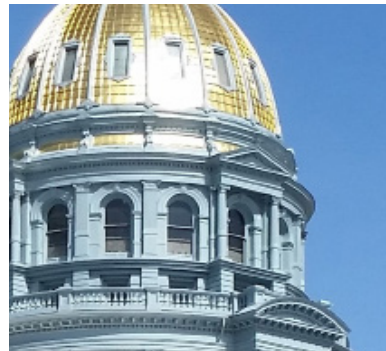


2019

Report to the Colorado General Assembly



Early Childhood and School Readiness



Prepared by Legislative Council Staff
Research Publication No. 738
December 2019

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

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December 2019

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December 2019

To Members of the Seventy-second General Assembly:

Submitted herewith is the final report of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. This commission was created pursuant to Section 26-6.5-203, Colorado Revised Statutes. The purpose of this commission is to study issues related to early childhood and school readiness in order to improve the state's early childhood policies.

At its meeting on November 15, 2019, the Legislative Council reviewed the report of this committee. A motion to forward this report and the bills therein for consideration in the 2020 session was approved.

Sincerely,

/s/ Senator Leroy Garcia
Chair

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The text of each bill is included as Attachments A through D after the resource materials page(s).

This report is also available online at:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/early-childhood-and-school-readiness-legislative-commission/2019-regular-session>

Committee Charge

Pursuant to state law (Section 26-6.5-203, C.R.S.), the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC) may meet at least four times per year to study issues concerning early childhood and school readiness. Topics to be studied include: health care, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early learning. The commission is required to solicit input from the public, especially from those who have expertise in early childhood and school readiness issues. The commission is also required to consult with the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, which is a group focused on improving outcomes for young children from birth to age eight, to discuss policies concerning early childhood and school readiness.

Committee Activities

The ECSRLC held four meetings during the 2019 interim. Presentations were made by state departments, early childhood professionals, members of the nonprofit and advocacy communities, and members of the public on a wide range of subjects related to early childhood and school readiness, including:

- early care and education access, affordability, quality, and workforce;
- early childhood mental health;
- child maltreatment and fatality prevention recommendations;
- school readiness, literacy, preschool, and full-day kindergarten; and
- community-based resource centers.

Copies of the presentations and materials distributed at each meeting can be found here:

<http://leg.colorado.gov/node/1652026/>

The following subsections discuss the ECSRLC's activities during the 2019 interim

Early Care and Education Access, Affordability, Quality, and Workforce

The commission heard from representatives from the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Early Childhood, Early Childhood Leadership Commission, Colorado Children's Campaign, Red Rocks Community College, the Denver Preschool Program, and early child care centers about the need to improve access to high-quality and affordable early care and education for all families and recruit and retain early child care workers and educators. The commission discussed the impacts of a decline in licensed child care capacity for infants and the consequences of limited access to quality early care and education on children, families, and the economy, as well as issues facing Colorado's early childhood workforce such as staff shortages, difficulty filling vacant positions, low wages, and high demand. The commission heard about the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System, which uses indicators of quality to improve early childhood care; the Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan, which is a three-year roadmap for a professional development system that promotes a high-quality, effective, and diverse early childhood workforce in Colorado;

and the federal Preschool Development Grant, which the state is using to conduct a comprehensive statewide needs assessment for children from birth through five years old.

Committee recommendations. As a result of its discussions, the committee recommends Bill A, which makes several changes to state law related to early childhood workforce programs, and Bill C, which concerns providing technical assistance and financial incentives to increase quality in early childhood education programs.

Early Childhood Mental Health

Representatives from the CDHS, Mental Health Colorado, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Children’s Hospital Colorado, and Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County spoke to the commission about early childhood mental health programs, strategies, and supports. These include Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, a service partnering early childhood programs and mental health consultants to improve the overall development and mental health of children in school settings and lower suspension and expulsion rates. The commission learned about the importance of preventative strategies in improving early childhood mental health, such as early screenings and assessments; integrated behavioral health; enhanced home visiting; and bolstering programs that promote trauma-informed care and improve relationships between parent and child and teacher and child.

Committee recommendations. As a result of its discussions, the committee recommends Bill D, which requires CDHS to develop and implement a statewide voluntary program for early childhood mental health consultation.

Child Maltreatment and Fatality Prevention Recommendations

The commission was briefed by representatives from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) on the Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System and the recommendations put forth in 2019 by the two departments on preventing child maltreatment and child fatalities. These recommendations include strengthening maternal mental health programs; focusing on access to quality, affordable, and safe housing and child care for families; increasing home visiting program enrollment; implementing graduated driver’s license requirements; strengthening primary seat belt laws; conducting additional firearm death prevention research; and implementing delayed school start times.

School Readiness, Literacy, Preschool, and Full-Day Kindergarten

The commission heard from representatives from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) on the importance of early intervention in closing achievement gaps, promoting and developing high quality, evidence-based early learning and literacy strategies, kindergarten readiness and full-day kindergarten implementation, and the need to focus on ensuring that all kids are reading by third grade. They learned about the department’s P-3 Office, which is set up to support vertical alignment

between early childhood systems and K-3 systems, and about how CDE is supporting districts with full-day kindergarten implementation.

Community-Based Resource Centers

Representatives from the Family Resource Center Association and the Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance spoke to the commission about the work their organizations are doing to provide services and supports to families throughout the state by using comprehensive, coordinated case management and acting as a family-friendly access point to the wider community by tailoring the focus of local resource centers to the culture and needs of each community. The commission learned that these organizations are intended to help align resources within communities and the state to effectively serve young children and their families, and to increase and sustain the quality, accessibility, capacity, and affordability of early childhood services.

Committee recommendations. As a result of its discussions, the committee recommends Bill B, which concerns a statewide public awareness campaign to provide information and resources to early childhood workers as well as workshops throughout the state focused on professional development and how to open a child care center or preschool.

Summary of Recommendations

As a result of the commission's activities, the commission recommended four bills to the Legislative Council for consideration in the 2020 session. At its meeting on November 15, 2019, the Legislative Council approved the four recommended bills for introduction. The approved bills are described below.

Bill A — Supports for Early Childhood Educator Workforce

The bill makes several changes to state law related to early childhood workforce programs, including requiring that:

- CDHS recognize prior experience in the educator credentialing system;
- CDHS create a pathway for programs to be licensed while aspiring educators pursue a credential;
- CDHS and CDE align the early childhood credential system, educator licensing system, and the childcare program licensing, and report on the current supply and future need for qualified early childhood educators;
- CDHS, CDE, and the Department of Higher Education develop resources to increase concurrent enrollment opportunities and support career pathways that allow students to serve as early childhood educators;
- CDHS establish the Early Care and Education Recruitment and Retention Grant and Scholarship program for individuals pursuing a career in early care and education, nonprofit entities administering a similar scholarship program, or licensed early care and education programs; and
- the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment establish the Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeship program to create pathways into the early childhood profession.

Bill B — Helping Others Manage Early Childhood Act

The bill requires CDHS to issue a request for proposals in order to implement a statewide public awareness campaign. The campaign must be in place no later than the 2021-22 academic year. The public awareness campaign must ensure that people connected to early childhood education are aware of:

- what is expected from early childhood education;
- what a child is expected to know by kindergarten; and
- what resources are available for early childhood education.

