

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

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 21-0478.03 Julie Pelegrin x2700

**HOUSE BILL 21-1304**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Sirota and Garnett,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Fenberg and Buckner,**

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**House Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING MEASURES TO ESTABLISH A UNIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
102                    **SYSTEM IN COLORADO, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103                    **CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.**

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**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>.)*

Effective July 1, 2022, the bill creates the department of early childhood (new department) to:

- Provide early childhood opportunities;
- Coordinate the availability of early childhood programs and services throughout Colorado;

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.

- Establish state and community partnerships for a mixed delivery of child care and early childhood programs through school- and community-based providers;
- Prioritize the interests and input of children, parents, providers, and the community in designing and delivering early childhood services and programs;
- Prioritize the equitable delivery of resources and supports for early childhood; and
- Unify the administration of early childhood programs and services.

The bill moves the early childhood leadership commission (commission) to the new department, effective July 1, 2022.

The bill creates a transition working group (working group) consisting of the co-chairs of the commission and representatives of certain state agencies and the governor's office, and directs the co-chairs of the commission to convene a transition advisory group (advisory group). The bill directs the working group, working with a consultant and with the advice of the advisory group, to develop a transition plan (plan) for the coordination and administration of early childhood services and programs by the new department and the departments of education, human services, and public health and environment, including, to the extent necessary, the transition of existing programs and services to the new department. The bill includes specific requirements for the plan. The governor's office must submit the plan to the joint budget committee as part of the governor's 2022 budget request, and the working group must submit the plan to the commission for approval. As soon as practicable after the plan is approved, the governor's office must submit the approved plan to the joint budget committee with any necessary budget request amendments. The working group must submit the approved plan to other committees of the general assembly by November 15, 2021, and must meet with the early childhood and school readiness legislative commission by December 1, 2021, to present the plan.

The bill also directs the working group, working with the consultant and with the advice of the advisory group, to develop recommendations for a new voluntary, universal preschool program (recommendations) to be funded partially by the recently increased sales tax on tobacco and operated by the new department beginning in the 2023-24 school year. The bill specifies requirements that the new preschool program must meet. The working group must submit the recommendations to the commission for approval and must then submit the recommendations to the joint budget committee and other committees of the general assembly by January 15, 2022.

The bill requires the governor's office to contract with one or more private entities to consult with the working group in developing and implementing the plan and in developing the recommendations and to



1 ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND ANY OTHER  
2 RELEVANT AGENCY IDENTIFIED IN CREATING THE TRANSITION PLAN.

3 (4) "HEAD START AGENCY" MEANS A LOCAL PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
4 NONPROFIT AGENCY DESIGNATED BY THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF  
5 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO OPERATE A HEAD START PROGRAM  
6 UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE V OF THE FEDERAL "ECONOMIC  
7 OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1964", AS AMENDED.

8 (5) "PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS CASH FUND" MEANS THE PRESCHOOL  
9 PROGRAMS CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-22-118 (3).

10 (6) "NEW DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY  
11 CHILDHOOD CREATED IN TITLE 26.5, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

12 (7) "TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP" MEANS THE GROUP CONVENED  
13 BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.2-303  
14 (2) TO ADVISE THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP IN DEVELOPING THE  
15 TRANSITION PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW PRESCHOOL  
16 PROGRAM.

17 (8) "TRANSITION PLAN" MEANS THE PLAN DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
18 26-6.2-304 FOR THE COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF EARLY  
19 CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND PROGRAMS BY THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND THE  
20 EXISTING DEPARTMENTS.

21 (9) "TRANSITION WORKING GROUP" MEANS THE GROUP CREATED  
22 IN SECTION 26-6.2-303 (1) THAT CREATES THE TRANSITION PLAN AND THE  
23 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN  
24 THIS PART 3.

25 **26-6.2-303. Early childhood services transition - transition**  
26 **working group - creation - transition advisory group - consultant -**  
27 **transition plan - new preschool program recommendations - reports.**

1 (1) (a) THERE IS CREATED A TRANSITION WORKING GROUP CONSISTING OF  
2 THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 EXISTING DEPARTMENTS AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. IN LIEU OF  
4 SERVING ON THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP, EACH OF THE CO-CHAIRS  
5 OF THE COMMISSION MAY APPOINT A DESIGNEE FROM THE COMMISSION  
6 MEMBERSHIP TO SERVE ON THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP. THE  
7 TRANSITION WORKING GROUP, WORKING WITH THE CONSULTANT AND WITH  
8 THE ADVICE OF THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP, SHALL DEVELOP A  
9 TRANSITION PLAN, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.2-304, AND DEVELOP  
10 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW STATEWIDE, UNIVERSAL, VOLUNTARY  
11 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.2-305.

12 (b) THE COMMISSION STAFF, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AND THE  
13 EXISTING DEPARTMENTS SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE AND  
14 RESOURCES, AS NECESSARY, TO ASSIST IN COMPLETING THE DUTIES OF THE  
15 TRANSITION WORKING GROUP IDENTIFIED IN THIS PART 3.

16 (2) (a) THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL CONVENE A  
17 TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP TO ADVISE THE TRANSITION WORKING  
18 GROUP IN DEVELOPING THE TRANSITION PLAN AND THE NEW PRESCHOOL  
19 PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF  
20 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW  
21 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM THAT ELIMINATES REDUNDANCIES AND HELPS  
22 ENSURE THAT THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
23 ARE CHILD AND FAMILY CENTERED. THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP  
24 MUST PRIORITIZE CONSIDERATION OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY EXPERIENCE  
25 IN ACCESSING AND USING EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN  
26 ADVISING THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP ON THE DESIGN OF THE NEW  
27 DEPARTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM.

1 THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP, AT A MINIMUM, SHALL ADVISE THE  
2 TRANSITION WORKING GROUP CONCERNING PRIORITIZATION OF THE  
3 TRANSITION ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND THE SCOPE AND  
4 SEQUENCE OF THE STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES FOR DEVELOPING THE PLAN  
5 AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND SHALL PROVIDE TIMELY INPUT INTO THE  
6 SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS THAT ARISE IN DEVELOPING THE TRANSITION  
7 PLAN AND THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS.

