

## CHAPTER 434

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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## HOUSE BILL 23-1235

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sirota, Bacon, Bird, Boesenecker, Brown, Epps, Froelich, Garcia, Hamrick, Jodeh, Lieder, Lindstedt, Marshall, Martinez, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Ortiz, Ricks, Snyder, Young;  
also SENATOR(S) Buckner, Bridges, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Gonzales, Marchman, Priola, Sullivan, Winter F., Zenzinger, Fenberg.

**AN ACT****CONCERNING TECHNICAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.**

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-1-106, **amend** (7) as follows:

**26.5-1-106. Transfer of functions - employees - property - contracts.** (7) The executive director, or the executive director's designee, may SEEK, accept, AND EXPEND, on behalf of and in the name of the state, gifts, grants, and donations for any purpose connected with the powers, duties, and functions of the department. The state treasurer shall hold any property so given, but the executive director, or the executive director's designee, may direct the disposition of any property so given for any purpose consistent with the terms and conditions under which the gift was created.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-2-209, **amend** (2) as follows:

**26.5-2-209. Early childhood cash fund - creation.** (2) The department is authorized to seek, ~~and~~ accept, AND EXPEND, gifts, grants, or donations from private and public sources for the purposes of this part 2. All private and public money received through gifts, grants, or donations must be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the fund. The money in the fund is subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly to the department for the direct and indirect costs associated with the implementation of this part 2.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-3-103, **amend** (1)(c)(III) as follows:

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

**26.5-3-103. Program created - repeal.** (1) (c) (III) The department may SEEK, accept, and expend any grants from any public or private source for the purpose of making grants to community applicants for the establishment or continued operation of family resource centers and for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the family resource center program. This part 1 does not prohibit a family resource center from SEEKING, accepting, and expending funds received through an authorized contract, grants, or donations from public or private sources.

**SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-3-204, **amend** (2)(e); and **add** (2)(l) as follows:

**26.5-3-204. Colorado child abuse prevention board - creation - members - terms - vacancies.** (2) The board consists of nineteen members, with a consideration for geographic diversity, as follows:

(e) ~~Three~~ Two persons appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate who are knowledgeable in the area of child abuse prevention and represent some of the following areas: Law enforcement, medicine, law, business, public policy, mental health, intimate partner violence, early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, reducing poverty and helping families gain economic stability, the connection between housing instability and trauma, higher education, research and program evaluation, and social work. In making appointments to the board, the governor is encouraged to include representation by at least one member who is a person with a disability, as defined in section 24-34-301 (2.5), a family member of a person with a disability, or a member of an advocacy group for persons with disabilities, so long as the other requirements of this subsection (2)(e) are met.

(l) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, CREATED IN SECTION 27-50-102, OR THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE.

**SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-3-205, **amend** (1)(j) as follows:

**26.5-3-205. Powers and duties of the board.** (1) The board has the following powers and duties:

(j) To accept grants from the federal government, as well as to ~~solicit and~~ SEEK, accept, AND EXPEND contributions, grants, gifts, bequests, and donations from individuals, private organizations, and foundations; and

**SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-3-805, **amend** (4) as follows:

**26.5-3-805. Early care and education recruitment and retention grant and scholarship program - created - criteria and eligibility - grant and scholarship awards - reports - funding - rules - definitions - repeal.** (4) The executive director ~~shall~~ MAY promulgate rules regarding criteria, timelines, and the administration of the program pursuant to the requirements outlined in this section.

**SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-4-114, **amend** (1)(f) as follows:

**26.5-4-114. Colorado child care assistance program - reporting requirements.** (1) On or before November 1, 2022, and on or before November 1 each year thereafter, the department shall prepare a report on CCCAP. Notwithstanding section 24-1-136 (1)(a)(I), the department shall provide the report to the joint budget committee of the general assembly, the public and behavioral health and human services committee of the house of representatives, and the health and human services committee of the senate, or any successor committees. The report must include, at a minimum, the following information related to benchmarks of success for CCCAP:

(f) The number of families on each county's wait list as of ~~November 1~~ OCTOBER 1 of each year, as well as the average length of time each family remains on the wait list in each county;

**SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-4-208, **amend** (4)(a) and (6)(d) as follows:

**26.5-4-208. Preschool provider funding - per-child rates - local contribution - distribution and use of money - definitions - repeal.** (4) (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, if the funding that a preschool provider that is a school district or a charter school receives pursuant to this section for eligible children enrolled in the preschool program for the 2023-24 fiscal year, calculated as the per-child rates for the 2023-24 fiscal year multiplied by the number of eligible children the preschool provider enrolls for the 2023-24 fiscal year, is less than the amount of funding allotted for the 2022-23 fiscal year for the children the preschool provider enrolled through the Colorado preschool program, as it exists prior to July 1, 2023, calculated as fifty percent of the preschool provider's per pupil funding, as described in section 22-54-104 (3) or (3.5), whichever is applicable, for the 2022-23 fiscal year multiplied by the number of ~~children~~ PRESCHOOL POSITIONS the preschool provider enrolled through the Colorado preschool program and directly served for the 2022-23 fiscal year, the department shall distribute to the preschool provider for the 2023-24 fiscal year an amount equal to the difference in said amounts.

(6) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(d) "State average per pupil funding amount" means the ~~statewide total amount~~ of THE per pupil funding AMOUNTS, as described in section 22-54-104 (3) or (3.5), FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE AS calculated for ~~all school districts~~ for the 2022-23 budget year divided by the ~~statewide total funded pupil count, minus the statewide total district extended high school pupil enrollment and the statewide total online pupil enrollment, for the 2022-23 budget year~~ TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS, THEN MULTIPLIED BY FIFTY PERCENT.

**SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-102, **add** (7)(d) as follows:

**26.5-5-102. School-readiness quality improvement program - created - rules.** (7) (d) THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AN ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

(I) EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMMING AND RELATED SUPPORTS; AND

## (II) WHOLE-CHILD SERVICES.

**SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-303, **amend** (1), (3), (7), (12), (13), and (16)(a); **repeal** (11); and **add** (1.5) and (5.5) as follows:

**26.5-5-303. Definitions.** As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) ~~"Affiliate of a licensee" means:~~

~~(a) Any person or entity that owns more than five percent of the ownership interest in the business operated by the licensee or the applicant for a license; or~~

~~(b) Any person who is directly responsible for the care and welfare of children served; or~~

~~(c) Any executive, officer, member of the governing board, or employee of a licensee; or~~

~~(d) A relative of a licensee, which relative provides care to children at the licensee's facility or is otherwise involved in the management or operations of the licensee's facility: "ADVERSE ACTION" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS "NEGATIVE LICENSING ACTION" AS DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (16)(a) OF THIS SECTION.~~

(1.5) "AFFILIATE OF A LICENSEE" MEANS:

(a) ANY PERSON OR ENTITY THAT OWNS MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THE OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS OPERATED BY THE LICENSEE OR THE APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE; OR

(b) ANY PERSON WHO IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN SERVED; OR

(c) ANY EXECUTIVE, OFFICER, MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BOARD, OR EMPLOYEE OF A LICENSEE; OR

(d) A RELATIVE OF A LICENSEE, WHICH RELATIVE PROVIDES CARE TO CHILDREN AT THE LICENSEE'S FACILITY OR IS OTHERWISE INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT OR OPERATIONS OF THE LICENSEE'S FACILITY.

