



2018-04

State of Colorado

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE

To: Legislative Council

Requested by: Representative Hooton
With support of: Senators Court, Martinez Humenik, and Priola; and Representatives Arndt, Buckner, Coleman, Danielson, Exum, Foote, Ginal, Herod, Kraft-Tharp, Lontine, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, and Singer.

Re: Request for interim study committee regarding improving quality of life and delivery of patient-centered care in Colorado by studying the opportunities available via palliative care consumer and professional information and education, palliative care coverage, and a palliative care training and access initiative in Colorado.

Date: 4/13/2018

Information Required Pursuant to Section 2-3-303.3, C.R.S.

I hereby request that an interim study committee be formed to study palliative care health service models, training standards for care, patient coverage, challenges, and health care provider opportunities during the interim between the 2018 and 2019 legislative sessions. The interim study committee would be named the "Interim Study Committee on Palliative Care".

The policy issues to be studied may include:

- discussion of the availability of palliative care services across the state;
- discussion of hospitals and other health facilities introducing and providing palliative care services using team-based approaches for care or a single-care provider;
- discussion of the extent to which patients are offered palliative care services or not;
- discussion of the costs and savings encountered through comprehensive palliative care;
- discussion of the extent to which palliative care is reimbursed by insurers, including whether health care facilities and providers see it as a cost of doing business;
- discussion of the personnel and geographic impediments to providing reimbursement for palliative care;
- discussion of current workforce training and supply challenges and opportunities;
- discussion of Medicaid and Medicare options for palliative care; and
- discussion of the establishment of a state palliative care and quality of life advisory council.

The interim study committee would need to meet six times to study the issues.

The interim study committee should consist of six members of the General Assembly selected as follows:

- three members of the Senate, with one appointed by the President of the Senate, one appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and
- three members of the House of Representatives, with one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives will appoint the chair of the interim study committee, and the President of the Senate will appoint the vice-chair.

The appointments must be made by June 1, 2018.

Nonlegislative members will not have a role in the interim study committee.

A task force is necessary to assist the interim study committee in studying the scope of policy issues described above. A task force group is key to providing data and assembling primary research for the interim committee's review.

Given the proposed objectives of the interim committee, the task force should include a representative from the following the entities and agencies: the Center for Improving Value in Health Care, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the Colorado Chronic Care Collaborative, UC Health, the Colorado Hospital Association, the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, the Colorado Association of Health Plans, Rocky Mountain Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Colorado Department of Human Services, and Colorado Department of Higher Education. The respective entities and agencies shall be responsible for appointing a representative to serve on the task force.

The interim study committee will need five bills to address the issues it studies.

Additional Information Related to the Interim Study Committee Request

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the Department of Regulatory Agencies, the Division of Insurance, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, and the Colorado Department of Human Services may be called upon to provide assistance or information to the interim study committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.