8 (b) THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE  
9 APPROPRIATE SIZE AND SPECIFIC MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRANSITION  
10 ADVISORY GROUP TO ENSURE THAT THE REPRESENTATION OF  
11 PERSPECTIVES ON THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP IS SUFFICIENTLY  
12 BROAD AND DIVERSE TO ADEQUATELY INFORM THE TRANSITION WORKING  
13 GROUP CONCERNING THE FULL SPECTRUM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
14 PROGRAMS AND ISSUES. IN SELECTING MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION  
15 ADVISORY GROUP, THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL ENSURE  
16 THAT, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP  
17 AT A MINIMUM INCLUDES:

18 (I) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE ENROLLED IN A VARIETY OF  
19 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS; MEMBERS OF THE  
20 EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE, INCLUDING COMMUNITY- AND  
21 SCHOOL-BASED EDUCATORS; AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GEOGRAPHICALLY  
22 AND PROGRAMMATICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITY- AND SCHOOL-BASED  
23 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM PROVIDERS. TO THE  
24 EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE CO-CHAIRS SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PERSONS  
25 DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2)(b)(I) CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY OF THE  
26 MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP.

27 (II) REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

1 DEPARTMENTS, SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS, THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
2 COUNCILS, MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, REPRESENTATIVES OF  
3 PRIVATE NONPROFIT ENTITIES, REPRESENTATIVES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
4 AND EDUCATION ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS WITH  
5 EXPERTISE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD AND BUSINESS PRACTICES.

6 (c) IN SELECTING MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP  
7 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION, THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE  
8 COMMISSION SHALL:

9 (I) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, ENSURE THAT PERSONS FROM  
10 UNDER-RESOURCED AND UNDER-REPRESENTED COMMUNITIES CONSTITUTE  
11 AT LEAST ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION ADVISORY  
12 GROUP; AND

13 (II) **PRIORITIZE** ANY RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE  
14 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATIONS THAT REPRESENT THE GROUPS DESCRIBED IN  
15 SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (d) MEMBERS OF THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP MAY RECEIVE  
17 PER DIEM COMPENSATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE  
18 TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP IN THE SAME AMOUNT PAID TO  
19 LEGISLATORS PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-2-307 (3)(a). MEMBERS OF THE  
20 TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP ARE ALSO ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT  
21 FOR ALL ACTUAL AND NECESSARY TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES  
22 DIRECTLY RELATED TO THEIR SERVICE ON THE ADVISORY GROUP.

23 (3) **THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP SHALL CONVENE A**  
24 **SUBGROUP TO WORK WITH THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP IN**  
25 **DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF**  
26 **PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES WITHIN THE NEW PRESCHOOL**  
27 **PROGRAM, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, DEVELOPING THE**

1 RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRED IN SECTION 26-6.2-305 (3)(b). THE  
2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBGROUP MUST INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED  
3 TO, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF WITH EXPERTISE IN SPECIAL  
4 EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES STAFF WITH EXPERTISE IN  
5 SERVING CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, SPECIAL EDUCATION  
6 DIRECTORS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS, REPRESENTATIVES OF  
7 ORGANIZATIONS THAT REPRESENT SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS,  
8 GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE REPRESENTATION FROM SCHOOL- AND  
9 COMMUNITY-BASED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PROVIDERS, HEAD START  
10 AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES, REPRESENTATIVES OF NONPROFIT AND  
11 ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS THAT REPRESENT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
12 WITH SPECIAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES, AND PARENTS, INCLUDING PARENTS  
13 OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

14 (4) AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
15 SECTION, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SHALL CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE  
16 PRIVATE ENTITIES TO CONSULT WITH AND ASSIST THE TRANSITION  
17 WORKING GROUP IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A TRANSITION PLAN  
18 AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.2-304 AND IN DEVELOPING  
19 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW STATEWIDE, UNIVERSAL, VOLUNTARY  
20 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.2-305. AN INITIAL  
21 CONTRACT WITH A CONSULTANT PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4) MUST  
22 NOT EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MUST PROVIDE THAT  
23 THE CONSULTING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED AS AN IN-KIND DONATION OF  
24 SERVICES. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE MAY ENTER INTO SUBSEQUENT  
25 CONTRACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES  
26 101 TO 112 OF TITLE 24, WITH ONE OR MORE CONSULTANTS FOR THE  
27 SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (4). A CONSULTANT WITH WHICH



1 THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4)  
2 MUST AT A MINIMUM HAVE EXPERTISE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS,  
3 PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. THE  
4 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SHALL ENSURE THAT A CONSULTANT WITH WHICH IT  
5 CONTRACTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4) DOES NOT HAVE A  
6 FINANCIAL INTEREST IN ANY ASPECT OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM  
7 AND THAT A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION DOES NOT HAVE A FINANCIAL  
8 INTEREST IN THE CONSULTANT.

9 (5) IN DEVELOPING THE TRANSITION PLAN AND THE NEW  
10 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS, THE TRANSITION WORKING  
11 GROUP AND THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP SHALL ENGAGE TO THE  
12 GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE WITH INTERESTED AND AFFECTED  
13 INDIVIDUALS IN ALL AREAS OF THE STATE, INCLUDING URBAN, SUBURBAN,  
14 AND RURAL AREAS, AND ACROSS A WIDE VARIETY OF PROGRAM TYPES AND  
15 SHALL ACTIVELY SEEK THE INPUT AND GUIDANCE OF PARENTS AND LEGAL  
16 GUARDIANS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS AND  
17 EXPERTS, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS, SCHOOLS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS,  
18 SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS, EARLY CHILDHOOD  
19 COUNCILS, INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH  
20 PROFESSIONALS, COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSIONALS, INDIAN  
21 TRIBES, CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY GROUPS, MEMBERS OF MIGRANT SEASONAL  
22 POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS,  
23 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND OTHER  
24 INTERESTED AND AFFECTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS. TO FACILITATE THIS  
25 ENGAGEMENT, THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP SHALL ENGAGE  
26 STAKEHOLDERS THROUGH A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS PUBLIC  
27 MEETINGS, WORKING SESSIONS, WRITTEN COMMENT, AND DESIGN

1 OPPORTUNITIES WITH PARENTS AND PROVIDERS. THE TRANSITION  
2 WORKING GROUP SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL INPUT RECEIVED IS  
3 DOCUMENTED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. TO INCREASE  
4 EFFICIENCY AND MEET WITH AS MANY STAKEHOLDERS AS POSSIBLE, THE  
5 TRANSITION WORKING GROUP MAY DIVIDE INTO SUBGROUPS FOR MEETINGS  
6 AND MAY MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS USING ELECTRONIC OR DIGITAL  
7 PLATFORMS OR FORMATS. THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP SHALL ALSO  
8 CONSIDER ANY AVAILABLE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM  
9 PREVIOUS STUDIES, REVIEWS, PUBLIC FORUM DISCUSSIONS, AND OTHER  
10 FORMAL AND INFORMAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PROVISION OF EARLY  
11 CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN COLORADO.

