

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 19-0662.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 19-1176

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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Foote,

House Committees

Health & Insurance
Legislative Council
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE ENACTMENT OF THE "HEALTH CARE COST SAVINGS**
102 **ACT OF 2019" THAT CREATES A TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE**
103 **HEALTH CARE FINANCING SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO GIVE THE**
104 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDINGS REGARDING THE SYSTEMS' COSTS**
105 **OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE TO RESIDENTS OF THE**
106 **STATE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN**
107 **APPROPRIATION.**

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://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

The bill creates the health care cost analysis task force (task force). The president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the minority leader of the house of representatives shall each appoint 2 legislative members to the task force. The governor shall appoint 9 members to the task force. The executive directors of the departments of human services, public health and environment, and health care policy and financing, or their designees, also serve on the task force.

The task force is required to issue a request for proposals and select an analyst to complete a health care cost analysis of 4 health care financing systems. The health care financing systems to be analyzed are:

- ! The current health care financing system, in which residents receive health care coverage from private and public insurance carriers or are uninsured;
- ! A public option system in which health benefit plans are sold through, and revenues and premiums are received from, the Colorado health benefit exchange, with additional funding as necessary through the general fund;
- ! A multi-payer universal health care financing system, in which competing insurance carriers or health maintenance organizations receive payments from a public financing authority; and
- ! A publicly financed and privately delivered universal health care system that directly compensates providers.

The analyst is required to use the same specified criteria when conducting the analysis of each health care financing system.

The task force is required to report the findings of the analyst to the general assembly.

The task force may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, and donations for the analysis. The general assembly may appropriate money to the health care cost analysis cash fund for the purposes of the task force, the analysis, and reporting requirements.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) Health care costs continue to rise at unsustainable levels that
5 exceed the rate of economic growth in the United States and that require
6 increasingly large portions of the state's budget;

1 (b) Recent polls of Americans from all demographics indicate that
2 access to affordable health care is a major concern for a substantial
3 majority of those polled;

4 (c) Colorado's rural residents pay disproportionately higher
5 premiums than urban residents for health insurance and often lack access
6 to adequate health care services;

7 (d) According to a recent Colorado Health Institute study, there
8 are approximately three hundred fifty thousand Coloradans without health
9 insurance, and there are approximately eight hundred fifty thousand
10 Coloradans who are underinsured in that their health insurance has high
11 deductibles or other coinsurance requirements that result in unaffordable
12 out-of-pocket expenditures; and

13 (e) Coloradans need facts to determine the most cost-effective
14 method of financing health care that ensures that all Coloradans have
15 access to adequate and affordable health care.

16 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** article 11 to title
17 25.5 as follows:

18 **ARTICLE 11**

19 **Health Care Cost Savings Act**

20 **25.5-11-101. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS ARTICLE 11 IS
21 THE "HEALTH CARE COST SAVINGS ACT OF 2019".

22 **25.5-11-102. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS ARTICLE 11, UNLESS
23 THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

24 (1) "AT-RISK INSURED" MEANS A RESIDENT OF COLORADO WHO IS
25 NOT UNDERINSURED BECAUSE THE INDIVIDUAL HAS FEW MEDICAL NEEDS
26 BUT WHO WOULD BE UNDERINSURED IF THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPED A
27 SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION.

1 (2) "FEDERAL ACT" MEANS THE FEDERAL "PATIENT PROTECTION
2 AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT", PUB.L. 111-148, AS AMENDED BY THE
3 FEDERAL "HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF
4 2010", PUB.L. 111-152.

5 (3) "HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE" MEANS THE COLORADO HEALTH
6 BENEFIT EXCHANGE CREATED IN ARTICLE 22 OF TITLE 10.

7 (4) "MEDICAID" MEANS THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
8 THE "COLORADO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ACT", ARTICLES 4, 5, AND 6 OF
9 THIS TITLE 25.5;

10 (5) "MEDICARE" MEANS FEDERAL INSURANCE OR ASSISTANCE AS
11 PROVIDED BY TITLE XVIII OF THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", AS
12 AMENDED, 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1395 ET SEQ.

13 (6) "PUBLIC OPTION SYSTEM" MEANS A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
14 UNDER WHICH EVERY RESIDENT OF THE STATE IS ABLE TO PURCHASE A
15 HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MANAGED BY THE STATE OR THROUGH THE HEALTH
16 BENEFIT EXCHANGE.