The bill also requires the CDHS, in collaboration with the CDE and early childhood councils, to offer two types of workshops throughout the state: multicounty workshops focused on professional development in the early childhood education field and regional workshops focused on how to open a child care center or preschool.

Bill C — Increase Quality in Early Childhood Education Programs

The bill requires that CDHS provide technical assistance and financial incentives to help early childhood care providers with a Colorado Shines quality rating advance to or maintain at least a level-three rating. Early childhood councils must assist CDHS by providing local community outreach and engagement strategies.

Under current law, early childhood councils that apply for school-readiness quality improvement funding must submit a school readiness plan that includes targeting or recruiting early childhood programs rated as level two or higher, or that are actively working towards a level-two rating but face demonstrated hardship. The bill requires that plans instead target or recruit programs that are rated at level one or higher. If an early childhood council received funding prior to FY 2020-21, the council must amend their plan.

Bill D — Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants

The bill requires CDHS to develop and implement a statewide voluntary program of early childhood mental health consultation by July 1, 2022. The program is intended to increase the number of qualified mental health consultants supporting professionals who work with young children and to give guidance and support to families, caregivers, and providers in addressing health social-emotional developmental needs of children through age eight. In developing the program, CDHS must create a model of consultation, a professional development plan, and a certification process for the consultants, as well as a data collection and information system to analyze implementation and outcomes. CDHS and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) must also explore funding options for the program and report their findings to the Joint Budget Committee by January 1, 2022.

Resource Materials

Meeting summaries are prepared for each meeting of the committee and contain all handouts provided to the committee. The summaries of meetings and attachments are available at the Division of Archives, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver (303-866-2055). The listing below contains the dates of committee meetings and the topics discussed at those meetings. Meeting summaries are also available on our website at:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/content/committees>

Meeting Date and Topics Discussed

July 23, 2019

- ◆ Update from the Early Childhood Leadership Commission and Colorado Department of Human Services
- ◆ Addressing the issue of early care and education access, affordability, and quality
- ◆ Early care and education workforce
- ◆ Overview of the bill request and approval process

August 28, 2019

- ◆ Update from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- ◆ Child maltreatment and fatality report recommendations
- ◆ Early childhood mental health state efforts
- ◆ Update from the Family Resource Center Association and Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance
- ◆ Raise Colorado Prenatal, Infant, and Toddler Coalition
- ◆ Family First Prevention Service Act

September 18, 2019

- ◆ Full-day kindergarten implementation and the Colorado Preschool Program
- ◆ Updates from the Denver Preschool Program and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- ◆ Consideration of bill draft requests

October 31, 2019

- ◆ Final approval of bill drafts
- ◆ Update on technical changes to House Bill 19-1005

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
10.11.19

BILL 1

LLS NO. 20-0357.01 Brita Darling x2241

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

BILL TOPIC: "Supports For Early Childhood Educator Workforce"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING MEASURES TO SUPPORT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD**
102 **EDUCATOR WORKFORCE.**

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/>.)

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The bill directs the state board of human services (state board) in the department of human services (DHS) to establish licensing standards that will allow an early care and education program to be licensed for a period of time determined by the state board if one or more lead teachers have pursued DHS-approved early childhood credentials but

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

have not yet completed the credential and other state-board-determined quality, safety, and supervision conditions are met.

The state board shall also promulgate rules allowing an early childhood educator to earn points toward an early childhood credential based on the candidate's prior work experience and demonstrated competency.

The bill directs DHS to ensure that the state's early childhood educator credential system is able to identify "nearly qualified" and "already qualified" early childhood educators who may be eligible to serve as early childhood educators in the workforce. Early childhood councils (councils) must also be provided access to reports that voluntarily identify candidates who may be nearly or already qualified so that the councils can support the candidate completing a credential or moving into the early education workforce.

The bill directs DHS to identify any resources necessary to expedite pre-service background checks.

The bill directs DHS and the department of education (CDE) to streamline and align the early childhood professional credential, child care program licensing, and educator licensing to make requirements clear and consistent and to reduce the administrative burden and paperwork burden relating to credentialing and licensing of early childhood educators.

The bill directs DHS to analyze and prepare a written report every 2 years on the gap between Colorado's current supply of early childhood educators and the current and future need for early childhood educators in the state. The report will be posted on DHS's website.

The bill directs DHS and CDE to direct resources to support concurrent enrollment opportunities and career pathways for high school students interested in earning college credit toward becoming an early childhood educator.

The bill creates the early care and education recruitment and retention grant and scholarship program in DHS (grant and scholarship program). DHS shall administer the program directly or by contract. The state board shall promulgate rules for the grant and scholarship program and shall award grants and scholarships to eligible individuals or entities for the purposes of increasing the number of individuals qualified as early childhood educators to teach in a program serving children 5 years of age or younger and to retain early childhood educators teaching in those programs.

Individuals and entities eligible for a grant or scholarship include individuals pursuing a career in early childhood education, nonprofit entities that administer scholarship programs aligned with the purposes of the grant and scholarship program, licensed early care and education programs, and institutions of higher education that administer scholarship programs aligned with the purposes of the grant and scholarship program.

The bill includes a list of eligible expenditures of the grant or scholarship money, including, among others, payment of tuition and other expenses for courses that lead to a degree or credential as an early childhood educator or a higher degree or qualification that results in retention of an educator; payment for the costs of coaching, mentoring, professional development, and other costs and programs that lead to credentialing; payments to licensed providers; and money for programs, schools, and institutions of higher education to establish "grow-your-own" programs to support individuals completing qualifications to become early childhood educators.

The bill creates a fund for the grant and scholarship program and requires DHS to report on the grant and scholarship program at least every 2 years and post the report on its website.

The bill creates the early childhood educator apprenticeship program (apprenticeship program) in the division of employment and training (division) in the department of labor and employment (CDLE). The division shall administer the apprenticeship program. The executive director of CDLE shall promulgate rules establishing eligibility criteria for local entities, including workforce development programs, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and early childhood councils, to receive money to support existing apprenticeship programs and to implement new apprenticeship programs for early childhood educators. The bill includes the approved uses of funding provided through the apprenticeship program. The bill creates a fund for the apprenticeship program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6-106, **add** (7) as
3 follows:

4 **26-6-106. Standards for facilities and agencies - rules.** (7) THE
5 STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR
6 LICENSING EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT FACILITATE THE
7 RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF COLORADO'S EARLY CHILDHOOD
8 EDUCATOR WORKFORCE AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6-122.

9 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-6-122 as
10 follows:

11 **26-6-122. Pathways to the classroom and retention strategies**

1 **for early childhood educators - standards - alignment across agencies**

2 **- report - rules.** (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES
3 ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR LICENSING THAT ALLOW AN EARLY CARE
4 AND EDUCATION PROGRAM TO BE LICENSED FOR A PERIOD OF TIME
5 DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD, IF A STATE-BOARD-APPROVED
6 NUMBER OF ASPIRING LEAD TEACHERS IN THE PROGRAM ARE PURSUING A
7 STATE-AGENCY-APPROVED EARLY CHILDHOOD CREDENTIAL, AND OTHER
8 QUALITY, SAFETY, AND SUPERVISION CONDITIONS ARE MET.