12 (6) (a) BY NOVEMBER 1, 2021, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, ON  
13 BEHALF OF THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP, SHALL SUBMIT THE  
14 TRANSITION PLAN TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE WITH THE  
15 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REQUEST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-3-208  
16 (2)(a), AND THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP SHALL SUBMIT THE  
17 TRANSITION PLAN TO THE COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL. THE TRANSITION  
18 WORKING GROUP SHALL WORK WITH THE COMMISSION REGARDING ANY  
19 CHANGES THE COMMISSION MAY REQUEST BEFORE APPROVING THE PLAN.  
20 THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE THE TRANSITION PLAN WITHIN  
21 FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE PLAN. IF THERE ARE CHANGES  
22 MADE TO THE TRANSITION PLAN BEFORE APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION,  
23 THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE  
24 COMMISSION APPROVES THE TRANSITION PLAN, SHALL RESUBMIT THE  
25 APPROVED TRANSITION PLAN TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AND  
26 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE AN AMENDED BUDGET  
27 REQUEST IF NECESSARY TO REFLECT THE CHANGES TO THE TRANSITION

1 PLAN AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

2 (b) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15, 2021, THE TRANSITION  
3 WORKING GROUP SHALL SUBMIT THE TRANSITION PLAN, AS APPROVED BY  
4 THE COMMISSION, TO THE PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN  
5 SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES, AND THE HEALTH  
7 AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF  
8 THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

9 (c) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2021, THE TRANSITION WORKING  
10 GROUP SHALL MEET WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS  
11 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION CREATED IN SECTION 26-6.5-203 TO PRESENT  
12 THE TRANSITION PLAN, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION.

13 (7) BY JANUARY 1, 2022, THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP SHALL  
14 SUBMIT THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
15 COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL AND SHALL WORK WITH THE COMMISSION  
16 REGARDING ANY CHANGES THE COMMISSION MAY REQUEST BEFORE  
17 APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS. THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE  
18 THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THEM.  
19 ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2022, THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP  
20 SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW  
21 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, TO THE JOINT  
22 BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; THE PUBLIC AND  
23 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE  
24 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY  
25 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES; AND THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
26 COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, OR ANY  
27 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

1           (8) IN ADDITION TO OTHER ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE  
2 CONSULTANT, THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP SHALL WORK WITH THE  
3 CONSULTANT TO ANALYZE THE CURRENT USE OF EXISTING EARLY  
4 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN THE STATE. THE TRANSITION  
5 WORKING GROUP SHALL USE THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS IN  
6 DEVELOPING THE TRANSITION PLAN AND THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
7 RECOMMENDATIONS. AT A MINIMUM, THE ANALYSIS MUST:

8           (a) ADDRESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD  
9 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO AND USED BY THE CHILD  
10 AND FAMILY POPULATIONS THEY ARE DESIGNED TO SERVE;

11           (b) IDENTIFY THE GROUPS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, BASED ON  
12 LOCATION WITHIN THE STATE AND ON FAMILY DEMOGRAPHICS, INCLUDING  
13 SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS, RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, LANGUAGE, AND  
14 DISABILITY, WHO ARE ACCESSING THE EXISTING EARLY CHILDHOOD  
15 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND

16           (c) PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING GROUPS OF  
17 CHILDREN THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY ENCOUNTERED BARRIERS TO SCHOOL  
18 READINESS.

19           **26-6.2-304. Transition plan - contents.** (1) THE TRANSITION  
20 WORKING GROUP, WORKING WITH THE CONSULTANT AND WITH THE ADVICE  
21 OF THE TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP, SHALL DEVELOP A TRANSITION  
22 PLAN FOR THE COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF EARLY  
23 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BY THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND THE  
24 EXISTING DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING, TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE  
25 TRANSITION OF EXISTING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO THE NEW  
26 DEPARTMENT. AT A MINIMUM, THE TRANSITION PLAN MUST ADDRESS THE  
27 FOLLOWING ITEMS, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE,

1 REGULATORY, AND BUDGETARY CHANGES RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING  
2 ITEMS:

3 (a) THE GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT,  
4 INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATE BOARD OF EARLY  
5 CHILDHOOD;

6 (b) MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS AND GUIDING VALUES AND  
7 PRINCIPLES, CONSISTENT WITH THE GOALS STATED IN SECTION 26.5-1-102,  
8 FOR THE COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD  
9 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BY THE NEW DEPARTMENT, THE EXISTING  
10 DEPARTMENTS, AND LOCAL AGENCIES;

11 (c) THE FISCAL STRUCTURE FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND THE  
12 SERVICES PROVIDED AND PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE NEW  
13 DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING THE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
14 OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE;

15 (d) ALIGNING AND COMBINING FUNDING SOURCES FOR EARLY  
16 CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THE GOALS SPECIFIED  
17 IN SECTION 26.5-1-102, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE MANNER IN  
18 WHICH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, COUNTIES, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE  
19 PREVIOUSLY SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED STREAMLINED AND IMPROVED  
20 ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES;

21 (e) THE TIMELINE FOR COMPLETING KEY TRANSITION ACTIVITIES  
22 FOR THE NEW DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING MOVING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS  
23 FROM THE EXISTING DEPARTMENTS TO THE NEW DEPARTMENT, AND  
24 CONSIDERATION OF A PHASED TRANSITION APPROACH TO ENSURE ONGOING  
25 ALIGNMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES WITH OTHER  
26 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT EXTEND BEYOND EARLY CHILDHOOD TO  
27 THE FUNCTIONS OF OTHER STATE AGENCIES;

1 (f) THE TECHNOLOGY REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL SPECIFIED  
2 IN SECTION 26.5-1-102 (1)(g), TO SUPPORT PARENTS AND OTHER  
3 CAREGIVERS IN IDENTIFYING LOCAL, APPROPRIATE, AND AVAILABLE EARLY  
4 CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AND SERVICE OPTIONS, AND TO SUPPORT THE  
5 UNIFICATION OF EXISTING CHILD CARE ELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT  
6 SYSTEMS;

7 (g) STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT:

8 (I) ELIMINATION OF THE DUPLICATIVE OVERSIGHT AND  
9 REGULATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND LEARNING PROGRAMS AND  
10 OTHER RELEVANT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS, WHICH PROMOTES  
11 ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY;

12 (II) CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ALIGN THE INCREASINGLY UNIFIED  
13 EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM WITH THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
14 PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY KINDERGARTEN AND GRADES  
15 ONE THROUGH THREE AND THE EARLY LITERACY INITIATIVES  
16 IMPLEMENTED AT THESE LEVELS, INCLUDING STRATEGIES TO REDUCE  
17 BUREAUCRACY AND ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMS THAT ARE NOT  
18 UNIFIED UNDER THE NEW DEPARTMENT;

