



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

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Memorandum

June 14, 2023

TO: Colorado's Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee

FROM: Amanda King, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-4332
Jerard Brown, Research Analyst, 303-866-4784
Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Senior Research Analyst, 303-866-3028
Shukria Maktabi, Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-4720

SUBJECT: Charge Memorandum for Colorado's Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee

Summary

This memorandum provides an overview of the Colorado's Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee (committee), including the origin and charge of the committee, membership, bill request deadlines and procedures, and information regarding committee staff and the committee website.

Origin and Charge of the Committee

The committee was created pursuant to Interim Committee Request Letter 2023-01 and may meet up to five times during the 2023 interim. The committee is charged with taking a holistic look at Colorado's child welfare system to address the major factors facing the system in order to better serve the state's children and families. The areas to examine may include, but are not be limited to:

- child abuse and neglect rates, types, and recurrence of abuse in Colorado;
- laws and regulations governing child welfare practices at the federal and state level;
- judicial processes related to child welfare practice;
- processes for child abuse and neglect cases including reporting, investigation, and removal;
- current systems and supports including the Colorado TRAILS System, the Core services program, out-of-home placement services including kinship and foster care, differential response, facilitated family engagement, and prevention and intervention services;
- challenges in the child welfare system including workforce challenges related to hiring and retaining county child welfare workers, social determinants of child welfare involvement, and the behavioral health needs for children, youth, and families; and
- the intersection of child welfare and juvenile justice.

Committee Membership

There are eleven members on the Colorado’s Child Welfare System Interim Study Committee.

The members appointed to the committee are:

Representatives

Representative Mary Young, Chair
Representative Brandi Bradley
Representative Monica Duran
Representative Gabe Evans
Representative Junie Joseph
Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet
Representative Rose Pugliese

Senators

Senator Rhonda Fields, Vice Chair
Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer
Senator Chris Kolker
Rachel Zenzinger

Meeting Dates

The committee is authorized to meet up to five times during the 2023 legislative. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Old State Library;
- Tuesday, July 18 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Old State Library;
- Tuesday, August 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Old State Library; and
- Tuesday, September 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Old State Library (bill draft request meeting).

The final meeting of the committee will occur between October 25 and November 1. At the final meeting, the committee will vote on proposed legislation.

Committee Recommendations to Legislative Council

Bill limits and requests. The committee may recommend up to five bills to the Legislative Council. Committee members must request bills during a single meeting set for requesting legislation, and bill requests must be approved by a majority of the committee members.

Bill request deadlines. The Legislative Council has established deadlines for the 2023 interim for requesting, drafting, and approving bill drafts under consideration by the committee. The meeting to request bill drafts must be held by **September 20, 2023**. Committee members must submit drafting information to the Office of Legislative Legal Services (OLLS) bill drafter within three calendar days of the meeting at which bills were requested. There must be at least 42 days in between the meeting at which legislation is requested and the meeting at which it is approved. To allow time for Legislative Council Staff to prepare the fiscal analysis of the proposal, there must be 21 days between the date the proposed bill is finalized with OLLS staff and the date of the meeting to approve the proposed bills. The last day to finalize bill drafts with OLLS staff is **October 11, 2023**. The committee must meet and vote on the bill drafts by **November 1, 2023**.

Legislative Council review. The Legislative Council is scheduled to meet on November 15 to approve interim committee draft legislation. Bills approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Bills not approved by the Legislative Council may be introduced during the regular session, but such bills would count against a member's five bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to approval by the Legislative Council.

Committee Staff and Website

Committee staff contacts. Legislative Council Staff is charged with assisting the committee in its activities. If you have any questions or would like any additional information concerning the committee, please send an e-mail childwelfare.ga@coleg.gov. You may also contact any of the following individual staff members:

- Amanda King, Senior Research Analyst, amanda.king@coleg.gov, 303-866-4332;
- Jerard Brown, Research Analyst, jerard.brown@coleg.gov, 303-866-4784;
- Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Senior Research Analyst, rachel.kurtz-phelan@coleg.gov, 303-866-3028; and
- Shukria Maktabi, Fiscal Analyst, shukria.maktabi@coleg.gov, 303-866-4720.

Fiscal note staff contact. Legislative Council Staff provides fiscal notes for committee legislation and other analyses requested by the committee. To discuss the fiscal impact of legislation or to request a fiscal analysis, please contact:

- Shukria Maktabi, Fiscal Analyst, shukria.maktabi@coleg.gov, 303-866-4720.

Legal services staff contacts. Additionally, attorneys at the Office of Legislative Legal Services provide legal and bill drafting assistance to the committee. For assistance in these areas, please contact:

- Jane Ritter, Managing Senior Attorney, jane.ritter@coleg.gov, 303-866-4342;
- Alana Rosen, Staff Attorney, alana.rosen@coleg.gov, 303-866-2606; and
- Jessica Chapman, Legislative Editor, jessica.chapman@coleg.gov, 303-866-4636.

Website. Documents distributed during the meetings and meeting summaries may be found on the committee website at:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/colorados-child-welfare-system-interim-study-committee/2023-regular-session>