9 (2) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY AND REQUEST ANY
10 RESOURCES NEEDED TO EXPEDITIOUSLY PROCESS REVIEWS OF PRE-SERVICE
11 REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING BACKGROUND CHECKS THROUGH THE
12 COLORADO TRAILS SYSTEM.

13 (3) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES THAT ALLOW AN
14 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR TO EARN POINTS TOWARD AN EARLY
15 CHILDHOOD CREDENTIAL THAT MEETS CHILD CARE LICENSING STANDARDS
16 BASED ON THE CANDIDATE'S PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE AND
17 DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCY. THE LICENSING PATHWAY MUST ALSO
18 INCLUDE WAYS IN WHICH A CANDIDATE IN A SECOND CAREER OR
19 CHANGING CAREERS CAN EARN POINTS OR CREDITS FOR PRIOR WORK
20 EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCIES THAT APPLY TOWARD THE
21 QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CREDENTIAL. THE
22 STANDARDS AND CREDENTIAL AWARDING PROCESS MUST EXPAND THE
23 NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAN USE IDENTIFIED AND
24 VALIDATED TOOLS TO AWARD POINTS FOR DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCIES.

25 (4) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2021, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND
26 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ENSURE THAT THE STATE'S EARLY
27 CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR CREDENTIAL SYSTEM IS ABLE TO IDENTIFY

1 "NEARLY QUALIFIED" AND "ALREADY QUALIFIED" EARLY CHILDHOOD
2 EDUCATORS WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS EARLY CHILDHOOD
3 EDUCATORS IN THE WORKFORCE. THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ALSO PROVIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD
5 COUNCILS ACCESS TO REPORTS THAT VOLUNTARILY IDENTIFY CANDIDATES
6 WHO MAY BE NEARLY OR ALREADY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS WITHIN
7 THEIR COMMUNITY SO THAT THE COUNCIL CAN SUPPORT THE CANDIDATE
8 OR PROFESSIONAL IN COMPLETING A CREDENTIAL OR FINALIZING
9 ELIGIBILITY AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR OR IN FINDING A
10 POSITION AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR.

11 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
12 SHALL ALIGN, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE STATE'S EARLY CHILDHOOD
13 PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EDUCATOR
14 LICENSING, AND CHILD CARE PROGRAM LICENSING IN ORDER TO MAKE THE
15 REQUIREMENTS AS CONSISTENT AND CLEAR AS POSSIBLE TO EDUCATORS
16 AND PROVIDERS. THE ALIGNMENT PROCESS MUST INCLUDE EXAMINING
17 STRATEGIES THAT SUPPORT RECIPROCITY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
18 EDUCATOR CREDENTIALS EARNED IN OTHER STATES.

19 (6) THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
20 SHALL STREAMLINE ALL PAPERWORK THAT LICENSED EARLY CARE AND
21 EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS MUST
22 COMPLETE TO MEET CHILD CARE LICENSING AND EARLY CHILDHOOD
23 EDUCATOR CREDENTIALING COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS. THE STATE
24 AGENCIES SHALL IDENTIFY WAYS TO SHARE INFORMATION AND REPORTS
25 ACROSS THE AGENCIES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND
26 PAPERWORK BURDEN ON EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND
27 EDUCATORS. THE STREAMLINING PROCESS MUST INCLUDE A SYSTEMS SCAN

1 OF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES, IDENTIFICATION OF OVERLAPPING
2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, AND WAYS TO REDUCE THE ADMINISTRATIVE
3 AND PAPERWORK BURDEN ON PROGRAMS AND EDUCATORS.

4 (7) (a) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 2021, AND NO LATER THAN
5 JANUARY 31 EVERY TWO YEARS THEREAFTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
6 SHALL ANALYZE AND PREPARE A WRITTEN REPORT CONCERNING:

7 (I) THE GAP, IF ANY, BETWEEN COLORADO'S CURRENT SUPPLY OF
8 QUALIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND THE CURRENT UNMET
9 NEED FOR QUALIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS; AND

10 (II) THE GAP, IF ANY, BETWEEN COLORADO'S CURRENT SUPPLY OF
11 QUALIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND THE ANTICIPATED FUTURE
12 NEED FOR QUALIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS GIVEN THE
13 EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
14 WORKFORCE AND THE ANTICIPATED GROWTH IN THE STATE'S CHILD
15 POPULATION.

16 (b) IF POSSIBLE, THE ANALYSES REQUIRED PURSUANT TO
17 SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION MUST BE CONDUCTED BY AGE GROUP
18 AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE STATE.

19 (c) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE WRITTEN REPORTS
20 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.

21 (8) THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
22 EDUCATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP
23 RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO INCREASE CONCURRENT
24 ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO EARN
25 HIGHER EDUCATION CREDITS AND DEGREES THAT ALLOW THEM TO SERVE
26 AS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND SHALL SUPPORT CAREER
27 PATHWAYS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EARNING COLLEGE CREDITS

1 TOWARD BECOMING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS, INCLUDING
2 CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, THE
3 ASCENT PROGRAM, AND OTHER CAREER PATHWAYS.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 4 to article
5 6.5 of title 26 as follows:

6 PART 4

7 EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION RECRUITMENT AND
8 RETENTION GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

9 **26-6.5-401. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 4, UNLESS THE
10 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

11 (1) "GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" MEANS THE EARLY
12 CARE AND EDUCATION RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT AND
13 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS PART 4.

14 **26-6.5-402. Early care and education recruitment and**
15 **retention grant and scholarship program - created - eligibility -**
16 **awards - rules.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE
17 EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT AND
18 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER,
19 DIRECTLY OR BY CONTRACT, THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

20 (2) THE PURPOSES OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ARE
21 TO:

22 (a) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE
23 STATE WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS
24 IN PROGRAMS LICENSED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SERVING CHILDREN
25 FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER; AND

26 (b) RETAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS WORKING IN
27 PROGRAMS LICENSED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT SERVING CHILDREN FIVE

1 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

2 (3) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR
3 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES, AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION
4 (3), TO APPLY FOR A GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP THAT ALIGNS WITH THE
5 PURPOSES OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. INDIVIDUALS AND
6 ENTITIES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY
7 INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

8 (a) INDIVIDUALS PURSUING A CAREER IN EARLY CARE AND
9 EDUCATION AND WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES THAT ARE
10 ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY;

11 (b) NONPROFIT ENTITIES THAT ADMINISTER OR PLAN TO
12 ADMINISTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH THE
13 PURPOSES OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM;

14 (c) EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS LICENSED BY THE
15 STATE DEPARTMENT THAT ARE SERVING CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR
16 YOUNGER; AND

17 (d) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT ADMINISTER
18 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH THE PURPOSES OF THE
19 GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

20 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK APPLICATIONS FROM
21 INDIVIDUALS FOR THE AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIP MONEY FOR ELIGIBLE
22 PURPOSES AND MAY ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT MONEY FROM
23 NONPROFIT ENTITIES THAT HAVE ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS TO DISTRIBUTE
24 SCHOLARSHIP MONEY TO INDIVIDUALS FOR ELIGIBLE PURPOSES. THE STATE
25 DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND
26 ENTITIES TO APPLY FOR GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY. THE STATE
27 BOARD SHALL SELECT GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FROM A LIST

1 PREPARED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS, WHICH
2 INCLUDES THE INTENDED USE OF THE GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY.
3 GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS MAY BE MADE FROM EITHER THE FUND
4 CREATED IN SECTION 26-6.5-403, OR FROM OTHER SOURCES OF MONEY
5 RECEIVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IS AUTHORIZED TO BE
6 EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
7 CREATED IN THIS PART 4.

