

CHAPTER 196

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

SENATE BILL 00-019

BY SENATORS Wham, Arnold, Linkhart, Pascoe, Tebedo, Hernandez, Phillips, Reeves, Rupert, Tanner, and Weddig;
also REPRESENTATIVES Alexander, Tupa, S.Williams, Bacon, Coleman, Grossman, Keller, Larson, Mace, Windels, and Zimmerman.

AN ACT

CONCERNING CONSOLIDATED CHILD CARE SERVICES, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. 26-6.5-103 (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended, and the said 26-6.5-103 is further amended BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS, to read:

26-6.5-103. Program scope. (3) On or before October 1, 1997, the state department of human services, with input from the state department of education, shall designate not more than twelve pilot site agencies to deliver community consolidated child care services for children statewide. Of the pilot site agencies designated, at least one shall be located in each of the following areas of the state to assure adequate geographic distribution: A rural community, an urban community other than the Denver metropolitan area, and a western slope community. The pilot site agencies shall:

(a) Consolidate or coordinate funding to create a seamless system THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING AS PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(I) FULL-DAY AND FULL-YEAR PROGRAMS;

(II) EDUCATIONALLY ENRICHED PROGRAMS;

(III) HEALTH SCREENINGS AND FOLLOW-UPS;

(IV) PARENT EDUCATION AND HOME VISITS UPON THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE CHILD;

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(V) NUTRITIONALLY SOUND MEALS AND SNACKS;

(VI) SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES;

(VII) STAFF DEVELOPMENT;

(VIII) FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES; AND

(IX) OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INVOLVEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS AND EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE DELIVERY OF CHILD CARE SERVICES IN BOTH TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS AND COOPERATIVE CHILD CARE PROGRAMS;

(b) Ensure collaboration among public and private stakeholders in the delivery of early childhood care;

(b.5) IDENTIFY, DEVELOP, AND IMPLEMENT AN EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING PLAN BASED UPON THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY SERVED BY THE PILOT SITE AGENCY AND THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THAT PILOT SITE AGENCY, WHICH TRAINING PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THE MOST RECENT CREDENTIALING MODEL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IF STATE MONEYS ARE A SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR THE PILOT SITE AGENCY AND WHICH TRAINING PLAN SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ASSOCIATION THAT HAS AS ONE OF ITS PRIMARY INTERESTS THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN;

~~(c) Include as program components:~~

~~(f) Full-day and full-year programs;~~

~~(H) Educationally enriched programs;~~

~~(HH) Health screenings and follow-ups;~~

~~(IV) Parent education and home visits upon the specific request of the parent or legal guardian of the child;~~

~~(V) Nutritionally sound meals and snacks;~~

~~(VI) Special needs services;~~

~~(VII) Staff development;~~

~~(VIII) Family support services; and~~

~~(IX) Opportunities for the involvement of volunteers and extended family members in the delivery of child care services in both traditional programs and cooperative child care programs;~~

(3.5) THE PILOT SITE AGENCIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE CHILD CARE VOLUNTARY CREDENTIALING SYSTEM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION.

(7) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PILOT SITE AGENCIES DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION, THE GOAL OF WHICH SHALL BE TO DEVELOP UP TO FOUR MODELS OF IMPROVED METHODOLOGIES FOR OUTCOME-BASED LICENSING AND MONITORING OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. ANY OR ALL OF THE PILOT SITE AGENCIES DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE WORKING GROUP AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH NEW METHODOLOGY MODELS.

(b) WITH OVERSIGHT BY THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (7), ANY OR ALL OF THE ORIGINAL TWELVE PILOT SITE AGENCIES DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY ELECT TO IMPLEMENT ONE OF THE RECOMMENDED MODELS DEVELOPED BY THE WORKING GROUP. ANY PILOT SITE AGENCY OPTING TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A MODEL SHALL WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH AND PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION TO THE WORKING GROUP AS THE WORKING GROUP DEEMS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO EVALUATE THOROUGHLY THE MODEL UTILIZED BY THE PILOT SITE.