19 (III) CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ALIGN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD  
20 SYSTEM WITH THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AND CHILD MALTREATMENT  
21 PREVENTION INITIATIVES, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT  
22 WITH PREVENTION SERVICES UNDER THE FEDERAL "FAMILY FIRST  
23 PREVENTION SERVICES ACT OF 2018", AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-5-101  
24 (4.5);

25 (IV) PROGRAM AND SERVICE ALIGNMENT AMONG THE NEW  
26 DEPARTMENT AND THE EXISTING DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING ENTERING  
27 INTO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND SHARED INITIATIVES THAT

1 ACHIEVE ALIGNMENT ACROSS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES;

2 (V) ALIGNMENT WITH MULTI-GENERATION STRATEGIES USED BY  
3 THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND THE EXISTING DEPARTMENTS TO SUPPORT  
4 CHILD AND PARENT OUTCOMES THAT IMPROVE OVERALL FAMILY  
5 WELL-BEING;

6 (VI) COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH STATE AGENCIES  
7 THAT OVERSEE OR OPERATE PROGRAMS THAT ARE NOT MOVED TO THE  
8 NEW DEPARTMENT TO MAXIMIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW  
9 DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES AND PROGRAMS;

10 (VII) ROBUST STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING AND  
11 IMPLEMENTING EARLY CHILDHOOD POLICIES, WHICH MUST INCLUDE  
12 INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS IN DEVELOPING  
13 POLICIES AND PROGRAM DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM AND THEIR  
14 CHILDREN; AND

15 (VIII) EDUCATION AND TRAINING REGARDING HOW TO IDENTIFY  
16 AND ADDRESS CHILD AND FAMILY TRAUMA AND SUPPORT A  
17 TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO EARLY CHILDHOOD; AND

18 (h) EARLY CHILDHOOD DATA SYSTEM STRATEGIES TO INFORM  
19 PLANNING, LEVERAGE RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS, MAXIMIZE CHILDREN'S  
20 ACCESS TO PROGRAMS, AND SUPPORT DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING.

21 **26-6.2-305. Universal, voluntary preschool program -**  
22 **recommendations - report.** (1) THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP,  
23 WORKING WITH THE CONSULTANT AND WITH THE ADVICE OF THE  
24 TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP, SHALL DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
25 A NEW STATEWIDE, UNIVERSAL, VOLUNTARY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM TO  
26 BEGIN OPERATING IN THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR THAT IS ADMINISTERED  
27 BY THE NEW DEPARTMENT AND MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN

1 THIS SECTION. THE TRANSITION WORKING GROUP SHALL ENSURE THAT THE  
2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ARE ALIGNED  
3 AND COORDINATED WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE TRANSITION  
4 PLAN. THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AT A MINIMUM MUST:

5 (a) ALIGN EXISTING FUNDING FOR THE EXISTING COLORADO  
6 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM CREATED IN ARTICLE 28 OF TITLE 22 AND  
7 ANTICIPATED PRESCHOOL FUNDING FROM THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS  
8 CASH FUND AND INCORPORATE THE EXISTING PRESCHOOL PROGRAM INTO  
9 THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM TO OPERATE AS A SINGLE STATE-LEVEL  
10 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM AND ALIGN WITH OTHER RELEVANT EARLY  
11 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS OPERATED BY THE EXISTING DEPARTMENTS TO  
12 ACHIEVE A STREAMLINED PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN,  
13 FAMILIES, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND LEARNING PROVIDERS; AND

14 (b) BE DESIGNED TO MEET THE USE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN  
15 SECTION 24-22-118 (3)(b) AND (3)(d) FOR THE MONEY IN THE PRESCHOOL  
16 PROGRAMS CASH FUND AND THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN  
17 SECTION 24-22-118 (3)(c) FOR THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM.

18 (2) THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
19 MUST BE INFORMED BY THE ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF EXISTING EARLY  
20 CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
21 26-6.2-303 (8) AND DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE NEW PRESCHOOL  
22 PROGRAM OPERATES WITHIN THE FOLLOWING PARAMETERS:

23 (a) THE MONEY FROM THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS CASH FUND  
24 MUST BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE NEW STATE-LEVEL PRESCHOOL  
25 PROGRAM TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS THAT  
26 IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENTALLY AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE  
27 WHOLE-CHILD, QUALITY LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT SUPPORT THE



1 LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL CHILDREN, INCLUDING STRATEGIES  
2 THAT SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DUAL LANGUAGE  
3 LEARNERS AND CHILDREN WHO ARE MEMBERS OF GROUPS THAT HAVE  
4 HISTORICALLY FACED BARRIERS TO ACCESSING QUALITY PRESCHOOL  
5 PROGRAMMING;

6 (b) THE MONEY THAT IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH THE NEW  
7 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MUST BE ALLOCATED TO BOTH SCHOOL-BASED AND  
8 COMMUNITY-BASED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PROVIDERS, INCLUDING HEAD  
9 START AGENCIES;

10 (c) THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MUST  
11 ENSURE THAT SCHOOL-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED PRESCHOOL  
12 PROGRAM PROVIDERS MEET STANDARDS FOR FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND  
13 COMPLY WITH NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS;

14 (d) MONEY THAT IS ALLOCATED FOR CHILD CARE AND FOR  
15 PRESCHOOL PROGRAMMING MUST BE BLENDED, AND WHEN APPLICABLE  
16 ALSO BLENDED WITH MONEY FOR PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY HEAD START  
17 AGENCIES, TO ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT A FULL DAY OF CHILD  
18 CARE AND EARLY LEARNING SERVICES FOR WORKING FAMILIES;

19 (e) THE NEW STATE-LEVEL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MUST ENSURE  
20 ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE  
21 "EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ACT", PART 1 OF ARTICLE 20  
22 OF TITLE 22, AND PART B AND PART C OF THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS  
23 WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS  
24 AMENDED;

25 (f) THE DESIGN OF THE NEW STATE-LEVEL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
26 MUST FOCUS ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND CHILD CARE AND LEARNING  
27 PROVIDERS TO ALLOW EASY ACCESS FOR FAMILIES TO CHOOSE THE

1 PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS, AND ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE PROGRAMS, THAT  
2 ARE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES;

3 (g) THE STATE-LEVEL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MUST ESTABLISH  
4 PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR LOCAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM QUALITY THAT  
5 ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND THE SUCCESSFUL  
6 TRANSITION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO SCHOOL AND THAT ARE  
7 ALIGNED AND INTEGRATED WITH STANDARDS FROM OTHER EARLY  
8 CHILDHOOD CARE AND LEARNING PROGRAMS IN THE STATE;

9 (h) THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MUST INTEGRATE WITH THE  
10 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, INCLUDING THE EARLY  
11 CHILDHOOD COUNCILS OR OTHER LOCALLY DESIGNATED STRUCTURES, TO  
12 SUPPORT COORDINATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL  
13 LEVEL, CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, RECRUITMENT AND  
14 RETENTION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE, AND CHILDREN'S AND  
15 FAMILIES' ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES; AND

16 (i) THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MUST BE SUBJECT TO A  
17 PROGRAM EVALUATION THAT INCLUDES THE PROGRAM'S EFFECTS ON  
18 CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES.