8 (5) ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES OF GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY
9 BY RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

10 (a) ADMINISTRATION BY A NONPROFIT ENTITY OF A SCHOLARSHIP
11 PROGRAM UP TO A FIXED DOLLAR AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE OF GRANT
12 PROCEEDS AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE BOARD;

13 (b) PAYMENT OF TUITION, FEES, AND MATERIALS, INCLUDING
14 BOOKS AND ANY OTHER MATERIALS AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE
15 BOARD, FOR COURSES THAT LEAD TO A DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL OR FOR
16 OTHER FORMAL TRAINING, WHICH COURSES OR TRAINING RESULTS IN A
17 RECIPIENT WHO IS NOT YET QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD
18 EDUCATOR IN A STATE-DEPARTMENT-LICENSED PROGRAM SERVING
19 CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER TO BECOME QUALIFIED TO DO
20 SO;

21 (c) PAYMENT OF TUITION, FEES, AND MATERIALS, INCLUDING
22 BOOKS AND ANY OTHER MATERIALS AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE
23 BOARD, FOR A RECIPIENT WHO IS ALREADY A CREDENTIALLED EARLY
24 CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR FOR COURSES THAT LEAD TO A DEGREE OR
25 CREDENTIAL OR FOR OTHER FORMAL TRAINING, WHICH COURSES OR
26 TRAINING RESULTS IN THE RECIPIENT BEING ELIGIBLE FOR A HIGHER LEVEL
27 CREDENTIAL IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1 INFORMATION SYSTEM OR A HIGHER DEGREE OR QUALIFICATION THAT
2 RESULTS IN THE RETENTION OF THE EDUCATOR IN A
3 STATE-DEPARTMENT-LICENSED PROGRAM SERVING CHILDREN FIVE YEARS
4 OF AGE OR YOUNGER;

5 (d) PAYMENT FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A CREDENTIALLED
6 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR EARNING A COACHING, FORMAL TRAINER,
7 MENTORSHIP, OR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION THAT
8 ALLOWS THE EDUCATOR TO SERVE AS A TRAINER OR MENTOR OF OTHER
9 CURRENT OR POTENTIAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS PURSUING
10 PROGRAMMING THAT LEADS THE CURRENT OR POTENTIAL EARLY
11 CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR TO A CREDENTIAL;

12 (e) PAYMENTS TO LICENSED PROVIDERS TO COVER PAID RELEASE
13 TIME, SUBSTITUTES, AND PROGRAM COSTS TO ALLOW ELIGIBLE
14 INDIVIDUALS TO PURSUE PROGRAMS, COURSEWORK, CREDENTIALS,
15 DEGREES, AND OTHER FORMAL TRAINING THAT INCREASE THE NUMBER OF
16 QUALIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS OR RETAIN CURRENT EARLY
17 CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN STATE-DEPARTMENT-LICENSED PROGRAMS
18 SERVING CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER;

19 (f) PAYMENTS TO LICENSED PROVIDERS, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY
20 COLLEGES, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, EARLY CHILDHOOD
21 COUNCILS, OR OTHER LOCAL NONPROFIT ENTITIES TO COVER THE COSTS OF
22 "GROW-YOUR-OWN" PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT MOVING CURRENT
23 PARENTS, STAFF, OR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO DO NOT YET MEET
24 QUALIFICATIONS TO SERVE AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR TO
25 COMPLETE APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CERTIFICATIONS, OR TRAINING THAT
26 RESULTS IN PARTICIPANTS BEING ABLE TO SERVE AS QUALIFIED EARLY
27 CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN STATE-DEPARTMENT-LICENSED PROGRAMS

1 SERVING CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER;

2 (g) PAYMENTS TO LICENSED PROVIDERS TO COVER THE COSTS OF
3 PROMOTING TEACHERS TO COACHING AND MENTORSHIP ROLES WITH THE
4 INTENT OF INCREASING ACCESS TO COACHING AND PROFESSIONAL
5 LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN SCHEDULING
6 FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS; AND

7 (h) RAISES, BONUSES, AND OTHER FINANCIAL INCENTIVES, WHICH
8 COULD INCLUDE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROVIDED BY LICENSED EARLY
9 CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR PROGRAMS OR THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS,
10 FOR CURRENT OR POTENTIAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS TO REWARD
11 PROGRESS TOWARD QUALIFICATIONS THAT ALLOW THE INDIVIDUAL TO
12 SERVE AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR IN A
13 STATE-DEPARTMENT-LICENSED EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
14 OR TO IMPROVE RETENTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS IN
15 STATE-DEPARTMENT-LICENSED EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

16 (6) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES FOR THE
17 ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

18 **26-6.5-403. Early care and education recruitment and**
19 **retention grant and scholarship program fund.** (1) THERE IS CREATED
20 IN THE STATE TREASURY THE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION RECRUITMENT
21 AND RETENTION GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND, REFERRED TO IN THIS
22 PART 4 AS THE "FUND". THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY THAT THE GENERAL
23 ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND.

24 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
25 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
26 FUND TO THE FUND.

27 (3) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND
2 FOR GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN SECTION
3 26-6.5-402.

4 **26-6.5-404. Reporting.** (1) AS PART OF PARTICIPATING IN THE
5 GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL
6 REQUIRE GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS TO REPORT PROGRAM
7 OUTCOMES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
8 THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CREDENTIALLED TO TEACH
9 OR WHO RECEIVE A HIGHER-LEVEL CREDENTIAL TO TEACH AT
10 STATE-DEPARTMENT-LICENSED PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN FIVE YEARS
11 OF AGE OR YOUNGER AS A RESULT OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP
12 PROGRAM, AS WELL AS INFORMATION RELATING TO RETENTION OF EARLY
13 CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AS A RESULT OF THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP
14 PROGRAM.

15 (2) AS LONG AS THE GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS
16 AWARDING MONEY PURSUANT TO THIS PART 4, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
17 SHALL SUMMARIZE AND POST, NOT LESS THAN EVERY TWO YEARS, THE
18 INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION ON THE
19 PORTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE RELATING TO EARLY
20 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

21 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 6 to article
22 83 of title 8 as follows:

23 PART 6

24 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

25 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

26 **8-83-601. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 6, UNLESS THE
27 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

1 (1) "APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM" MEANS THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
2 EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS PART 6.

3 **8-83-602. Early childhood educator apprenticeship program**
4 **- created - eligibility - rules.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE DIVISION THE
5 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM. THE DIVISION
6 SHALL ADMINISTER THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

7 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IS TO CREATE
8 WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN
9 ENTERING THE FIELD OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION, SERVING CHILDREN
10 FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER, SO THAT THEY CAN RECEIVE ON-THE-JOB
11 TRAINING, CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL REWARDS FOR GAINS
12 IN SKILLS AND EARN CREDENTIALS, CREDITS, OR HIGHER EDUCATION
13 DEGREES. THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM MUST CREATE PATHWAYS INTO
14 THE PROFESSION.