(3) ~~(a)(1)~~ "Child care center" ~~prior to July 1, 2024,~~ means a facility, by whatever name known, that is maintained for the whole or part of a day for the care of five or more children, unless otherwise specified in this ~~subsection (3)(a)(1)~~ SUBSECTION (3), who are eighteen years of age or younger and who are not related to the owner, operator, or manager thereof, whether the facility is operated with or without compensation for such care and with or without stated educational purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, facilities commonly known as child care centers, school-age child care centers, before- and after-school programs, kindergartens, preschools, day camps, and summer camps, and includes those facilities for children under six years of age with stated educational purposes operated in conjunction with a public, private, or parochial college or a private or parochial school; except that

the term does not apply to any kindergarten maintained in connection with a public, private, or parochial elementary school system of at least six grades.

~~(H) This subsection (3)(a) is repealed, effective July 1, 2024.~~

~~(b) "Child care center", on and after July 1, 2024, means a facility, by whatever name known, that is maintained for the whole or part of a day for the care of five or more children, unless otherwise specified in this subsection (3)(b), who are eighteen years of age or younger and who are not related to the owner, operator, or manager thereof, whether the facility is operated with or without compensation for such care and with or without stated educational purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, facilities commonly known as child care centers, school-age child care centers, before- and after-school programs, kindergartens, preschools, day camps, and summer camps, and includes those facilities for children under six years of age with stated educational purposes operated in conjunction with a public, private, or parochial college or a private or parochial school; except that the term does not apply to any kindergarten maintained in connection with a public, private, or parochial elementary school system of at least six grades.~~

(5.5) "COLORADO STATE COURTS DATA ACCESS SYSTEM" MEANS THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC ACCESS SITE FOR THE COLORADO JUDICIAL BRANCH MAINTAINED BY THE COLORADO STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE CONTAINING READ-ONLY ACCESS TO COURT DATA, INCLUDING A NAME INDEX AND REGISTER OF ACTIONS.

(7) "Family child care home" means a facility for child care operated with or without compensation or educational purposes in a place of residence of a family or person for the purpose of providing less than twenty-four-hour care for children under the age of eighteen years who are not related to the head of such home. "Family child care home" may include infant-toddler child care homes, large FAMILY child care homes, experienced provider child care PROVIDER homes, and such other types of family child care homes designated by department rules pursuant to section 26.5-5-314 (2)(n), as the executive director deems necessary and appropriate.

~~(11) "ICON" means the computerized database of court records known as the integrated Colorado online network used by the state judicial department.~~

(12) "Kindergarten" means any facility providing an educational program for children only for the year preceding their entrance to the first grade, whether such facility is called a kindergarten, ~~nursery school~~, preschool, or any other name.

(13) "License" means a legal document issued pursuant to this part 3 granting permission to operate a child care facility. A license may be in the form of a provisional, probationary, ~~permanent, or time-limited license~~ OR PERMANENT LICENSE.

(16)(a) "Negative licensing action", OR "ADVERSE ACTION", means a final agency action resulting in the denial of an application, the imposition of fines, or the suspension or revocation of a license issued pursuant to this part 3 or the demotion of such a license to a probationary license.

**SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-304, **amend (1)(f)(I)** introductory portion as follows:

**26.5-5-304. Application of part - definition - repeal.** (1) This part 3 does not apply to:

(f) (I) An individual who provides less than twenty-four-hour child care in ~~a~~ <sup>THE</sup> INDIVIDUAL'S PERMANENT place of residence when one of the following conditions is met:

**SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-307, **amend (2)(f)(III)(A)** and (2)(g)(III)(A) as follows:

**26.5-5-307. Application of part - guest child care facilities - public services short-term child care facilities - definition.** (2) A person or entity shall not operate a guest child care facility or a public services short-term child care facility unless the following requirements are met:

(f) (III) (A) The guest child care facility or public services short-term child care facility requests the department to obtain a comparison search on the ~~ICON~~ COLORADO STATE COURTS DATA ACCESS system at the state judicial department with the name and date of birth information and any other available source of criminal history information that the department determines is appropriate, whether or not the criminal history background check confirms a criminal history, in order to determine the crime or crimes, if any, for which the supervisory employee or applicant for a supervisory employee position was arrested or convicted and the disposition thereof; and