19 (3) (a) IN ADDRESSING THE ALLOCATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
20 MONEY TO LOCAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PROVIDERS, THE  
21 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, AT A MINIMUM,  
22 MUST ADDRESS THE PROCESS FOR CALCULATING FUNDING RATES AND HOW  
23 THE RATES ARE DESIGNED TO SUPPORT QUALITY PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS  
24 AND THE PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTING MONEY THROUGH THE NEW  
25 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM.

26 (b) WITH REGARD TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE NEW  
27 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM ALIGN WITH FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

1 FOR SERVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
2 THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM MUST ADDRESS, AT A MINIMUM, THE  
3 COMPONENTS OF AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT AND OTHER STRATEGIES  
4 TO DEFINE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT,  
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES, AND  
6 PRESCHOOL PROVIDERS REGARDING:

7 (I) HOW THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM, AS IMPLEMENTED IN  
8 CONJUNCTION WITH PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION, WILL MAINTAIN  
9 ALIGNMENT WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFYING AND SERVING  
10 PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ROLES OF THE NEW  
11 DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

12 (II) ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT OF SCHOOL- AND  
13 COMMUNITY-BASED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PROVIDERS WITH REGARD TO  
14 FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFYING AND SERVING PRESCHOOL  
15 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING HOW THE NEW PRESCHOOL  
16 PROGRAM AND THE NEW DEPARTMENT WILL COORDINATE WITH THE  
17 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN ITS ROLE AS THE LEAD AGENCY  
18 RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH  
19 DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ., AS  
20 AMENDED, AND THE "EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ACT",  
21 PART 1 OF ARTICLE 20 OF TITLE 22;

22 (III) HOW PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES MUST BE  
23 DELIVERED AND HOW COMMUNITY-BASED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM  
24 PROVIDERS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR PROVIDING ACCESS AND  
25 NECESSARY SUPPORTS IN IMPLEMENTING A MIXED-DELIVERY PRESCHOOL  
26 PROGRAM;

27 (IV) HOW THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM WILL BE INTEGRATED

1 WITH THE EXISTING REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED ON LOCAL EDUCATION  
2 AGENCIES RELATED TO THE PROVISION OF PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION  
3 SERVICES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND  
4 IDENTIFYING, EVALUATING, DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF, AND  
5 PROVIDING SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES; AND

6 (V) HOW THE NEW PRESCHOOL PROGRAM WILL REDUCE  
7 DUPLICATIVE OVERSIGHT AND REGULATION OF SCHOOL- AND  
8 COMMUNITY-BASED PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTING SERVICES FOR  
9 PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

10 **26-6.2-306. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 3 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE  
11 JULY 1, 2024.

12 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-110, **amend** (1)  
13 introductory portion; and **add** (1)(y) as follows:

14 **24-1-110. Principal departments.** (1) In accordance with the  
15 provisions of section 22 of article IV of the state constitution, all  
16 executive and administrative offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of  
17 the executive department of the state government and their respective  
18 functions, powers, and duties, except as otherwise provided by law, are  
19 allocated among and within the following principal departments created  
20 by this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 1:

21 (y) DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

22 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-1-120.5 as  
23 follows:

24 **24-1-120.5. Department of early childhood - creation.**

25 (1) THERE IS CREATED THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, THE  
26 HEAD OF WHICH IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
27 EARLY CHILDHOOD, WHICH OFFICE IS CREATED. THE GOVERNOR SHALL

1 APPOINT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE SENATE,  
2 AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE  
3 GOVERNOR. THE REAPPOINTMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AFTER AN  
4 INITIAL ELECTION OF A GOVERNOR IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF  
5 SECTION 24-20-109.

6 (2) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION CREATED IN  
7 PART 3 OF ARTICLE 1 OF TITLE 26.5 AND ITS POWERS, DUTIES, AND  
8 FUNCTIONS ARE TRANSFERRED BY A **TYPE 2** TRANSFER TO THE  
9 DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

10 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add, with amended**  
11 **and relocated provisions,** title 26.5 as follows:

12 **TITLE 26.5**

13 **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

14 **ARTICLE 1**

15 **Early Childhood Programs and Services**

16 **PART 1**

17 **DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**

18 **26.5-1-101. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS TITLE 26.5 IS  
19 THE "ANNA JO GARCIA HAYNES EARLY CHILDHOOD ACT".

20 **26.5-1-102. Legislative intent.** (1) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE  
21 GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SHALL  
22 WORK WITH OTHER STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
23 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS, HEAD START AGENCIES, NONPROFIT  
24 ORGANIZATIONS, AND PARENTS AND FAMILIES TO:

25 (a) PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, VOLUNTARY, AFFORDABLE EARLY  
26 CHILDHOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN IN COLORADO;

27 (b) COORDINATE THE AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

1 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN COLORADO TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL  
2 FAMILIES;

3 (c) ESTABLISH STATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THAT  
4 PROVIDE FOR A MIXED DELIVERY OF CHILD CARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD  
5 PROGRAMS THROUGH SCHOOL-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED  
6 PROVIDERS;

7 (d) ENSURE THAT PARENT AND COMMUNITY INPUT ARE  
8 PRIORITIZED IN THE CONTINUING DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
9 PROGRAMS AND POLICIES AFFECTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES;

10 (e) MAXIMIZE THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES TO ENSURE THAT  
11 PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AND SERVICE  
12 PROVIDERS ARE PRIORITIZED AND RECEIVE THE GREATEST LEVEL OF  
13 INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITH THE LOWEST POSSIBLE  
14 ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN;

15 (f) PRIORITIZE THE EQUITABLE DELIVERY OF RESOURCES AND  
16 SUPPORTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD;

17 (g) UNIFY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
18 CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS TO EFFECTIVELY AND  
19 EFFICIENTLY SUPPORT A STREAMLINED PARENT AND PROVIDER  
20 EXPERIENCE AND TO SUPPORT A DIVERSE ARRAY OF PROVIDERS OF EARLY  
21 CHILDHOOD CARE AND LEARNING SERVICES. UNIFICATION OF THE  
22 PROGRAMS MUST INCLUDE:

23 (I) DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS,  
24 WHICH, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, IS ACCESSIBLE IN FAMILIES'  
25 PREFERRED LANGUAGES, TO STREAMLINE THE ELIGIBILITY AND  
26 ENROLLMENT EXPERIENCE FOR FAMILIES;