17 (7) "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE HEALTH CARE COST ANALYSIS TASK
18 FORCE CREATED IN SECTION 25.5-11-103.

19 (8) "UNDERINSURED" MEANS A PERSON WHO HAS HEALTH
20 INSURANCE BUT HAS HEALTH CARE COSTS, INCLUDING HIGH DEDUCTIBLES
21 AND OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES, THAT EXCEED TEN PERCENT OF THE
22 PERSON'S PERSONAL INCOME.

23 (9) "UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE" MEANS A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
24 UNDER WHICH EVERY RESIDENT OF THE STATE HAS ACCESS TO ADEQUATE
25 AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE.

26 **25.5-11-103. Health care cost analysis task force - creation -**
27 **membership - duties - reports.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE

1 DEPARTMENT THE HEALTH CARE COST ANALYSIS TASK FORCE FOR THE
2 PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL ANALYSES OF CURRENT
3 AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE FINANCING SYSTEMS.

4 (2) (a) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
5 SENATE, THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE
6 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE
7 OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL EACH APPOINT ONE MEMBER OF THE GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY TO THE TASK FORCE.

9 (b) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019, THE GOVERNOR SHALL
10 APPOINT EIGHT MEMBERS TO THE TASK FORCE. IN MAKING THE
11 APPOINTMENTS, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE APPOINTEES:

12 (I) HAVE A DEMONSTRATED ABILITY TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS
13 OF ALL COLORADANS AND, REGARDLESS OF THE APPOINTEES'
14 BACKGROUNDS OR AFFILIATIONS, ARE ABLE TO PRESENT OBJECTIVE,
15 NONPARTISAN, FACTUAL, AND EVIDENCE-BASED IDEAS AND TO
16 OBJECTIVELY ADVISE THE ANALYST CONCERNING THE HEALTH CARE
17 FINANCING SYSTEMS; AND

18 (II) REFLECT THE SOCIAL, DEMOGRAPHIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC
19 DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

20 (c) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
21 SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, AND
22 THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, AND THE
23 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE, OR THEIR
24 DESIGNEES, SHALL SERVE ON THE TASK FORCE.

25 (3) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SELECT A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FROM
26 AMONG ITS MEMBERS. A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE APPOINTED
27 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE REMOVED BY

1 A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE. IF A
2 VACANCY OCCURS ON THE TASK FORCE, THE ORIGINAL APPOINTING
3 AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT A NEW MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY.

4 (4) NONLEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEMBERS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO
5 RECEIVE PER DIEM OR OTHER COMPENSATION FOR PERFORMANCE OF
6 SERVICES FOR THE TASK FORCE BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR ACTUAL
7 AND NECESSARY EXPENSES WHILE ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
8 OFFICIAL DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE. LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEMBERS
9 ARE REIMBURSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-2-307 (3).

10 (5) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

11 (a) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2019, ISSUE A COMPETITIVE
12 SOLICITATION UNDER THE "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES 101 TO 112
13 OF TITLE 24, IN ORDER TO SELECT AN ANALYST TO PROVIDE A DETAILED
14 ANALYSIS OF FISCAL COSTS AND OTHER IMPACTS OF THE HEALTH CARE
15 FINANCING SYSTEMS SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE 11;

16 (b) BY MAJORITY VOTE, SELECT AND CONTRACT WITH AN ANALYST
17 WHO:

18 (I) HAS EXPERIENCE CONDUCTING HEALTH CARE COST ANALYSES;

19 (II) IS FAMILIAR WITH DIFFERENT METHODOLOGIES USED; AND

20 (III) IS, IN THE OPINION OF THE TASK FORCE, EMPLOYED BY AN
21 ORGANIZATION THAT IS NONPARTISAN AND UNBIASED;

22 (c) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021, SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY
23 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT CONTAINS THE ANALYST'S
24 METHODOLOGY FOR STUDYING THE HEALTH CARE FINANCING SYSTEMS
25 SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE 11; AND

26 (d) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, DELIVER TO THE GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY A FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE'S FINDINGS RECEIVED

1 FROM THE ANALYST SELECTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

2 (6) IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE
3 TASK FORCE MAY HIRE STAFF AND CONSULTANTS FOR THE PURPOSES OF
4 THIS ARTICLE 11.