15 (3) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
16 PROMULGATE RULES THAT:

17 (a) DEFINE AND ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR LOCAL
18 ENTITIES TO RECEIVE MONEY TO IMPLEMENT APPRENTICESHIPS, WHICH
19 LOCAL ENTITIES INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
20 PROGRAMS, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
21 EDUCATION, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS;

22 (b) ESTABLISH, IF APPROPRIATE, ELIGIBLE USES OF MONEY
23 AWARDED PURSUANT TO THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM BEYOND THOSE
24 USES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION; AND

25 (c) ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE STANDARDS FOR A PROGRAM TO
26 QUALIFY AS A FORMALLY RECOGNIZED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
27 APPRENTICESHIP PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES

1 FOR FORMALLY RECOGNIZED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS MUST ADDRESS
2 THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

3 (I) EXPECTATIONS FOR EMPLOYER INVOLVEMENT, WHETHER THE
4 EMPLOYER IS A LICENSED PROVIDER, SCHOOL DISTRICT, HEAD START OR
5 EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM, OR OTHER EMPLOYER;

6 (II) STANDARDS FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, INCLUDING
7 OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN HIGHER EDUCATION CREDITS FOR ON-THE-JOB,
8 WORK-BASED LEARNING;

9 (III) ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF RELEVANT TRAINING AND
10 CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION;

11 (IV) REWARDS FOR SKILLS GAINS; AND

12 (V) THE PATHWAY OR PATHWAYS TO EARNING A CREDENTIAL
13 THROUGH THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.

14 (4) THE DIVISION SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
15 HUMAN SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE
16 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CREATE STANDARDS FOR THE
17 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN
18 IMPLEMENTING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS FOR EARLY CARE AND
19 EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.

20 (5) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD
21 MONEY FROM EITHER THE FUND CREATED IN SECTION 8-83-603 OR FROM
22 OTHER SOURCES OF MONEY RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT IS
23 AUTHORIZED TO BE EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE APPRENTICESHIP
24 PROGRAM CREATED IN THIS PART 6. THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
25 SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE
26 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ALSO EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL ROLE
27 OF MONEY RECEIVED BY THOSE DEPARTMENTS FROM FEDERAL AND OTHER

1 SOURCES IN ESTABLISHING OR SUPPORTING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS
2 THAT MEET THE GOALS OF THIS PART 6.

3 (6) THE DIRECTOR MAY AWARD MONEY PURSUANT TO THIS PART
4 6 TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN IMPLEMENTING APPRENTICESHIP
5 PROGRAMS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS AND TO SUPPORT LOCAL
6 PROGRAMS IN ACHIEVING THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART 6. MONETARY
7 AWARDS MAY BE GIVEN FOR USES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

8 (a) SUPPORTING EXISTING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS OR THE
9 CREATION OF NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS BY MAKING MONEY
10 AVAILABLE TO LOCAL ENTITIES, INCLUDING THOSE DESCRIBED IN
11 SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION;

12 (b) SUPPORTING EXISTING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS IN
13 EXPANDING THEIR REACH TO SERVE MORE APPRENTICES;

14 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO ESTABLISHING THE
15 PARTNERSHIPS NECESSARY TO CREATE APPRENTICESHIPS;

16 (d) MONEY FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF MENTOR TEACHERS;

17 (e) INCENTIVES FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;

18 (f) FINANCIAL REWARDS FOR SKILLS GAINS IN THE APPRENTICESHIP
19 PROGRAM;

20 (g) INCENTIVES FOR DEPARTMENT-OF-HUMAN-SERVICES-LICENSED
21 PROVIDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN APPRENTICESHIPS;

22 (h) MONEY TO COVER THE COSTS OF CLASSROOM TRAINING AND
23 INSTRUCTION;

24 (i) MONEY TO COVER THE COSTS OF EARNING A CREDENTIAL; AND

25 (j) MONEY TO SUPPORT ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

26 **8-83-603. Early childhood educator apprenticeship program**

27 **fund.** (1) THERE IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY THE EARLY

1 CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM FUND, REFERRED TO IN
2 THIS PART 6 AS THE "FUND". THE FUND CONSISTS OF MONEY THAT THE
3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE FUND.

4 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND
5 INCOME DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE
6 FUND TO THE FUND.

7 (3) SUBJECT TO ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BY THE GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXPEND MONEY FROM THE FUND FOR
9 THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN SECTION 8-83-602.

10 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
13 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
14 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
15 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
16 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
17 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
18 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
10.10.19

BILL 2

LLS NO. 20-0358.01 Jane Ritter x4342

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

BILL TOPIC: "Helping Others Manage Early Childhood Act"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE "HELPING OTHERS MANAGE**
102 **EARLY (HOME) CHILDHOOD ACT".**

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/>.)

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The bill creates the "Helping Others Manage Early (HOME) Childhood Act" (HOME Act). The HOME Act consists of 3 components:

- A public awareness campaign (campaign), implemented by a third-party entity contracted by the department of human

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

services (department). The campaign will target those persons connected with early childhood in some fashion, from families to providers, and inform them on what is expected from early childhood providers, what is expected from children by the time they enter kindergarten, and what resources are available throughout the state.

- A series of multicounty workshops directed at early childhood providers to provide information on best practices for effective early childhood education. The multicounty workshops will also provide information on the requirements and procedures for licensure.
- A series of regional workshops designed to educate interested providers on how to start an early child care center or preschool, as well as any requirements and procedures for licensure.

The bill directs that the department provide adequate child care for the multicounty and regional workshops to allow for maximum attendance.

The bill includes a repeal date of 2023 with a provision for a mandatory prior review of the effectiveness of the 3 components.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 4 to article
3 6.5 of title 26 as follows:

4 PART 4

5 HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY

6 CHILDHOOD ACT

7 **26-6.5-401. Short title.** THE SHORT TITLE OF THIS PART 4 IS THE
8 "HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY (HOME) CHILDHOOD ACT".

9 **26-6.5-402. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 4, UNLESS THE
10 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

11 (1) "CAMPAIGN" MEANS THE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
12 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.5-403.

13 (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
14 SERVICES.

1 (3) "EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL" MEANS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD
2 COUNCIL IDENTIFIED OR ESTABLISHED LOCALLY IN COMMUNITIES
3 THROUGHOUT THE STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-103 OR
4 26-6.5-106.

5 (4) "HOME ACT" MEANS THE "HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY
6 CHILDHOOD ACT" ESTABLISHED IN THIS PART 4.

