

Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-1267.01 Jerry Barry x4341

SENATE BILL 16-205

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Lambert, Grantham, Steadman

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hamner, Young, Rankin

Senate Committees
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING PAYMENT FOR EXPENSES OF INDIGENT PARENTS.

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>.)

Under current law, in a parent-child termination proceeding, the office of the state court administrator receives money to pay for an indigent parent to retain one expert witness and to obtain a transcript of the trial. Since the responsibility for retaining counsel for indigent parents in such cases is now handled by the office of the respondent parents' counsel, under the bill, money is appropriated to that office to pay such expenses.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-3-607, **amend** (1)
3 as follows:

4 **19-3-607. Expert testimony.** (1) An indigent parent has the right
5 to have appointed one expert witness of his OR HER own choosing whose
6 reasonable fees and expenses, subject to the ~~court's~~ review and approval
7 BY THE OFFICE OF THE RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL, shall be paid by
8 the state of Colorado pursuant to section 19-3-610.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 19-3-610 as
10 follows:

11 **19-3-610. Budgetary allocation for expenses.** The general
12 assembly shall make annual appropriations to the office of the ~~state court~~
13 ~~administrator~~ RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL for the purpose of meeting
14 the expenses of sections 19-3-607 (1) and 19-3-609 (2).

15 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect July 1, 2016.

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