5 (7) THE TASK FORCE IS SUBJECT TO ARTICLES 6 AND 72 OF TITLE
6 24.

7 **25.5-11-104. Analyst - duties.** (1) THE ANALYST SELECTED
8 PURSUANT TO SECTION 25.5-11-103 (5) SHALL HOST AT LEAST THREE
9 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE
10 STATE TO DETERMINE THE METHODOLOGY TO BE USED TO STUDY THE
11 HEALTH CARE FINANCING SYSTEMS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS
12 SECTION.

13 (2) THE ANALYST SHALL ANALYZE, AT A MINIMUM, THE
14 FOLLOWING HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS:

15 (a) THE CURRENT COLORADO HEALTH CARE FINANCING SYSTEM IN
16 WHICH RESIDENTS RECEIVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FROM PRIVATE
17 INSURERS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS OR ARE UNINSURED;

18 (b) A MULTI-PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN WHICH
19 ALL RESIDENTS OF COLORADO ARE COVERED UNDER A PLAN WITH A
20 MANDATED SET OF BENEFITS THAT IS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY FUNDED
21 AND ALSO PAID FOR BY EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS; AND

22 (c) A PUBLICLY FINANCED AND PRIVATELY DELIVERED UNIVERSAL
23 HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT DIRECTLY COMPENSATES PROVIDERS.

24 (3) THE ANALYST SHALL PREPARE A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF EACH
25 HEALTH CARE FINANCING SYSTEM. EACH ANALYSIS MAY:

26 (a) INCLUDE THE FIRST, SECOND, FIFTH, AND TENTH YEAR COSTS;

27 (b) SET COMPENSATION FOR LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

1 AT LEVELS THAT RESULT IN NET INCOME THAT WILL ATTRACT AND RETAIN
2 NECESSARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

3 (c) INCLUDE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS REIMBURSED AT ONE
4 HUNDRED TWENTY PERCENT OF MEDICARE RATES FOR RESIDENTS OF
5 COLORADO WHO ARE TEMPORARILY LIVING OUT OF STATE;

6 (d) DESCRIBE AND QUANTIFY THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED,
7 UNDERINSURED, AND AT-RISK INSURED INDIVIDUALS IN EACH SYSTEM;

8 (e) INCLUDE IN EACH SYSTEM THE PROVISION OF BENEFITS THAT
9 ARE THE SAME AS THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL ACT;

10 (f) IDENTIFY HEALTH EXPENDITURES BY PAYER;

11 (g) IDENTIFY OUT-OF-POCKET CHARGES INCLUDING COINSURANCE,
12 DEDUCTIBLES, AND COPAYMENTS;

13 (h) DESCRIBE HOW THE SYSTEM PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

14 (I) SERVICES REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL ACT;

15 (II) MEDICARE-QUALIFIED SERVICES;

16 (III) MEDICAID SERVICES AND BENEFITS EQUAL TO OR GREATER
17 THAN CURRENT SERVICES AND BENEFITS AND WITH EQUIVALENT PROVIDER
18 COMPENSATION RATES;

19 (IV) MEDICAID SERVICES AND BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
20 DISABILITIES WHO DO NOT MEET ASSET OR INCOME QUALIFICATIONS, WHO
21 HAVE THE RIGHT TO MANAGE THEIR OWN CARE, AND WHO HAVE THE RIGHT
22 TO DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT;

23 (V) COVERAGE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AND REPRODUCTIVE
24 SERVICES;

25 (VI) VISION, HEARING, AND DENTAL SERVICES;

26 (VII) ACCESS TO PRIMARY SPECIALTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN
27 RURAL COLORADO AND OTHER UNDERSERVED AREAS OR POPULATIONS;

1 AND

2 (VIII) BEHAVIORAL, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUBSTANCE USE

