACILITATE CROSS-AGENCY COLLABORATION AMONG STATE AGENCIES, and to make joint policy and funding recommendations.

(2) The general assembly further finds that:

(a) A commission to assist in coordinating services and supports for pregnant women and young children from birth to eight years of age AND THEIR FAMILIES will improve the delivery of those services and improve the educational, health, emotional and mental health, child welfare, and employment outcomes for these children and their families; and

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(b) A commission to assist in coordinating the delivery of services and supports for pregnant women and young children AND THEIR FAMILIES will also significantly improve Colorado's workforce and economic development by:

(3) The general assembly finds, therefore, that it is essential to create a high-level, interagency, public-private leadership commission to identify opportunities for, and address barriers to, the coordination of federal and state early childhood policies and procedures IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES that affect the health and well-being of Colorado's children.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.2-103, **amend** (1), (3)(b) introductory portion, (3)(b)(II), (5), and (6) as follows:

26-6.2-103. Early childhood leadership commission - created - mission - funding. (1) There is created in the state department the early childhood leadership commission. The purpose of the commission is to ensure and advance a comprehensive service delivery system for pregnant women and children from birth to eight years of age using data to improve decision-making, alignment, and coordination among federally funded and state-funded services and programs for pregnant women and young children and their families. At a minimum, the comprehensive service delivery system for pregnant women and children AND THEIR FAMILIES must include services in the areas of prenatal health, child health, child mental health, early ~~learning~~ CARE AND EDUCATION, and family support and parent education.

(3) (b) The persons appointed to the commission pursuant to ~~paragraph (d) of subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(d) of this section shall:

(II) Serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in fulfilling their duties on the commission, subject to the availability of ~~moneys pursuant to section 26-6.2-105~~ FEDERAL FUNDS OR GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS.

(5) The commission, in collaboration with the executive director of the state department, may appoint ~~an executive~~ A director to assist the commission in fulfilling its duties pursuant to this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 6.2. The ~~executive~~ director may appoint such additional persons as may be necessary to assist the commission. The ~~executive~~ director and any other persons appointed pursuant to this subsection (5) shall be compensated ~~from moneys credited to the early childhood leadership commission fund created in section 26-6.2-105~~ WITH FEDERAL FUNDS OR GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS, AND NOT WITH MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND.

(6) The governor's office, the state department, and the other agencies represented on the commission may, at the request of the commission and within existing appropriations, provide necessary support to the commission, including but not limited to administrative support, data, and other analytical information. In addition, the commission may ~~accept in-kind contributions~~ SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS ~~from public and or private entities~~ SOURCES to the extent necessary to cover the expenses of the commission. MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND SHALL NOT BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE COMMISSION OR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE

OR OTHER EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.2-104, **amend** (1) and (2)(b) as follows:

26-6.2-104. Early childhood leadership commission - duties. (1) In addition to any other duties specified in law, the commission has the following duties:

(a) To identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children and to recommend to the appropriate committees of reference of the general assembly pursuant to part 2 of article 7 of title 2 C.R.S.; and to government and nonprofit agencies and policy boards changes to enhance the alignment and provision of services and supports for ~~young children~~ PREGNANT WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES;

(b) To advise and make recommendations to the state department and to other relevant early childhood entities concerning implementation of the early childhood Colorado framework;

(c) To assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children AND THEIR FAMILIES, including securing funding and additional investments for services, ~~and~~ programs, AND ACCESS TO THESE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS for children and their families;

(d) To consider and recommend waivers from state regulations on behalf of early childhood councils as provided in section 26-6.5-104 (1);

(e) To monitor the ongoing development, promotion, and implementation of:

(I) A quality, cohesive professional development and career advancement system;

(II) High-quality, comprehensive early learning standards; and

(III) The sharing and use of common data for planning and accountability among early childhood programs;

(f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:

(I) Increasing children's school readiness;

~~(g)~~ (II) ~~To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning~~ Increasing participation in and access to child care and early education programs; and

~~(h)~~ (III) ~~To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning~~ Promoting family and community engagement in children's EARLY education and development.

(2) In fulfilling its duties, the commission shall collaborate, at a minimum, with:

(b) Any other boards, commissions, and councils ~~existing within the executive branch~~ agencies that address services and supports for PREGNANT WOMEN AND

young children.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** 26-6.2-105.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 26-6.2-106 as follows:

26-6.2-106. Repeal of article. This ~~article~~ ARTICLE 6.2 is repealed, effective ~~September 1, 2018.~~ Prior to SEPTEMBER 1, 2023. BEFORE its repeal, the commission is subject to review ~~as provided~~ in ACCORDANCE WITH section 2-3-1203. ~~C.R.S.~~

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **repeal** (6)(a)(IV); and **add** (14)(a)(V) as follows:

2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative declaration - definition - repeal. (6) (a) The following statutory authorizations for the designated advisory committees will ~~repeal~~ on July 1, 2018:

(IV) ~~The early childhood leadership commission created in section 26-6.2-103;~~
~~C.R.S.;~~

(14) (a) The following statutory authorizations for the designated advisory committees ~~will~~ ARE SCHEDULED FOR repeal on September 1, 2023:

(V) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION 26-6.2-103.

SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 5, 2017