7 **26-6.5-403. Public awareness campaign - timeline.** (1) THE
8 DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO A SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACT
9 FOLLOWING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS TO PROVIDE A
10 STATEWIDE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE
11 OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. THE CAMPAIGN MUST BE IMPLEMENTED
12 IN EACH COUNTY AND TARGET FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILIES
13 WHO PROVIDE HOME-BASED EDUCATION TO THEIR CHILDREN, AND THE
14 DIVERSE NETWORK OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CAREGIVERS IN THE STATE TO
15 ENSURE THAT SUCH PEOPLE WHO ARE CONNECTED WITH EARLY
16 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ARE AWARE OF:

- 17 (a) WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION;
- 18 (b) WHAT A CHILD IS EXPECTED TO KNOW BY THE TIME THE CHILD
19 REACHES KINDERGARTEN; AND
- 20 (c) WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE STATE RELATED TO
21 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

22 (2) (a) IN ORDER TO MEET THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, THE
23 DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON OR BEFORE
24 AUGUST 1, 2020. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD THE CONTRACT ON OR
25 BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, TO AN APPROPRIATE THIRD-PARTY ENTITY
26 WITH THE CAPACITY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE
27 CAMPAIGN.

1 (b) ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2021, THE ENTITY AWARDED THE
2 CONTRACT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a) OF THIS SECTION SHALL
3 DEVELOP AND SUBMIT ITS PLAN FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO THE DEPARTMENT
4 FOR APPROVAL. THE CONTRACT ENTITY SHALL WORK COLLABORATIVELY
5 WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. THE
6 DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE CONTRACT
7 ENTITY TO APPROVE THE PLAN AND HAVE IT READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
8 ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 2021.

9 (c) AFTER THE CONTRACT ENTITY'S CAMPAIGN PLAN HAS BEEN
10 APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(b) OF THIS
11 SECTION, THE CONTRACT ENTITY WILL BEGIN THE IMPLEMENTATION
12 PROCESS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE. THE CAMPAIGN
13 MUST BE FULLY IN PLACE NO LATER THAN THE BEGINNING OF THE 2021-22
14 ACADEMIC YEAR.

15 **26-6.5-404. Workshops - skills and licensure requirements -**
16 **child care availability.** (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH
17 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS,
18 SHALL DEVELOP A SERIES OF MULTICOUNTY WORKSHOPS FOR EARLY
19 CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOPS IS TO PROVIDE
20 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS WITH:

21 (a) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE NECESSARY SKILLS TO
22 ADEQUATELY PERFORM THEIR JOBS; AND

23 (b) INFORMATION CONCERNING CAREER PATHWAYS, AS WELL AS
24 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES, FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
25 PROVIDERS.

26 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HOST THE MULTICOUNTY WORKSHOPS
27 THROUGHOUT THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR.

1 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ADEQUATE CHILD CARE FOR
2 WORKSHOP ATTENDEES TO ALLOW FOR MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE.

3 **26-6.5-405. Regional workshops - creating an early child care**
4 **center or preschool - quality - child care availability.** (1) THE
5 DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS,
6 SHALL DEVELOP A SERIES OF REGIONAL WORKSHOPS THAT INSTRUCT
7 PARTICIPANTS ON:

8 (a) HOW TO START AN EARLY CHILD CARE CENTER OR PRESCHOOL;

9 (b) THE ELEMENTS OF THE COLORADO SHINES QUALITY RATING
10 AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.5-106, AND
11 WAYS TO IMPROVE QUALITY; AND

12 (c) LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR CHILD CARE
13 CENTERS AND PRESCHOOLS.

14 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HOST THE REGIONAL WORKSHOPS
15 FROM MAY THROUGH AUGUST OF 2022.

16 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE ADEQUATE CHILD CARE FOR
17 WORKSHOP ATTENDEES TO ALLOW FOR MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE.

18 **26-6.5-406. Repeal of part.** (1) (a) THIS PART 4 IS REPEALED,
19 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.

20 (b) PRIOR TO SUCH REPEAL, THIS PART 4 SHALL BE REVIEWED AS
21 PROVIDED IN SECTION 24-34-104.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **add**
23 (24)(a)(XIII) as follows:

24 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**
25 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**
26 **declaration - repeal.** (24) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,
27 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2023:

1 (XIII) THE "HELPING OTHERS MANAGE EARLY (HOME)
2 CHILDHOOD ACT" CREATED IN PART 4 OF ARTICLE 6.5 OF TITLE 26.

3 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
10.10.19

BILL 3

LLS NO. 20-0359.01 Shelby Ross x4510

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

BILL TOPIC: "Increase Quality In Early Childhood Ed Prog"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING STATE ASSISTANCE TO INCREASE QUALITY LEVELS IN**
102 **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

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/>.)

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The bill requires the department of human services (state department) to provide technical assistance and financial incentives to programs that are rated at a level one or 2 in the Colorado shines system (system) to support the programs in advancing to a higher quality level, and to programs that are rated at a level 3, 4, or 5 to support the programs

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

in maintaining a high-quality level or advancing to a higher quality level. Each early childhood council (council) shall support the state department with this assistance by providing local community outreach and engagement strategies.

The bill requires each council seeking to apply for school-readiness quality improvement funding (funding) to describe how the council will target and recruit programs that are rated in the system at a level one or higher in the council's 3-year school readiness plan. Councils that received funding prior to the 2020-21 fiscal year must amend the council's 3-year school readiness plan.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-106, **amend**
3 (6)(b) and (8)(a); and **add** (4.5) as follows:

4 **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement program -**
5 **created - Colorado shines quality rating and improvement system -**
6 **rules.** (4.5) (a) **State assistance.** THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL
7 PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO:

8 (I) PROGRAMS THAT ARE RATED IN THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM
9 AT A LEVEL ONE OR TWO TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS IN ADVANCING TO A
10 LEVEL THREE OR HIGHER QUALITY LEVEL; AND

11 (II) PROGRAMS THAT ARE RATED IN THE COLORADO SHINES
12 SYSTEM AT A LEVEL THREE, FOUR, OR FIVE TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS IN
13 MAINTAINING A HIGH-QUALITY LEVEL OR ADVANCING TO A HIGHER
14 QUALITY LEVEL.

15 (b) THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL SUPPORT THE STATE
16 DEPARTMENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4.5)(a)
17 OF THIS SECTION BY PROVIDING LOCAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND
18 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES.

19 (6) **School-readiness plans.** Each early childhood council seeking
20 to apply for school-readiness quality improvement funding pursuant to

1 this section shall prepare and submit to the state department a three-year
2 school-readiness plan that outlines strategies to improve the school
3 readiness of children. The school-readiness plan, at a minimum, must
4 include:

5 (b) A plan that describes how the early childhood council will
6 target and recruit programs that are rated in the Colorado shines system
7 at a level ~~two~~ ONE or higher. ~~or that are licensed programs with a~~
8 ~~demonstrated hardship that are actively working toward achieving a~~
9 ~~Colorado shines system level two rating.~~ The early childhood council
10 must target and recruit programs to increase the access and availability of
11 quality child care for children participating in the Colorado child care
12 assistance program, created in part 8 of article 2 of this title 26. IF THE
13 EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECEIVED SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY
14 IMPROVEMENT FUNDING PRIOR TO THE 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR, THE EARLY
15 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL SHALL AMEND THE THREE-YEAR SCHOOL READINESS
16 PLAN TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

17 (8) **Funding.** (a) The school-readiness quality improvement
18 program shall be funded using federal child care development fund
19 money or other federal OR STATE money annually appropriated for the
20 program. The state department shall allocate the money to the eligible
21 early childhood councils for distribution to early childhood education
22 programs, as provided in this section.