(g) (III) (A) The guest child care facility or public services short-term child care facility requests the department to obtain a comparison search on the ~~ICON~~ COLORADO STATE COURTS DATA ACCESS system at the state judicial department with the name and date of birth information and any other available source of criminal history information that the department determines is appropriate, whether or not the criminal history background check confirms a criminal history, in order to determine the crime or crimes, if any, for which the employee was arrested or convicted and the disposition thereof; and

**SECTION 13.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-308, **amend (4)(c)** as follows:

**26.5-5-308. Application of part - neighborhood youth organizations - rules - licensing - duties and responsibilities - definitions.** (4) A licensed neighborhood youth organization shall require all employees and volunteers who work directly with or will work directly with youth members five or more days in a calendar month to obtain, prior to employment, and every two years thereafter, one of the following:

(c) A comparison search by the department on the ~~ICON~~ COLORADO STATE COURTS DATA ACCESS system of the state judicial department or a comparison search on any other database that is recognized on a statewide basis by using the name, date of birth, and social security number information that the department

determines is appropriate to determine whether the person being investigated has been convicted of felony child abuse as specified in section 18-6-401 or a felony offense involving unlawful sexual behavior as defined in section 16-22-102 (9). The neighborhood youth organization shall not hire a person as an employee or approve a person as a volunteer after confirmation of such a criminal history.

**SECTION 14.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-309, **amend** (4)(a)(I)(E) and (4)(b); and **add** (4)(a)(I)(E.5) as follows:

**26.5-5-309. Licenses - rules - definition.** (4) (a) (I) The department shall not issue a license to operate a family child care home or a child care center if the applicant for the license, an affiliate of the applicant, a person employed by the applicant, or a person who resides with the applicant at the facility has been convicted of:

(E) Any felony involving physical assault OR battery; ~~or a drug-related offense within the five years preceding the date of application for a license;~~

(E.5) ANY FELONY INVOLVING A DRUG-RELATED OFFENSE WITHIN THE FIVE YEARS PRECEDING THE DATE OF APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE;

(b) The department shall determine the convictions identified in subsection (4)(a) of this section according to the records of the Colorado bureau of investigation, the ~~ICON~~ COLORADO STATE COURTS DATA ACCESS system at the state judicial department, or any other source, as set forth in section 26.5-5-316 (1)(a)(II). A certified copy of the judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction of such conviction, deferred judgment and sentence agreement, deferred prosecution agreement, or deferred adjudication agreement is prima facie evidence of the conviction or agreement. The department shall not issue a license to operate a family child care home or a child care center if the department has a certified court order from another state indicating that the person applying for the license has been convicted of child abuse or any unlawful sexual offense against a child under a law of any other state or the United States, or the department has a certified court order from another state that the person applying for the license has entered into a deferred judgment or deferred prosecution agreement in another state as to child abuse or any sexual offense against a child.

**SECTION 15.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-311, **amend** (1)(a)(I) and (2)(a) as follows:

**26.5-5-311. Fees - when original applications, reapplications, and renewals for licensure are required - creation of child care licensing cash fund - rules.**

(1) (a) The department is authorized to establish, pursuant to rules promulgated by the executive director, permanent, time-limited, and provisional license fees and fees for continuation of a license for the following types of child care arrangements:

(I) Family child care homes, including any special type of family child care home designated by department rules pursuant to section 26.5-5-314 (2)(n); ~~but excluding homes certified by county departments or child placement agencies;~~

(2) (a) The fees specified in subsection (1) of this section must be paid when AN

application is ~~made~~ SUBMITTED for ~~any license is sought~~ A LICENSE OR RENEWAL OF A LICENSE and are not subject to refund. Applications for licenses are required in the situations that are set forth in subsection (2)(b) of this section and must be made on forms prescribed by the department. Each completed application must set forth such information as required by the department. All licenses continue in force until revoked, surrendered, or expired.

