A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE "HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY (HOME) CHILDHOOD ACT" TO PROMOTE BEST PRACTICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WITH THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BY PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE LICENSING PARAMETERS FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INDUSTRY.

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/.)
Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The bill creates the "Helping Others Manage Early (HOME) Childhood Act" (HOME Act). The HOME Act consists of 3 components:

! A public awareness campaign (campaign), implemented by a third-party entity contracted by the department of human services (department). The campaign will target those persons connected with early childhood in some fashion, from families to providers, and inform them on what is expected from early childhood providers, what is expected from children by the time they enter kindergarten, and what resources are available throughout the state.

! A series of multicounty workshops directed at early childhood providers to provide information on best practices for effective early childhood education. The multicounty workshops will also provide information on the requirements and procedures for licensure.

! A series of regional workshops designed to educate interested providers on how to start an early child care center or preschool, as well as any requirements and procedures for licensure.

The bill directs that the department provide adequate child care for the multicounty and regional workshops to allow for maximum attendance.

The bill includes a repeal date of 2023 with a provision for a mandatory prior review of the effectiveness of the 3 components.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 4 to article 6.5 of title 26 as follows:

PART 4

HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD ACT

26-6.5-401. Short title. The short title of this part 4 is the "HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY (HOME) CHILDHOOD ACT".

26-6.5-402. Definitions. As used in this part 4, unless the context otherwise requires:
1. (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

2. (2) "EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL" MEANS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL IDENTIFIED OR ESTABLISHED LOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103 OR 26-6.5-106.

3. (3) "HOME ACT" MEANS THE "HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY (HOME) CHILDHOOD ACT" ESTABLISHED IN THIS PART 4.

26-6.5-403. Public awareness activities - timeline. (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENGAGE IN A GRASSROOTS EFFORT TO RAISE AWARENESS AND IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN EACH COUNTY THAT SERVE AS A RESOURCE FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CAREGIVERS IN THE STATE TO ENSURE THAT CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE AWARE OF:

(a) WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;

(b) WHAT A CHILD IS EXPECTED TO KNOW BY THE TIME THE CHILD REACHES KINDERGARTEN; AND

(c) WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE STATE RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS, FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-18-102, AND OTHER LOCAL PARTNERS AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

26-6.5-404. Workshops - skills and licensure requirements -
child care availability. (1) The department, in collaboration with the department of education and early childhood councils, shall develop a series of multicounty workshops for current and prospective early childhood providers. The purpose of the workshops is to provide early childhood providers with:

(a) Additional information on the necessary skills to adequately perform their jobs; and

(b) Information concerning career pathways, as well as licensure requirements and procedures, for early childhood providers.

(2) The department shall host the multicounty workshops throughout the 2021-22 academic year.

(3) As resources allow, the department shall provide adequate child care for workshop attendees to allow for maximum attendance.

26-6.5-405. Regional workshops - creating a licensed early child care program - quality - child care availability. (1) The department, in collaboration with early childhood councils, shall develop a series of regional workshops that inform participants concerning:

(a) How to start an early child care program licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 6 of this title 26;

(b) The elements of the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System, as described in section 26-6.5-106, and ways to improve quality; and

(c) Licensure requirements and procedures for child care programs licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 6 of this title 26.
(2) The department shall host the regional workshops from May through August of 2022.

(3) As resources allow, the department shall provide adequate child care for workshop attendees to allow for maximum attendance.

26-6.5-406. Repeal of part. This part 4 is repealed, effective September 1, 2023. Before the repeal, this part 4 is scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, add (24)(a)(XIII) as follows:

24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative declaration - repeal. (24) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2023:

(XIII) The "Helping Others Manage Early (HOME) Childhood Act" created in part 4 of article 6.5 of title 26.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.