Bill Number	**Sponsors**

House Bill 16-1050

Representative Pettersen
Senator Merrifield

Short Title	**Research Analyst**

Low-income Parents Education Child Care

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on April 27, 2016.

Summary

The bill, recommended by the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission, creates a task force to address issues relating to the child care needs of low-income parents. Its mission is to develop strategies and procedures for state and local agencies, and institutes of higher education, to use in coordinating efforts that address the child care needs of low-income parents who are seeking to advance their education.

Specifically, the task force is required to:

- identify and reduce barriers to obtaining child care;
- determine whether state, federal, and campus-based financial resources are meeting the needs of parents pursuing further education;
- review and streamline administrative processes for the provision of child care;
- create a plan for communicating child care availability and processes; and
- recommend legislation to address issues related to child care for parents pursuing further education.

The bill sets the conditions for the selection and composition of the task force, which will have between 17 and 19 members. Task force members serve without per diem or reimbursement of costs. The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Department of Higher Education (DHE), and the Department of Human Services (CDHS) are required to provide staff support to the task force. The task force must hold its first meeting no later than September 1, 2016. A final report must be submitted by the task

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force to the Health and Human Services committees of the General Assembly by March 1, 2017, and to the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission by July 1, 2017. The task force is repealed July 1, 2017.

Background

This bill was recommended during the 2015 interim by the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission, based on concerns expressed by stakeholder groups that a lack of affordable childcare plays a role in the decisions parents make about whether or not to pursue higher education.

House Action

House Public Health Care and Human Services (January 26, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, the Bell Policy Center, the Center for Work Education and Employment, and the Women's Foundation of Colorado testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the House Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Committee (April 15, 2016). The committee adopted amendment J.001 and referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole. The amendment adjusts the bill's appropriations clause.

House Second Reading (April 15, 2016). The bill passed the House on second reading with no amendments.

House Third Reading (April 18, 2016). The bill passed the House on third reading with no amendments.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (April 27, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, the Bell Policy Center, and the Women's Foundation of Colorado testified in support of the bill. The committee postponed the bill indefinitely.