**SECTION 16.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-316, **amend** (1)(a)(I)(A) and (1)(a)(II)(A) as follows:

**26.5-5-316. Investigations and inspections - local authority - reports - rules.**

(1) (a) (I) (A) The department shall investigate and pass on each original application for a license, each application for a permanent ~~or time-limited~~ license following the issuance of a probationary or provisional license, and each application for renewal, to operate a facility or an agency prior to granting the license or renewal. As part of the investigation, the department shall require each individual, including, but not limited to, the applicant, any owner, employee, newly hired employee, licensee, and any adult who is eighteen years of age and older who resides in the licensed facility, to obtain a fingerprint-based criminal history record check by reviewing any record that is used to assist the department in ascertaining whether the person being investigated has been convicted of any of the criminal offenses specified in section 26.5-5-309 (4) or any other felony. The executive director shall promulgate rules that define and identify what the criminal history record check entails.

(II) Rules promulgated by the executive director pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(I) of this section must also include:

(A) A comparison search on the ~~ICON~~ COLORADO STATE COURTS DATA ACCESS system at the state judicial department with the name and date of birth information and any other available source of criminal history information that the department determines is appropriate for each circumstance in which the fingerprint check conducted by the Colorado bureau of investigation either does not confirm a criminal history or confirms a criminal history, in order to determine the crime or crimes for which the person was arrested or convicted and the disposition thereof;

**SECTION 17.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-317, **amend** (2) introductory portion, (2)(b), and (8) as follows:

**26.5-5-317. Denial of license - suspension - revocation - probation - refusal to renew license - fines.** (2) The department may deny an application or suspend, revoke, or make probationary the license of any facility regulated and licensed ~~under~~ PURSUANT TO this part 3 or assess a fine against the licensee pursuant to section 26.5-5-323 if the licensee, an affiliate of the licensee, a person employed by the licensee, or a person who resides with the licensee at the facility:

(b) Is convicted of third degree assault, as described in section 18-3-204; any misdemeanor, the underlying factual basis of which has been found by the court on the record to include an act of domestic violence, as defined in section 18-6-800.3; the violation of a protection order, as described in section 18-6-803.5; ~~any misdemeanor offense of child abuse as defined in section 18-6-401;~~ or any



misdeemeanor offense in any other state, the elements of which are substantially similar to the elements of any one of the offenses described in this subsection (2)(b). As used in this subsection (2)(b), "convicted" has the same meaning as set forth in section 26.5-5-309 (4)(a)(II).

(8) The department shall determine the existence of convictions identified in this section according to the records of the Colorado bureau of investigation, the ~~ICON~~ COLORADO STATE COURTS DATA ACCESS system at the state judicial department, or any other source, as set forth in section 26.5-5-316 (1)(a)(II).

**SECTION 18.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-326, **amend** (1)(a)(IV); and **add** (1)(a)(V) as follows:

**26.5-5-326. Exempt family child care home providers - fingerprint-based criminal history record check - child care assistance program money - temporary care - rules - definitions.** (1) (a) (IV) The COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S BACKGROUND CHECK PORTION OF THE FCC required pursuant to this section is a prerequisite to the issuance or renewal of a contract for receipt of money ~~under~~ PURSUANT TO the Colorado child care assistance program as provided in part 1 of article 4 of this title 26.5. The department shall not issue or renew a contract for payment of money under the Colorado child care assistance program to a qualified provider who fails to submit ~~to~~ the COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS BACKGROUND CHECK PORTION OF THE FCC or fails to submit fingerprints for a qualified adult.

(V) THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S PORTION OF THE FCC REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS A PREREQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN INITIAL CONTRACT, AND MUST BE CONDUCTED EVERY FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER, FOR RECEIPT OF MONEY PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 4 OF THIS TITLE 26.5. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT ISSUE OR RENEW A CONTRACT FOR PAYMENT OF MONEY PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO A QUALIFIED PROVIDER WHO FAILS TO SUBMIT THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S PORTION OF THE FCC OR FAILS TO SUBMIT FINGERPRINTS FOR A QUALIFIED ADULT AT THE TIME OF INITIAL CONTRACT OR EVERY FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER.

