A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING CREATING AN OPTION FOR PARENTS WHO SEEK TO VOLUNTARILY DELEGATE CERTAIN PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO A SAFE FAMILY FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME WITHOUT RELINQUISHING LEGAL CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILD.

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.)

Under current law, a parent or guardian of a minor or incapacitated person may delegate to another person power regarding care, custody, or property of the minor or ward for up to 12 months by executing a power
of attorney.

The bill permits a parent or guardian to use the assistance of a temporary care assistance program operated by a qualified nonprofit organization to identify an appropriate and safe approved temporary caregiver to whom the parent or guardian can choose to delegate temporary care responsibility of a minor through a power of attorney.

The bill limits the duration of a power of attorney that delegates temporary care responsibility of a minor to an approved temporary caregiver to 6 months, though the parent or guardian can elect to execute subsequent powers of attorney up to the maximum 12 months. The 12-month restriction does not apply to deployed or active duty military members. The bill clarifies that such a power of attorney can be revoked at any time and does not change legal rights or obligations existing pursuant to a court order. The minor must be returned to the custody of the parent or guardian within 48 hours after termination of the power of attorney.

A temporary care assistance program is permitted to approve as a temporary caregiver any person who:

- Meets the standards prescribed by the temporary care assistance program;
- Satisfactorily completes required criminal and child abuse and neglect background checks and sex offender registration checks; and
- Receives training conducted by the temporary care assistance program.

The department of human services may investigate a temporary care assistance program to ensure it is complying with the requirement to conduct background checks on temporary caregivers. The department may assess a fine of $1,000 for each violation of the requirement. Employees of qualified nonprofit organizations are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

A power of attorney that delegates temporary care responsibility of a minor to an approved temporary caregiver does not constitute child abuse or neglect, constitute placing the minor into foster care, or relieve parents, guardians, or minors of rights and obligations pursuant to court orders.

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

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add part 7 to article 6 of title 26 as follows:

PART 7

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TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

26-6-701. Definitions. As used in this Part 7, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER" means a person approved by a TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS PART 7 WHO IS DELEGATED TEMPORARY CARE RESPONSIBILITY OF A MINOR BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN THROUGH A POWER OF ATTORNEY, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-14-105.

(2) "TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM" means a PROGRAM OPERATED BY A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY THAT ASSISTS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN WITH RECRUITING AND IDENTIFYING AN APPROPRIATE AND SAFE APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER TO WHOM THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN CAN CHOOSE TO DELEGATE TEMPORARY CARE RESPONSIBILITY OF A MINOR THROUGH A POWER OF ATTORNEY PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-14-105.

26-6-702. Temporary care assistance program permitted.

(1) A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY MAY OPERATE A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(2) THE ACTIVITIES OF A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PERFORMED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 7 DO NOT CONSTITUTE PLACING A CHILD PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE 6.

26-6-703. Temporary care assistance program - limitations on duration of delegation - approved temporary caregiver. (1) (a) (I) A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A MINOR MAY USE THE ASSISTANCE OF A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY AN APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER TO DELEGATE ANY POWER REGARDING CARE, CUSTODY, OR PROPERTY OF THE MINOR, EXCEPT THE POWER TO CONSENT
TO MARRIAGE OR ADOPTION, BY A POWER OF ATTORNEY, AS DESCRIBED IN
SECTION 15-14-105.

(II) A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MUST MAKE
DILIGENT EFFORTS TO NOTIFY ANY PARENT OR GUARDIAN IDENTIFIED BY
THE DELEGATING PARENT AS HAVING PARENTAL RIGHTS OR LEGAL
DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY REGARDING THE MINOR'S CARE.

(III) A PARENT WHO IS NAMED AS A RESPONDENT IN AN OPEN
DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT CASE MAY NOT USE THE ASSISTANCE OF A
TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AS DESCRIBED IN THIS PART 7.

(b) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW, A
POWER OF ATTORNEY THAT DELEGATES TEMPORARY CARE RESPONSIBILITY
OF A MINOR TO AN APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER MUST NOT EXCEED
SIX MONTHS, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1)(b)(II) OF THIS
SECTION.