23 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
24 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
25 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
26 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
27 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the

1 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
2 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
3 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
4 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
5 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT
10.11.19

BILL 4

LLS NO. 20-0360.01 Jane Ritter x4342

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission

BILL TOPIC: "Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATION OF A STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF EARLY**
102 **CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION.**

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/>.)

Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission. The bill directs the department of human services (department) to design, implement, and operate a statewide program of early childhood mental health consultation (program). The purpose of the program is to support mental health care across the state in a variety of early childhood settings and practices. Specifically, the program must be

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

designed to:

- Increase the number of qualified and appropriately trained early childhood mental health consultants (mental health consultants) for on-site consultations; and
- Utilize the mental health consultants, through on-site visits, to support a variety of early childhood settings and practices from the prenatal period through 8 years of age.

The program must also include a:

- Model of consultation for mental health consultants (model) that includes job qualifications and expectations, expected outcomes, and guidance on ratios of mental health consultants and the settings they support. The model must include standards and guidelines for mental health consultants developed from evidence-based programs.
- Professional development plan for mental health consultants;
- Certification process for mental health consultants; and
- A published list of certified mental health consultants.

The bill requires the department to actively collect data related to the program and make regular reports on the program to the joint budget committee of the general assembly and as part of its annual "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act" hearing.

The department, in collaboration with the department of health care policy and financing, is directed to explore additional funding options for the program.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 4 to article
3 6.5 of title 26 as follows:

4 PART 4

5 EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL

6 HEALTH CONSULTATION PROGRAM

7 **26-6.5-401. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 4, UNLESS THE
8 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (1) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
10 SERVICES.

1 (2) "MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT" MEANS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD
2 MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT WHO MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS
3 OUTLINED IN THE PROGRAM DESIGNED AND DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS
4 PART 4.

5 (3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF EARLY
6 CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION DESIGNED, IMPLEMENTED,
7 AND OPERATED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 4.

8 **26-6.5-402. Early childhood mental health consultation -**
9 **statewide program - creation - purpose.** (1) (a) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1,
10 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND OPERATE A
11 STATEWIDE VOLUNTARY PROGRAM OF EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH
12 CONSULTATION TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE CURRENT PRACTICES ACROSS
13 THE STATE. THE PROGRAM WILL SERVE TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH
14 ACROSS EARLY CHILD CARE AND LEARNING, ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, HOME
15 VISITATION, CHILD WELFARE, PEDIATRIC PRACTICES, OBSTETRICS
16 PRACTICES, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SETTINGS.

17 (b) IN DESIGNING AND DEVELOPING THE PROGRAM, THE
18 DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER
19 OF EXCELLENCE FOR INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH
20 CONSULTATION FUNDED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
21 AND HUMAN SERVICES AS WELL AS KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE STATE,
22 INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
23 WITH EXPERTISE IN MENTAL HEALTH, HOSPITALS WITH EXPERTISE
24 WORKING WITH CHILDREN FACING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES,
25 EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS, AND CLINICIANS WITH
26 EXPERTISE IN INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH.

27 (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COORDINATE WITH

1 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING EARLY CHILDHOOD
2 COUNCILS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF THIS ARTICLE 6.5, TO
3 ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM AND MODEL
4 OF CONSULTATION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-403, AS
5 WELL AS SUPPORT THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES ACROSS THE STATE
6 TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM AND THE MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS IN
7 THEIR WORK.

8 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:

9 (a) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED AND APPROPRIATELY
10 TRAINED MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WHO
11 WILL CONSULT WITH PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH CHILDREN ACROSS A
12 DIVERSITY OF SETTINGS, AS WELL AS OTHER ADULTS, INCLUDING FAMILY
13 MEMBERS, WHO DIRECTLY INTERACT WITH CHILDREN;

14 (b) SUPPORT AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND TRAINING, THROUGH
15 VISITS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS, TO FAMILIES, EXPECTING
16 FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS, AND PROVIDERS ACROSS A DIVERSITY OF SETTINGS
17 IN ADDRESSING THE HEALTHY SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL
18 NEEDS OF CHILDREN DURING THE PRENATAL PERIOD THROUGH EIGHT
19 YEARS OF AGE;

20 (c) DEVELOP A DEFINED MODEL OF CONSULTATION FOR THE STATE
21 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-403 THAT INCLUDES QUALIFICATIONS FOR
22 MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS, JOB EXPECTATIONS, EXPECTED
23 OUTCOMES, AND GUIDANCE ON RATIOS BETWEEN MENTAL HEALTH
24 CONSULTANTS AND THE SETTINGS THEY SUPPORT;

25 (d) DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL
26 DEVELOPMENT PLAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-404 THAT ASSISTS THE
27 MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS IN MEETING THE EXPECTATIONS SET

1 FORTH IN THE MODEL OF CONSULTATION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO
2 SECTION 26-6.5-403; AND

3 (e) ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR MENTAL
4 HEALTH CONSULTANTS AND PUBLISH A LIST OF CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH
5 CONSULTANTS WHO VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE LIST
6 PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-6.5-405.

7 **26-6.5-403. Model of early childhood mental health**
8 **consultation - standards and guidelines - qualifications.** (1) ON OR
9 BEFORE JULY 1, 2021, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN AND DEVELOP A
10 MODEL OF CONSULTATION FOR THE STATE THAT INCLUDES
11 QUALIFICATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS, JOB EXPECTATIONS,
12 EXPECTED OUTCOMES, AND GUIDANCE ON RATIOS BETWEEN MENTAL
13 HEALTH CONSULTANTS AND THE SETTINGS THEY SUPPORT, REFERRED TO
14 IN THIS SECTION AS "THE MODEL". THE MODEL MUST INCLUDE STANDARDS
15 AND GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THE PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY,
16 WITH PRIMARY CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO EVIDENCE-BASED SERVICES. THE
17 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES MUST INCLUDE:

18 (a) CLEAR QUALIFICATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS,
19 INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, EXPERTISE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD, CHILD
20 DEVELOPMENT, FAMILY SYSTEMS, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR
21 YOUNG CHILDREN; KNOWLEDGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT AFFECT
22 CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR AND MENTAL HEALTH; KNOWLEDGE OF
23 DEVELOPMENTAL SCIENCE AND MILESTONES; KNOWLEDGE OF A
24 CONSULTATIVE MODEL OF PRACTICE; AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND
25 SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO ALLEVIATE FAMILY STRESS;

26 (b) EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF REGIONAL
27 CONSULTANTS THAT WILL MOST EFFECTIVELY MEET LOCAL COMMUNITY

1 NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS;

2 (c) GUIDANCE CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF WORK THAT MENTAL
3 HEALTH CONSULTANTS MAY PROVIDE TO PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH
4 YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING TRAINING, COACHING,
5 PREVENTION, AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE SERVICES;

6 (d) METHODS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF BILINGUAL OR
7 MULTILINGUAL MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS AND OTHERWISE ENSURE
8 THE CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS;

9 (e) GUIDANCE ON THE DIVERSE SETTINGS IN WHICH AND TYPES OF
10 PROVIDERS WITH WHOM MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS MAY WORK TO
11 MEET THE VARIED NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM PRENATAL
12 THROUGH EIGHT YEARS OF AGE. THE MODEL MUST INCLUDE PROVISIONS
13 THAT ENSURE MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS MAY WORK WITH EARLY
14 CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION TEACHERS AND PROVIDERS, ELEMENTARY
15 SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, HOME VISITORS, CHILD
16 WELFARE CASEWORKERS, PEDIATRIC CLINICIANS, HEALTH CARE
17 PROFESSIONALS WHO CARE FOR EXPECTING AND NEW PARENTS, AND
18 MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.