**SECTION 19.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-5-328, **repeal** (2), (3), and (4) as follows:

**26.5-5-328. Applications for licenses.** (2) ~~The department or any authorized agent of the department shall deny, suspend, or revoke a license pursuant to the provisions of section 26-13-126, and any rules promulgated to implement said section, if the department or agent receives a notice to deny, suspend, or revoke from the state child support enforcement agency because the licensee or applicant is out of compliance with a court or administrative order for current child support, child support debt, retroactive child support, child support arrearages, or child support when combined with maintenance or because the licensee or applicant has failed to comply with a properly issued subpoena or warrant relating to a paternity or child support proceeding. Any such denial, suspension, or revocation must be in accordance with the procedures specified by rule of the department of human~~

~~services and rules promulgated by the state board of human services for the implementation of section 26-13-126.~~

~~(3) (a) The department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the state child support enforcement agency, which memorandum must identify the relative responsibilities of the department and the state child support enforcement agency with respect to the implementation of this section and section 26-13-126.~~

~~(b) The executive director may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.~~

~~(4) As used in this section, "license" means any recognition, authority, or permission that the department or any authorized agent of the department is authorized by law to issue for an individual to practice a profession or occupation or recreational activity. "License" includes, but is not limited to, a license, certificate, certification, letter of authorization, or registration issued for an individual to practice a profession or occupation or for an individual to participate in a recreational activity.~~

**SECTION 20.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-1-307, **amend** (2)(j.7), (2)(k), (2)(k.5), (2)(l), (2)(r), and (2)(y) as follows:

**19-1-307. Dependency and neglect records and information - access - fee - records and reports fund - misuse of information - penalty - adult protective services data system check - rules. (2) Records and reports - access to certain persons - agencies.** Except as set forth in section 19-1-303, only the following persons or agencies have access to child abuse or neglect records and reports:

(j.7) The department of early childhood, WHEN REQUESTED IN WRITING BY ANY OPERATOR OF A FACILITY THAT IS investigating an applicant for an employee or volunteer position with, or an employee or volunteer of, a licensed neighborhood youth organization pursuant to section 26.5-5-308, when the applicant, employee, or volunteer has given written authorization to the department of early childhood to check records or reports of child abuse or neglect. ANY OPERATOR WHO REQUESTS INFORMATION CONCERNING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A CURRENT EMPLOYEE OR AN APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT COMMITS A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-501. WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE OPERATOR'S REQUEST, THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SHALL PROVIDE THE DATE OF THE REPORT OF THE INCIDENT, THE LOCATION OF INVESTIGATION, THE TYPE OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND THE COUNTY THAT INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT CONTAINED IN THE CONFIRMED REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

(k) The state department of human services or department of early childhood, when requested in writing by any operator of a facility or agency that is licensed by the state department of human services pursuant to section 26-6-912 or department of early childhood pursuant to section 26.5-5-316, to check records or reports of child abuse or neglect for the purpose of screening an applicant for employment or a current employee. Any operator who requests information concerning an individual who is ~~neither~~ NOT a current employee ~~nor~~ OR an applicant for employment commits a class 2 misdemeanor and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-501. Within ~~ten~~ TWENTY days after the operator's request, the state

department of human services or department of early childhood shall provide the date of the report of the incident, the location of investigation, the type of abuse and neglect, and the county that investigated the incident contained in the confirmed reports of child abuse and neglect. Any operator who releases any information obtained ~~under~~ PURSUANT TO this subsection (2)(k) to any other person ~~violates the provisions of subsection (4) of this section and is subject to the penalty therefor~~ COMMITS A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-501.