(II) A PERSON WHO IS DEPLOYED BY OR CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY
IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY MAY EXCEED THE TIME LIMIT
DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION; EXCEPT THAT THE
TOTAL LENGTH OF A DELEGATION OF POWER MADE TO AN APPROVED
TEMPORARY CAREGIVER BY A PERSON WHO IS DEPLOYED BY OR CALLED TO
ACTIVE DUTY IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY MUST NOT BE LONGER
THAN THE END OF THE MEMBER'S DEPLOYMENT OR CALL TO ACTIVE DUTY,
PLUS THIRTY DAYS.

(c) THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR HAS THE AUTHORITY
TO REVOKE A POWER OF ATTORNEY THAT DELEGATES TEMPORARY CARE
RESPONSIBILITY OF A MINOR TO AN APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER AT
ANY TIME. UPON EXPIRATION OR REVOCATION OF THE POWER OF
ATTORNEY, THE MINOR MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE
PARENT OR GUARDIAN AS SOON AS REASONABLY POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER
THAN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER SUCH EXPIRATION, REVOCATION, OR
OTHER TERMINATION.

(d) A POWER OF ATTORNEY THAT DELEGATES TEMPORARY CARE
RESPONSIBILITY OF A MINOR TO AN APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER
DOES NOT:

(I) CHANGE PARENTAL RIGHTS, LEGAL RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS, OR
OTHER AUTHORITY ESTABLISHED BY AN EXISTING COURT ORDER AND DOES
NOT DEPRIVE A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS, OR OTHER
AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE CUSTODY, VISITATION, OR SUPPORT OF A
MINOR;

(II) CONSTITUTE CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT, AS DEFINED IN
SECTION 19-1-103 (1); OR

(III) RESULT IN A CHILD BEING NEGLECTED OR DEPENDENT, AS
DESCRIBED IN SECTION 19-3-102, UNLESS THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN FAILS
TO MAKE CONTACT, EXECUTE A NEW POWER OF ATTORNEY, OR RETAKE
CUSTODY WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AFTER AN EXPIRED POWER OF
ATTORNEY, OR AFTER THE TOTAL TIME LIMIT DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
(1)(b) OF THIS SECTION HAS ELAPSED.

(2) (a) AN APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER SHALL EXERCISE
PARENTAL OR LEGAL AUTHORITY ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS AND WITHOUT
COMPENSATION FOR THE INTENDED DURATION OF THE POWER OF
ATTORNEY.

(b) (I) A MINOR SUBJECT TO THE POWER OF ATTORNEY THAT
DELEGATES TEMPORARY CARE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINOR TO AN
APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER IS NOT DEEMED PLACED IN A FOSTER
CARE HOME, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-6-102 (14), AND THE APPROVED
TEMPORARY CAREGIVER IS NOT DEEMED TO BE PROVIDING FOSTER CARE
NOR BE SUBJECT TO THE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS OF FOSTER CARE.

(II) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION DISQUALIFIES AN APPROVED
TEMPORARY CAREGIVER FROM BEING OR BECOMING A FOSTER CARE HOME
CERTIFIED BY A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR PRIVATE AGENCY PURSUANT TO
SECTION 26-6-106.3.

(c) ANY PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH A MINOR RESIDES WITH AN
APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER PURSUANT TO AN UNEXPIRED AND
VALID POWER OF ATTORNEY IS NOT INCLUDED IN DETERMINING WHETHER
THE MINOR HAS RESIDED WITH THE APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER
FOR THE MINIMUM PERIOD REQUIRED FOR A PERSON TO BE CONSIDERED A
PERSON OTHER THAN A PARENT WHO HAS HAD THE PHYSICAL CARE OF A
CHILD FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 14-10-123.

26-6-704. Approval of temporary caregiver - background
check - training. (1) A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY OPERATING A
TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MAY APPROVE AS A TEMPORARY
CAREGIVER ANY PERSON WHO MEETS THE STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY THE
TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND WHO COMPLIES WITH THE
REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(2) (a) A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY OPERATING A TEMPORARY
CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO BECOME AN
APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER AND ANY OTHER PERSON WHO RESIDES
IN THE APPLICANT'S HOME AND IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO
SUBMIT TO THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND CHECKS:

(I) A FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK
THROUGH THE COLORADO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IN THE SAME MANNER AS DESCRIBED IN
SECTION 26-6-107 (1)(a)(I)(C).