(c) THREE YEARS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDED MODELS IN THE PILOT SITE AGENCIES, THE WORKING GROUP SHALL EVALUATE THE SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE VARIOUS MODELS FOR LICENSURE, MONITORING, AND PROVIDER SUPPORT, AND SHALL DETERMINE WHICH MODEL OR COMBINATION OF MODELS REPRESENTS THE BEST PRACTICES TO BE IMPLEMENTED STATEWIDE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL THEREAFTER IMPLEMENT THE BEST PRACTICES METHODOLOGIES RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP. THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH METHODOLOGIES ON A STATEWIDE BASIS.

(8) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A CHILD CARE VOLUNTARY CREDENTIALING SYSTEM THAT RECOGNIZES THE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF PERSONS PROVIDING EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION AND THAT SHALL BE USED ONLY BY COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED CHILD CARE SERVICES PILOT SITE AGENCIES. THE CHILD CARE VOLUNTARY CREDENTIALING SYSTEM SHALL BE A MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF GRADUATED CREDENTIALS THAT REFLECTS THE INCREASED TRAINING, EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND COMPETENCIES OF PERSONS WORKING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE PILOT SITE AGENCIES.

SECTION 2. 26-6.5-104 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

26-6.5-104. Funding. (4) It is the intent of the general assembly that no additional state moneys be appropriated for the implementation of the pilot program for community consolidated child care services on or after July 1, 1999, EXCEPT FOR GRANTS AWARDED BY THE YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM BOARD FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL AND READING READINESS PROGRAMS THROUGH THE YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN PART 28 OF ARTICLE 32 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S. IN ADDITION TO THE YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION FUND, THE PILOT SITE AGENCIES MAY ACCESS OTHER ALREADY APPROPRIATED STATE FUNDS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF CARE AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

SECTION 3. Part 1 of article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

26-6.5-104.5. Quality evaluation and improvement of early childhood care and education programs - use of Colorado works moneys. COUNTIES ARE URGED TO PARTNER WITH NON-PROFIT OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE PILOT SITE AGENCIES AND ASSIGN RATINGS THERETO IN AN EFFORT TO ASSESS THE SUCCESS OF SUCH PROGRAMS AND TO IMPROVE THE ULTIMATE DELIVERY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION. COUNTIES SO PARTNERING ARE FURTHER ENCOURAGED TO MATCH PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN SUCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH COUNTY BLOCK GRANT MONEYS FOR COLORADO WORKS PURSUANT TO PART 7 OF ARTICLE 2 OF TITLE 26 AND FEDERAL CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUNDS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL QUALITY OF THOSE PROGRAMS.

SECTION 4. 22-28-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

22-28-104. Establishment of public preschool program. (3.5) THE PER PUPIL OPERATING REIMBURSEMENT PROVIDED TO ANY COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED CHILD CARE SERVICES PILOT SITE AGENCY DESIGNATED IN SECTION 26-6.5-103, C.R.S., THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM SHALL BE INCREASED TO ALLOW A SINGLE CHILD TO ENROLL IN THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM USING TWO POSITIONS SUCH THAT THE CHILD MAY ATTEND A FULL DAY OF PRESCHOOL.

SECTION 5. Appropriation - adjustments to the 2000 long bill. (1) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, to the department of human services, children, youth and families, child care, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, the sum of one million twenty-nine thousand nine hundred thirty dollars (\$1,029,930), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of article 6.5 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes. Said sum shall be from federal child care development fund moneys.

(2) For the implementation of this act, appropriations made in the annual general appropriation act for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, shall be adjusted as follows:

(a) The appropriation to the department of human services, children, youth and families, child care, for child care grants, is decreased by one million twenty-nine thousand nine hundred thirty dollars (\$1,029,930). Said sum shall be from federal child care development fund moneys.

SECTION 6. Effective date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

SECTION 7. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 24, 2000