(k.5) The state department of human services or department of early childhood, when requested in writing by a qualified county department, individual, or child placement agency approved to conduct home study investigations and reports pursuant to section 19-5-207.5 (2)(b)(I) for purposes of screening a prospective adoptive parent or any adult residing in the home ~~under~~ PURSUANT TO section 19-5-207 (2.5)(c), or investigating a prospective foster care parent, kinship care parent, or an adult residing in the home ~~under~~ PURSUANT TO section 26-6-912 (1)(c). Within ~~ten~~ TWENTY days after the request, the state department of human services or department of early childhood shall provide the date of the report of the incident, the location of investigation, the type of abuse and neglect, and the county that investigated the incident contained in the confirmed reports of child abuse or neglect. The county department, individual, or child placement agency is subject to the fee assessment established in subsection (2.5) of this section. With respect to screening a prospective adoptive parent, any employee of the county department or the child placement agency or any individual who releases any information obtained pursuant to this subsection (2)(k.5) to any person other than the adoption court ~~violates the provisions of subsection (4) of this section and is subject to the penalty therefor~~ COMMITS A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-501.

(l) The state department of human services or department of early childhood, when requested in writing by the department of education to check records or reports of child abuse or neglect for the purpose of aiding the department of education in its investigation of an allegation of abuse by an employee of a school district in this state. Within ~~ten~~ TWENTY days ~~of~~ AFTER the department of education's request, the state department of human services or department of early childhood shall provide the date of the report of the incident, the location of investigation, the type of abuse or neglect, and the county that investigated the incident contained in the confirmed reports of child abuse or neglect. The department of education is subject to the fee assessment established in subsection (2.5) of this section. Any employee of the department of education who releases any information obtained under this subsection (2)(l) to any person not authorized to receive the information pursuant to ~~the provisions of~~ section 22-32-109.7 or any member of the board of education of a school district who releases the information obtained pursuant to ~~said~~ section ~~violates the provisions of subsection (4) of this section and is subject to the penalty for the violation~~ SECTION 22-32-109.7 COMMITS A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-501.

(r) The department of early childhood, WHEN REQUESTED IN WRITING BY ANY OPERATOR OF A GUEST CHILD CARE FACILITY OR PUBLIC SERVICE SHORT-TERM CHILD CARE FACILITY THAT IS investigating an applicant for a supervisory employee position or an employee of a guest child care facility or a public services short-term

child care facility pursuant to section 26.5-5-307, when the applicant or employee, as a requirement of application for employment, has given written authorization to the department of early childhood to check records or reports of child abuse or neglect. ANY OPERATOR WHO REQUESTS INFORMATION CONCERNING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A CURRENT EMPLOYEE OR AN APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT COMMITS A CLASS 2 MISDEMEANOR AND SHALL BE PUNISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-501. WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE OPERATOR'S REQUEST, THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD SHALL PROVIDE THE DATE OF THE REPORT OF THE INCIDENT, THE LOCATION OF INVESTIGATION, THE TYPE OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND THE COUNTY THAT INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT CONTAINED IN THE CONFIRMED REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

(y) The state department of human services, ~~or department of early childhood,~~ OR A REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL, OR THE INDIVIDUAL'S DESIGNEE, AFTER PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION, when requested in writing ~~by an individual~~ to check records or reports of child abuse or neglect of THE REQUESTING INDIVIDUAL for the purpose of screening ~~that~~ THE REQUESTING individual when ~~that~~ THE REQUESTING individual's responsibilities include care of children, treatment of children, supervision of children, or unsupervised contact with children.

**SECTION 21.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-4-2206, **amend** (2)(a) introductory portion, (2)(a)(XII), and (2)(a)(XIII); and **add** (2)(a)(XIV) as follows:

**25-4-2206. Health equity commission - creation - repeal.** (2) (a) The commission consists of the following ~~twenty-two~~ TWENTY-THREE members, who are as follows:

(XII) The executive director of the department of corrections, or the executive director's designee; ~~and~~

(XIII) The executive director of the department of higher education, or the executive director's designee; AND

(XIV) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

**SECTION 22. 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.

Approved: June 7, 2023