19 (f) ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES THAT THE PROGRAM AND MENTAL
20 HEALTH CONSULTANTS SHOULD ACHIEVE, INCLUDING:

21 (I) PROMOTING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
22 OF CHILDREN;

23 (II) PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO PROFESSIONALS AND CAREGIVERS
24 ABOUT EFFECTIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND
25 DEVELOPMENT;

26 (III) UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA AND ADVERSITY
27 ON THE DEVELOPING BRAIN TO ULTIMATELY REDUCE CHALLENGING

1 BEHAVIORS AND INCREASE POSITIVE EARLY EXPERIENCES;

2 (IV) PROMOTING HIGH QUALITY INTERACTIONS AND
3 RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS;

4 (V) SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF
5 ADULTS WHO CARE FOR CHILDREN;

6 (VI) CONNECTING CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND PROVIDERS TO
7 PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORTS THAT WILL ASSIST THEM IN THEIR
8 DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS WHILE ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING
9 SUCH RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS; AND

10 (g) GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE RATIOS OF MENTAL HEALTH
11 CONSULTANTS AND THE SETTINGS THEY SUPPORT, AS WELL AS CASELOAD
12 EXPECTATIONS.

13 **26-6.5-404. Statewide professional development plan for early**
14 **childhood mental health consultants.** (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2021,
15 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL
16 DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS MEET
17 THE EXPECTATIONS SET FORTH IN THE MODEL OF CONSULTATION
18 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 26-6.5-403, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS "THE
19 PLAN". IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK
20 COLLABORATIVELY, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, WITH THE NATIONAL
21 CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL
22 HEALTH CONSULTATION FUNDED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
23 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT MAY IMPLEMENT THE
24 PLAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NONPROFITS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
25 EDUCATION, AND CREDENTIALING PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON INFANT AND
26 EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH.

27 (2) THE PLAN MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, TRAINING RELATED

1 TO:

- 2 (a) TRAUMA AND TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES;
- 3 (b) ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES;
- 4 (c) RESILIENCE;
- 5 (d) CHILD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EIGHT YEARS OF AGE;
- 6 (e) EFFECTS OF CAREGIVER SUBSTANCE ABUSE;
- 7 (f) SENSORY PROCESSING ISSUES;
- 8 (g) NEEDS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING SPECIAL
- 9 EDUCATION LAW;
- 10 (h) COLORADO'S CHILD PROTECTION AND FOSTER CARE SYSTEM;
- 11 (i) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, SPEECH THERAPY, PHYSICAL
- 12 THERAPY, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY;
- 13 (j) OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES;
- 14 (k) EARLY CHILDHOOD SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
- 15 FAMILY SYSTEMS; AND
- 16 (l) CONSULTATION AS A MODEL OF ADULT LEARNING.

17 (3) THE PLAN MUST ALSO:

- 18 (a) ALLOW MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS TO RECEIVE
- 19 REGIONALLY APPROPRIATE AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS TO
- 20 BEST LINK THEM TO THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES
- 21 AND THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS;
- 22 (b) INCLUDE STRATEGIES FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS TO
- 23 ESTABLISH INDIVIDUALIZED COACHING AS REQUESTED BY TEACHERS,
- 24 CAREGIVERS, AND FAMILIES; AND
- 25 (c) PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGULAR SUPPORT MEETINGS
- 26 BETWEEN MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS, SUPERVISORS, AND PEER
- 27 MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS.

1 **26-6.5-405. Statewide certification process for early childhood**
2 **mental health consultants - published list.** ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2022,
3 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE CERTIFICATION
4 PROCESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS. THE
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH, ON A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE, A LIST
6 OF CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS WHO HAVE VOLUNTARILY
7 AGREED TO BE ON SUCH LIST. THE LIST MUST INCLUDE WAYS VARIOUS
8 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS CAN READILY ACCESS A CERTIFIED MENTAL
9 HEALTH CONSULTANT. THE LIST MUST ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO ENTITIES
10 THAT PROVIDE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH
11 CONSULTANTS.

12 **26-6.5-406. Data collection - reporting.** (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY
13 1, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A STATEWIDE DATA
14 COLLECTION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM TO ANALYZE IMPLEMENTATION
15 DATA AND SELECTED OUTCOMES TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT,
16 PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PROVIDE INSIGHTS TO CONTINUALLY
17 IMPROVE CHILD OUTCOMES. THE DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION
18 SYSTEM, AND ANY RELATED PROCESSES, MUST PLACE THE LEAST BURDEN
19 POSSIBLE ON THE MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS.

20 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE
21 DEPARTMENT SHALL, BEGINNING IN 2022 AND CONTINUING EVERY TWO
22 YEARS THEREAFTER, IN ITS PRESENTATION TO THE JOINT BUDGET
23 COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS WELL AS ITS PRESENTATION
24 TO ITS COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AT A HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO
25 SECTION 2-7-203 (2)(a) OF THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR
26 ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART)
27 GOVERNMENT ACT" IN JANUARY 2026, REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING

1 ISSUES:

2 (a) A GAP ANALYSIS OF THE AVAILABLE NUMBER OF MENTAL
3 HEALTH CONSULTANTS AND THE UNMET NEED; AND

4 (b) IDENTIFIED ADJUSTMENTS TO BETTER MEET MENTAL HEALTH
5 CONSULTANT CASELOAD, WITH THE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFYING A TARGET
6 NUMBER OF NEEDED CONSULTANTS.

7 (3) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
8 CONTRACT WITH AN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY TO CONDUCT AN
9 EVALUATION, USING STANDARD EVALUATION MEASURES, OF THE
10 PROGRAM AND ITS IMPACT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PROGRAM
11 OUTCOMES ACROSS THE STATE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PRESENT THE
12 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION AS PART OF ITS PRESENTATION TO ITS
13 COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AT A HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO SECTION
14 2-7-203 (2)(a) OF THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE,
15 RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT" IN
16 JANUARY 2026.

17 **26-6.5-407. Funding support.** THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
18 SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING
19 SHALL EXPLORE FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE PROGRAM AND GENERALLY
20 IMPROVING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS, INCLUDING
21 ACCESSING VARIOUS FUNDING SOURCES, AS WELL AS THE CHILDREN'S
22 BASIC HEALTH PLAN, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 8 OF TITLE 25.5, AND
23 MEDICAID. THE TWO DEPARTMENTS SHALL REPORT, ON OR BEFORE
24 JANUARY 1, 2022, ON ANY SUCH OPTIONS TO THE JOINT BUDGET
25 COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS NECESSARY THEREAFTER, IN
26 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 24-1-136.

27 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

1 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
2 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
3 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
4 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
5 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
6 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
7 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
8 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
9 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor. <{*Or safety*
10 *clause?*>