27 (II) QUALITY PROGRAM STANDARDS THAT SUPPORT CHILD

1 DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS TO ELEMENTARY  
2 EDUCATION AND ARE ALIGNED AND INTEGRATED WITH STANDARDS FROM  
3 OTHER EARLY CARE AND LEARNING PROGRAMS; AND

4 (III) FOCUS ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIES,  
5 INCLUDING STRATEGIES DESIGNED TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN INDIVIDUALS  
6 FROM DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, AND COMPENSATION  
7 STRATEGIES FOR THE EARLY CARE AND LEARNING WORKFORCE TO  
8 ELEVATE AND SUPPORT THE WORKFORCE ACROSS ALL CARE AND LEARNING  
9 SETTINGS; AND

10 (h) IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH:

11 (I) STRATEGIES THAT SUPPORT RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND  
12 COMPENSATION OF THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE, INCLUDING  
13 STRATEGIES DESIGNED TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN INDIVIDUALS FROM  
14 DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS;

15 (II) IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE- AND PRACTICE-BASED BEST  
16 PRACTICES IN EDUCATION, FAMILY SUPPORT, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
17 WITH A FOCUS ON CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION;

18 (III) PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT,  
19 INCLUDING MONITORING METRICS THAT PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND  
20 EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION, PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT, AND  
21 CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY, WHICH ARE  
22 REPORTED ANNUALLY AND MUST ADDRESS REMOVAL OR REDUCTION OF  
23 ACCESS BARRIERS, REALIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OR FINANCIAL  
24 EFFICIENCIES, AND PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THE DEPARTMENT'S  
25 MISSION;

26 (IV) ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS  
27 UNDER THE STATE "EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ACT", PART

1 OF ARTICLE 20 OF TITLE 22, AND PART B AND PART C OF THE FEDERAL  
2 "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400  
3 ET SEQ., AS AMENDED; AND

4 (V) EDUCATION AND TRAINING REGARDING HOW TO IDENTIFY AND  
5 ADDRESS CHILD AND FAMILY TRAUMA AND SUPPORT A TRAUMA-INFORMED  
6 APPROACH TO EARLY CHILDHOOD.

7 **26.5-1-103. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS TITLE 26.5, UNLESS THE  
8 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY  
10 CHILDHOOD CREATED IN SECTION 26.5-1-104.

11 (2) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
12 THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

13 **26.5-1-104. Department of early childhood - created -**  
14 **executive director - powers, duties, and functions.** (1) THERE IS  
15 CREATED THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, THE HEAD OF WHICH  
16 IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD,  
17 WHICH OFFICE IS CREATED. THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE  
18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE SENATE, AND THE  
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR. THE  
20 REAPPOINTMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AFTER AN INITIAL ELECTION  
21 OF A GOVERNOR IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-20-109. IN  
22 APPOINTING AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAKE  
23 CONCERTED EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE  
24 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIVERSE POPULATIONS OF CHILDREN AND  
25 FAMILIES RESIDING IN COLORADO. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS THOSE  
26 POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS PRESCRIBED FOR THE HEADS OF  
27 PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENTS IN THE "ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION ACT



1 OF 1968", ARTICLE 1 OF TITLE 24, AND ANY POWERS, DUTIES, AND  
2 FUNCTIONS SET FORTH IN THIS TITLE 26.5.

3 (2) THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CONSISTS OF AN  
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND  
5 SUCH DIVISIONS, SECTIONS, OTHER UNITS, AND ADVISORY BOARDS AS THE  
6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY ESTABLISH PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF  
7 THIS SECTION AND AS MAY BE SPECIFIED IN THIS TITLE 26.5.

8 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAY ESTABLISH SUCH DIVISIONS,  
9 SECTIONS, OTHER UNITS, AND ADVISORY BOARDS WITHIN THE  
10 DEPARTMENT AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER AND EFFICIENT  
11 DISCHARGE OF THE POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE  
12 DEPARTMENT.

13 (4) THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
14 ADMINISTERING THE FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS AS SET FORTH IN THIS  
15 TITLE 26.5.

16 PART 2

17 (Reserved)

18 PART 3

19 EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

20 **26.5-1-301. [Formerly 26-6.2-101] Legislative declaration.**

21 (1) The general assembly hereby finds that:

22 (a) Public investments for pregnant women and young children  
23 from birth to eight years of age and their families fall behind investments  
24 for older Colorado children and lag behind national trends;

25 (b) For the state's early childhood system to operate effectively,  
26 the efforts of the public and private agencies that compose the system  
27 must be efficiently coordinated, aligned to state and federal standards, and

1 made accountable across state systems; and

2 (c) While there are several planning efforts related to early  
3 childhood services and collaborative bodies within state and local  
4 governments, there is no single venue to allow high-level  
5 decision-making among policy makers, to collectively study  
6 recommendations, to facilitate cross-agency collaboration among state  
7 agencies, and to make joint policy and funding recommendations.

8 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

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

14 (b) A commission to assist in coordinating the delivery of services  
15 and supports for pregnant women and young children and their families  
16 will also significantly improve Colorado's workforce and economic  
17 development by:

18 (I) Helping to ensure a healthy, well-educated workforce far into  
19 the future;

20 (II) Supporting those persons who currently provide early  
21 childhood services and supports and creating additional employment  
22 opportunities;

23 (III) Supporting parents of young children who need dependable,  
24 high-quality child care and supportive services in order to be fully  
25 engaged and productive in their jobs; and

26 (IV) Supporting the market in early childhood services and  
27 products as a vibrant element of the state's economy.

1           (3) The general assembly finds, therefore, that it is essential to  
2 create a high-level, interagency, public-private leadership commission to  
3 identify opportunities for, and address barriers to, the coordination of  
4 federal and state early childhood policies and procedures in order to  
5 promote access to programs and services that affect the health and  
6 well-being of Colorado's children.

7           **26.5-1-302. [Formerly 26-6.2-103] Early childhood leadership**  
8 **commission - created - mission - funding.** (1) There is created in the  
9 ~~state~~ department the early childhood leadership commission, REFERRED  
10 TO IN THIS PART 3 AS THE "COMMISSION". The purpose of the commission  
11 is to ensure and advance a comprehensive service delivery system for  
12 pregnant women and children from birth to eight years of age using data  
13 to improve decision-making, alignment, and coordination among  
14 federally funded and state-funded services and programs for pregnant  
15 women and young children and their families. At a minimum, the  
16 comprehensive service delivery system for pregnant women and children  
17 and their families must include services in the areas of prenatal health,  
18 child health, child mental health, early care and education, and family  
19 support and parent education.