(II) A CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT BACKGROUND CHECK PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-1-307; AND

(III) A CHECK AGAINST THE STATE’S SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY AND AGAINST THE NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER PUBLIC WEBSITE OPERATED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THAT CHECKS NAMES AND ADDRESSES IN THE REGISTRIES AND THE INTERACTIVE DATABASE SYSTEM FOR COLORADO TO DETERMINE IF A PERSON IS A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER.

(b) A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY OPERATING A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COSTS ARISING FROM ANY BACKGROUND CHECK PERFORMED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY MAY COLLECT THE COSTS FROM ANY PERSON SUBJECT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK.

(c) THE CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY OPERATING A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL MAINTAIN RECORDS OF A BACKGROUND CHECK PERFORMED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, INCLUDING THE FULL TRANSCRIPTS OF THE BACKGROUND CHECK, FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS. THE CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY SHALL MAKE THE RECORDS AVAILABLE TO A PARENT OR GUARDIAN EXECUTING A POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND ANY LOCAL, STATE, OR FEDERAL AUTHORITY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INVOLVING THE APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER, THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN, OR THE MINOR.

(d) A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY OPERATING A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL NOT APPROVE AN APPLICANT AS AN APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER IF A BACKGROUND CHECK CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION DISCLOSES A SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATION OF
CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION, OR ANY CRIME THAT WOULD
DISQUALIFY THE APPLICANT OR ANY OTHER PERSON WHO RESIDES IN THE
APPLICANT'S HOME AND IS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FROM
BECOMING CERTIFIED OR LICENSED TO OPERATE A FOSTER CARE HOME IN
THE STATE.

(3) A CHILD PLACEMENT AGENCY OPERATING A TEMPORARY CARE
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL TRAIN AN APPROVED TEMPORARY
CAREGIVER IN THE RIGHTS, DUTIES, AND LIMITATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH
PROVIDING CARE FOR A MINOR PURSUANT TO THIS PART 7.

26-6-705. Rules. (1) A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AND A TEMPORARY CARE PROVIDER ARE SUBJECT TO ANY RULE
PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT IS APPLICABLE TO
NONCERTIFIED KINSHIP CARE, DEFINED IN SECTION 19-1-103 (78.7);
EXCEPT THAT A TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND A
TEMPORARY CARE PROVIDER ARE NOT SUBJECT TO SUCH A RULE THAT IS
INCONSISTENT WITH THIS PART 7.

(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, A
TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND A TEMPORARY CAREGIVER
ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY RULE PROMULGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR
AN ACTIVITY PERFORMED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 7.

26-6-706. Application of part. (1) THIS PART 7 APPLIES ONLY
WHEN A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A MINOR DELEGATES ANY POWER
REGARDING CARE, CUSTODY, OR PROPERTY OF THE MINOR TO AN
APPROVED TEMPORARY CAREGIVER WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A
TEMPORARY CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS PART 7.
NOTHING IN THIS PART 7 RESTRICTS, ABRIDGES, OR ALTERS THE RIGHT OF
A MINOR’S PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO PROVIDE FOR THE CARE OF THE MINOR
BY POWER OF ATTORNEY PURSUANT TO ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW.

(2) NOTHING IN THIS PART 7:

(a) RELIEVES THE PARENT OF ANY OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT THE
MINOR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW;

(b) LIMITS THE AUTHORITY OF THE COURT TO ORDER A PARENT TO
MAKE SUPPORT PAYMENTS OR REIMBURSEMENTS FOR MEDICAL,
BEHAVIORAL, HEALTH, OR OTHER CARE OR TREATMENT;

(c) ABROGATES THE RIGHT OF THE MINOR TO ANY BENEFITS
PROVIDED THROUGH PUBLIC FUNDS FOR WHICH THE MINOR IS OTHERWISE
ENTITLED; OR

(d) LIMITS OR PREVENTS THE ABILITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OR
COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES TO INVESTIGATE A REPORT OF
SUSPECTED ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A CHILD PURSUANT TO SECTION
19-3-308.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 19-1-307, add
(2)(j.8) as follows:

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

(j.8) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES INVESTIGATING
ANY PERSON REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK PURSUANT
TO SECTION 26-6-704 (2), WHEN THE PERSON HAS GIVEN WRITTEN
AUTHORIZATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO
SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.