3 DISORDERS SERVICES;

4 (i) PROVIDE A REVIEW OF EXISTING LITERATURE REGARDING THE

5 COLLATERAL COSTS TO SOCIETY OF HIGH HEALTH CARE COSTS, WHICH MAY

6 INCLUDE:

7 (I) THE COST OF EMERGENCY ROOM, URGENT CARE, AND INTENSIVE

8 CARE TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD

9 PREVENTIVE OR PRIMARY CARE IN LOWER-COST SETTINGS;

10 (II) THE COST IN LOST TIME FROM WORK, DECREASED

11 PRODUCTIVITY, OR UNEMPLOYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO, AS A RESULT

12 OF BEING UNABLE TO AFFORD PREVENTIVE OR PRIMARY CARE, DEVELOP A

13 MORE SEVERE, URGENT, OR DISABLING CONDITION;

14 (III) THE COST OF BANKRUPTCIES CAUSED BY UNAFFORDABLE

15 MEDICAL EXPENSES, INCLUDING THE COST TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE

16 FORCED TO FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY AND THE COST TO HEALTH CARE

17 PROVIDERS THAT DO NOT GET PAID AS A RESULT;

18 (IV) THE COSTS TO AND EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT

19 FILE BANKRUPTCIES BECAUSE OF MEDICAL EXPENSES AND WHO ARE

20 FINANCIALLY DEPLETED BY THESE COSTS;

21 (V) MEDICAL COSTS CAUSED BY THE DIVERSION OF FUNDS FROM

22 OTHER HEALTH DETERMINANTS, SUCH AS EDUCATION, SAFE FOOD SUPPLY,

23 OR SAFE WATER SUPPLY; AND

24 (VI) OTHER COLLATERAL COSTS AS DETERMINED BY THE TASK

25 FORCE.

26 (4) THE ANALYST SHALL MODEL SUFFICIENT AND FAIR FUNDING

27 SYSTEMS THAT MAY BE VIABLE FOR EACH SYSTEM STUDIED PURSUANT TO

1 THIS SECTION THAT RAISE REVENUE FROM:
2 (a) THE GENERAL FUND;
3 (b) FEDERAL WAIVERS AVAILABLE UNDER MEDICAID AND THE
4 FEDERAL ACT, AS APPROPRIATE FOR EACH SYSTEM STUDIED;
5 (c) A COMBINATION OF TWO OR MORE OF:
6 (I) PROGRESSIVE INCOME TAXES;
7 (II) PAYROLL TAXES THAT MAY BE SPLIT BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND
8 EMPLOYEE; AND
9 (III) OTHER TAXES, INCLUDING INCOME, CIGARETTE, ALCOHOL,
10 MARIJUANA, AND SUGARY DRINK TAXES, AND PREMIUMS BASED ON
11 INCOME.

12 (5) THE ANALYST SHALL CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THIS SECTION
13 TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE WITH FUNDING PROVIDED THROUGH MONEYS
14 APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WITH GIFTS, GRANTS,
15 AND DONATIONS AND AS PRIORITIZED BY THE TASK FORCE.

16 **25.5-11-105. Appropriation - gifts, grants, and donations.**

17 (1) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 AND 2020-21, THE GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE
19 STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ARTICLE 11.

20 (2) THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE TASK FORCE MAY SEEK,
21 ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS, INCLUDING IN-KIND
22 DONATIONS, FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF
23 THIS ARTICLE 11.

24 (3) THE TASK FORCE MAY USE MONEY AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO
25 SUBSECTIONS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
26 THIS ARTICLE 11, TO:

27 (a) COMPENSATE ANY NECESSARY STAFF AND CONSULTANTS HIRED

1 PURSUANT TO SECTION 25.5-11-103 (6);

2 (b) PAY THE ANALYST SELECTED PURSUANT TO SECTION
3 25.5-11-103 (5) FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF
4 THE METHODOLOGY AND ANALYSES CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION
5 25.5-11-104; AND

6 (c) REIMBURSE THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS' ACTUAL AND
7 NECESSARY EXPENSES IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES.

8 **25.5-11-106. Repeal of article.** THIS ARTICLE 11 IS REPEALED,
9 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022.

10 **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2019-20 state fiscal
11 year, \$92,649 is appropriated to the department of health care policy and
12 financing. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this
13 act, the department may use this appropriation as follows:

14 (a) \$5,200 for operating expenses; and

15 (b) \$87,449 for general professional services and special projects.

16 (2) The general assembly has determined that staffing for the
17 health care cost analysis task force created in section 25.5-11-103, C.R.S.,
18 can be implemented within existing appropriations, and therefore no
19 separate appropriation of state money is necessary to carry out this
20 purpose of the act.

21 (3) For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$7,351 is appropriated to the
22 legislative department for use by the general assembly. This appropriation
23 is from the general fund. To implement this act, the general assembly may
24 use this appropriation for per diem payments.

25 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
26 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
27 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.