20           (2) The commission ~~shall consist~~ CONSISTS of up to ~~twenty~~  
21 TWENTY-ONE members as follows:

22           (a) The executive directors of each of the following agencies or  
23 their designees:

- 24           (I) The state department of human services;
- 25           (II) The department of public health and environment;
- 26           (III) The department of health care policy and financing; ~~and~~
- 27           (IV) The department of higher education; AND

- 1 (V) THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD;
- 2 (b) The commissioner of education or ~~his or her~~ THE
- 3 COMMISSIONER'S designee;
- 4 (c) The head start ~~state~~ collaboration OFFICE director for Colorado;
- 5 and
- 6 (d) No more than fourteen persons appointed by the governor,
- 7 which persons collectively have the following expertise, affiliations, or
- 8 backgrounds:
- 9 (I) Representatives of local government groups;
- 10 (II) Representatives of school districts;
- 11 (III) Providers of early childhood supports and services;
- 12 (IV) REPRESENTATIVES OF HEAD START AGENCIES;
- 13 ~~(V)~~ (V) Persons whose families receive early childhood supports
- 14 or services;
- 15 ~~(V)~~ (VI) Representatives of statewide foundations and nonprofit
- 16 organizations involved in early childhood issues;
- 17 ~~(VII)~~ (VII) Members of the business community; and
- 18 ~~(VIII)~~ (VIII) Representatives of the local public health community.
- 19 (3) (a) In appointing persons to the commission, the governor
- 20 shall ensure that the appointed persons reflect the gender balance and
- 21 ethnic diversity in the state and provide representation from throughout
- 22 the state and that the commission includes representation of persons with
- 23 disabilities AND THOSE WHO REPRESENT LANGUAGE DIVERSITY OR
- 24 SUPPORT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WHO ARE DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS.
- 25 (b) The persons appointed to the commission pursuant to
- 26 subsection (2)(d) of this section: ~~shall:~~
- 27 (I) Serve at the pleasure of the governor; and

1 (II) Serve without compensation but may receive reimbursement  
2 for reasonable expenses incurred in fulfilling their duties on the  
3 commission. ~~subject to the availability of federal funds or gifts, grants, or~~  
4 ~~donations.~~

5 (c) If a vacancy occurs in the positions appointed pursuant to  
6 ~~paragraph (d) of subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTION (2)(d) of this section, the  
7 governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

8 (4) The governor shall appoint three persons from among the  
9 members of the commission, one representing business interests, one  
10 representing private, nonprofit entities, and one representing public  
11 entities, to serve as co-chairs of the commission. The commission shall  
12 meet regularly at the direction of the co-chairs and as often as necessary  
13 to fulfill its duties. The co-chairs may appoint working groups and  
14 subcommittees to assist the commission in its work or to address specific  
15 issues. The working groups and subcommittees, at the discretion of the  
16 co-chairs, may consist of any combination of members of the commission  
17 and other persons from the community.

18 (5) The commission, in collaboration with the executive director  
19 of the ~~state~~ department, may appoint a director to assist the commission  
20 in fulfilling its duties pursuant to this ~~article 6.2~~ PART 3. The director may  
21 appoint such additional persons as may be necessary to assist the  
22 commission. ~~The director and any other persons appointed pursuant to~~  
23 ~~this subsection (5) shall be compensated with federal funds or gifts,~~  
24 ~~grants, and donations, and not with money from the general fund.~~

25 (6) The governor's office, the ~~state~~ department, and the other  
26 agencies represented on the commission may, at the request of the  
27 commission and within existing appropriations, provide necessary support

1 to the commission, including but not limited to administrative support,  
2 data, and other analytical information. In addition, the commission may  
3 seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private  
4 sources to the extent necessary to cover the expenses of the commission.  
5 ~~Money from the general fund shall not be appropriated for the~~  
6 ~~commission or for administrative or other expenses of the commission.~~

7 **26.5-1-303. [Formerly 26-6.2-104] Early childhood leadership**  
8 **commission - duties.** (1) In addition to any other duties specified in law,  
9 the commission has the following duties:

10 (a) To identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of  
11 standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies  
12 that support young children and to recommend to the appropriate  
13 committees of reference of the general assembly pursuant to part 2 of  
14 article 7 of title 2 and to government and nonprofit agencies and policy  
15 boards changes to enhance the alignment and provision of services and  
16 supports for pregnant women and young children and their families;

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

20 (c) To assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on  
21 behalf of pregnant women and children and their families, including  
22 securing funding and additional investments for services, programs, and  
23 access to these services and programs for children and their families;

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

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

- 1 (I) A quality, cohesive professional development and career
- 2 advancement system;
- 3 (II) High-quality, comprehensive early learning standards; and
- 4 (III) The sharing and use of common data for planning and
- 5 accountability among early childhood programs;
- 6 (f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:
- 7 (I) Increasing children's school readiness;
- 8 (II) Increasing participation in and access to child care and early
- 9 education programs; and
- 10 (III) Promoting family and community engagement in children's
- 11 early education and development.

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

- 14 (a) Members of the early childhood councils established pursuant
- 15 to section 26-6.5-103; and
- 16 (b) Any other boards, commissions, and councils that address
- 17 services and supports for pregnant women and young children.

18 **26.5-1-304. [Formerly 26-6.2-106] Repeal of part.** This article  
19 ~~6.2~~ PART 3 is repealed, effective September 1, 2023. Before its repeal, the  
20 commission is subject to review in accordance with section 2-3-1203.

21 PART 4

22 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS

23 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

24 **26.5-1-401. [Formerly 26-6.5-201] Short title.** This part 2 shall  
25 ~~be known and may be cited as~~ THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 4 IS the  
26 "Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission Act".

27 **26.5-1-402. [Formerly 26-6.5-202] Legislative declaration.**

1 (1) The general assembly finds that:

2 (a) The most economically efficient time to develop children's  
3 skills and social abilities is in the very early years when developmental  
4 education across all of the four domains of early learning, family support  
5 and education, health care, social-emotional health, and mental health,  
6 can have the most effect;

7 (b) Children, families, and society benefit from quality  
8 investments in early childhood development and learning. Comprehensive  
9 early childhood development provides children and their families with the  
10 resources they need for early nurturing and for early language  
11 development and learning experiences and the physical health supports  
12 they need to help them arrive at school thriving and ready to learn.

13 (c) High-quality early childhood care and ~~education~~ LEARNING  
14 during the crucial growth years from birth to five years of age is  
15 necessary to enable children to succeed when they start kindergarten and  
16 as they continue their education;

17 (d) Research demonstrates that parental support and involvement,  
18 combined with a high-quality preschool education program, increases  
19 students' school readiness and achievement in kindergarten and  
20 significantly contributes to overcoming the effects of students' varying  
21 socioeconomic circumstances; and

22 (e) Research further shows that improving educational  
23 performance through improved school readiness costs much less than  
24 special education, remediation, and grade retention.

25 (2) The general assembly concludes therefore that it is in the best  
26 interests of the state to create a legislative commission to meet on a  
27 regular basis throughout the year to study issues and recommend



1 legislation concerning early childhood and school readiness, including  
2 health care, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child  
3 care, and early learning.

4 **26.5-1-403. [Formerly 26-6.5-203] Early childhood and school**  
5 **readiness legislative commission - creation - membership - duties -**  
6 **funding.** (1) (a) There is created a legislative commission for policy  
7 improvement related to early childhood and school readiness, including  
8 the areas of health, mental health, parental involvement, family support,  
9 child care, and early learning, referred to in this ~~article~~ PART 4 as the  
10 "commission".

11 (b) The commission consists of six members, appointed for terms  
12 of three years; except that, of the members first appointed, two members  
13 shall be appointed for one-year terms, two members shall be appointed  
14 for two-year terms, and two members shall be appointed for three-year  
15 terms. The appointing authorities shall jointly determine which  
16 commission members serve reduced terms. Each commission member  
17 serves at the pleasure of the applicable appointing authority. Vacancies  
18 shall be filled by appointment of the original appointing authority for the  
19 remainder of the unexpired term. Initial appointments to the commission  
20 shall be made on or before July 1, 2013, as follows:

21 (I) The president of the senate shall appoint two senators to serve  
22 on the commission, one of whom serves on the senate education  
23 committee, or any successor committee, and one of whom serves on the  
24 senate health and human services committee, or any successor committee;

25 (II) The minority leader of the senate shall appoint one senator to  
26 serve on the commission who also serves on the senate education  
27 committee, or any successor committee;

1 (III) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two  
2 representatives to serve on the commission, one of whom serves on the  
3 education committee of the house of representatives, or any successor  
4 committee, and one of whom serves on the public health care and human  
5 services committee of the house of representatives, or any successor  
6 committee; and

7 (IV) The minority leader of the house of representatives shall  
8 appoint one representative to serve on the commission who also serves on  
9 the education committee of the house of representatives, or any successor  
10 committee.

11 (c) The president of the senate shall select the first chair of the  
12 commission, and the speaker of the house of representatives shall select  
13 the first vice-chair. The chair and vice-chair ~~shall~~ MUST alternate annually  
14 thereafter between the two houses. The chair and vice-chair of the  
15 commission may establish such organizational and procedural rules as are  
16 necessary for the operation of the commission.

17 (d) The members of the commission ~~shall~~ MUST receive  
18 compensation and reimbursement for expenses incurred in fulfilling the  
19 duties of the commission as provided in section 2-2-326. ~~C.R.S.~~

20 (2) (a) ~~(†)~~ The commission may meet up to four times annually.  
21 The director of research of the legislative council and the director of the  
22 office of legislative legal services shall provide staff assistance to the  
23 commission. The commission shall study issues concerning early  
24 childhood and school readiness, including but not limited to health care,  
25 mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early  
26 learning. The commission shall solicit input from members of the public,  
27 especially those individuals with expertise related to early childhood and

1 school readiness issues, to aid the commission in its work. The  
2 commission shall consult with the early childhood leadership  
3 commission, created in ~~section 26-6.2-103~~ SECTION 26.5-1-302, with  
4 regard to policies concerning early childhood and school readiness.

5 ~~(H) (A) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section, the~~  
6 ~~commission shall not meet during the 2020 interim.~~

7 ~~(B) This subsection (2)(a)(H) is repealed, effective July 1, 2021.~~

8 (b) The commission may accept in-kind donations in the form of  
9 administrative support from one or more nonprofit organizations.

10 (c) ~~(f)~~ The commission shall report to the legislative council by  
11 the date specified in ~~joint~~ rule 24 (b)(1)(D) OF THE JOINT RULES OF THE  
12 SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The report may include  
13 recommendations for legislation, including but not limited to legislation  
14 continuing the commission and an explanation of the additional time and  
15 procedures that the commission may require to achieve the commission's  
16 study goals. Legislation that the commission recommends ~~shall be~~ IS  
17 treated as legislation recommended by an interim committee for the  
18 purposes of the introduction deadlines and bill limitations imposed by the  
19 joint rules of the senate and house of representatives.

20 ~~(H) (A) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(c)(I) of this section, the~~  
21 ~~commission shall neither report to the legislative council nor recommend~~  
22 ~~legislation during the 2020 interim.~~

23 ~~(B) This subsection (2)(c)(H) is repealed, effective July 1, 2021.~~

24 **26.5-1-404. [Formerly 26-6.5-204] Repeal of part.** This ~~part 2~~  
25 PART 4 is repealed, effective July 1, 2023.

26 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal** part 1 of  
27 article 6.2 of title 26 and part 2 of article 6.5 of title 26.

1           **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-1203, **amend**  
2 (14)(a)(V) as follows:

3           **2-3-1203. Sunset review of advisory committees - legislative**  
4 **declaration - definition - repeal.** (14) (a) The following statutory  
5 authorizations for the designated advisory committees are scheduled for  
6 repeal on September 1, 2023:

7           (V) The early childhood leadership commission created in ~~section~~  
8 ~~26-6.2-103~~ SECTION 26.5-1-302;

9           **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-120, **amend**  
10 (5)(m) as follows:

11           **24-1-120. Department of human services - creation.** (5) The  
12 department of human services shall include the following:

13           (m) The early childhood leadership commission created by ~~article~~  
14 ~~6.2 of title 26, C.R.S.~~ PART 3 OF ARTICLE 1 OF TITLE 26.5.

15           **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-2-803, **amend** (1)  
16 as follows:

17           **26-2-803. Provider rates - rules.** (1) The state department, in  
18 consultation with the counties, shall contract annually for a market rate  
19 study of provider rates that account for quality of care, age group, and  
20 type of care for each county as recommended by the early childhood  
21 leadership commission created in ~~section 26-6.2-103~~ SECTION 26.5-1-302.  
22 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), copies of  
23 the study must be provided to the joint budget committee on or before  
24 January 2, 2019, and on or before each January 2 thereafter.

25           **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-104, **amend**  
26 (1) as follows:

27           **26-6.5-104. Early childhood councils - waivers - rules -**

1     **funding - application.** (1) A local council may request a waiver of any  
2     rule that would prevent a council from implementing council projects.  
3     The local council shall submit the request to the early childhood  
4     leadership commission created in ~~article 6.2 of this title~~ ARTICLE 1 OF  
5     TITLE 26.5. The early childhood leadership commission shall consult with  
6     the affected state agency in reviewing the request. The state department  
7     or other affected state agency shall grant waivers upon recommendation  
8     by the commission.

9             **SECTION 10. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;  
10     except that sections 2 to 9 of this act take effect July 1, 2022.

11            **SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
12     determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
13     preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.